



La Causa, Inc.

Where Children and Families Come First

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Valued Friends,

2020 was certainly a year for the books. While the pandemic was certainly not something we expected, we are proud of how our divisions were able to work remotely and put the right safety protocols in place for reopening. We had to be innovative when it came to providing virtual instruction and services at the Charter School and Social Services. Once all the protocols were in place, we safely reopened our Crisis Nursery and Early Education & Care Center to begin providing education and care in the safest way possible. We served more than 3,300 individuals through our

Crisis Nursery, Early Education & Care Center, Social Services (adult and youth programs), and the Charter School. We believe the most important thing we all learned from 2020 was the importance of working together when faced with adversity.

We are excited for what the new year will bring us and encourage you to follow us on social media for all the latest happenings. We have lots to look forward to including the launch of our new website and the opening of our new corporate offices by mid summer. Our community has been hit hard by this pandemic and we know that our services are needed now more than ever.

We hope you enjoy reading about our 2020 journey and highlights. We truly could not do the work we do without our partners, donors and volunteers. Thank YOU for being a part of La Causa familia. Sincerely,



Lyman Tschanz
Board Chair



George A. Torres
President & CEO



Our administration division is the backbone of our agency, providing support services to all the divisions.

Our departments:

- Accounting & Finance
- Employee Services & Benefits
- Awareness & Engagement
- Compliance
- Information Technology
- Food Services
- Facilities Management
- Office of the President & CEO

2020 Highlights

- La Causa received a \$2.4 million Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan which allowed us to continue operations during the pandemic.
- As La Causa prepares to celebrate 50 years of serving the community in 2022, we are excited to finally break ground on our new corporate offices. The new state-of-the-art building will be located at 413 W. Scott Ave. (near 4th and Greenfield Ave.) and will open late August 2021.
- We are humbled to have been honored by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce *Focus on the Future Awards*. La Causa was listed in the True Colors category as an organization that maintained an employee-centric focus by managing the health and well-being of their workforce during the pandemic.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CHARTER SCHOOL

La Causa Charter School is a non-instrumentality charter school authorized under Milwaukee Public Schools that provides education to students in grades K4 through 8th grade in a bilingual,

multicultural environment. Our dedicated teachers and staff provide high-quality educational instruction, afterschool programs and support that motivates students to reach their full potential.

What we do:

Our robust *Careers in Technology* curriculum includes:

- Robotics
- Project Lead the Way / Launch
- Computer Science I and II where students learn:
 - Web & App Design
 - Animation & Special Effects
 - Coding
 - Eagle News Network (ENN)

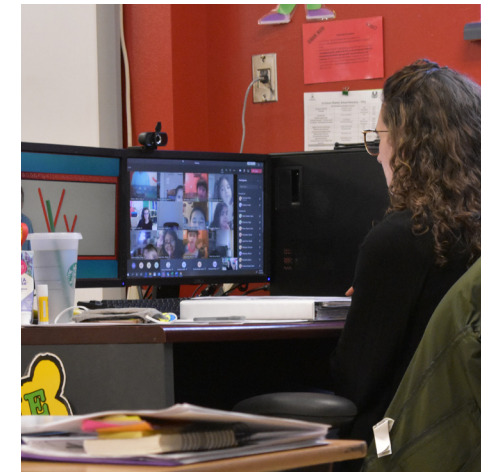
- Bilingual and Dual Language programs in English & Spanish
- Extracurricular activities including:
 - Choir and Cultural Dance
 - Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
 - Guitar Ensembles & Orchestra
 - Girls on the Run
 - Soccer, Volleyball & Taekwondo
- Before and After school programs

- High school and college scholarship program
- College partnerships:
 - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee / College prep program
 - University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh – STEAM, Smart & Spaces, SMARTS, SAFE



2020 Highlights

- In March 2020, the school began providing virtual instruction due to the pandemic. We are proud to say we were able to ensure all students were provided with technology and internet in order to receive virtual instruction at home.
- Staff received training on new technology and provided virtual instruction since kids are now back. Teachers are working in their classrooms on-site to ensure they have all the technology they need to provide instruction.
- Thanks to a generous grant received from the Green Bay Packers we now have a new state-of-the-art multi-purpose court in the playground area.
- The school continued to celebrate the 8th grade graduation with a socially distant drive-through graduation in June.
- Summerfest awarded La Causa Charter School a \$2,500 grant towards our music programs. We were one of six organizations to receive a grant.
- La Causa, Inc. was successfully awarded a long term contract extension from MPS to continue to operate the Charter School.





CRISIS NURSERY & RESPITE CENTER

For 30 years, La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (CNRC) has been addressing the issue of child abuse and neglect by keeping children out of harm's way. The CNRC is a 12-bed shelter and a free resource to the community. The CNRC is the only facility of its kind in Wisconsin, providing a safe haven to children age birth to 12 as families

face homelessness, domestic violence, medical needs or other emergencies. Children can stay a few hours or up to three days. In addition to care in times of crisis, parents are also able to request respite care for their children during times of high stress.

What we do:

- Remain open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at no charge.
- Provide home-cooked meals, warm baths, clean beds, transportation to and from school and other necessities for children.
- Empower families through support which helps to stabilize the families. Our dedicated staff cares for children and helps identify resources to strengthen families and alleviate stress.

2020 Highlights

- The Crisis Nursery served 298 children with 801 overnight stays.
- After briefly closing the location in March due to the pandemic, the Crisis Nursery reopened in June and is currently serving families at a limited capacity.
- New safety measures are in place including temperature checks, gates in the reception area to control access, and new cleaning procedures.
- Although we were closed, we were still working remotely during closure and were able to provide referrals and resources to families. This included items like diapers, formula and clothing.
- We ultimately made the decision to cancel our *Swingin' Sock Hop* annual fundraiser in May and are so grateful to the sponsors and donors who allowed us to keep their donation to support the Crisis Nursery.



Quanisha is a mother of four children and she first used the CNRC when her 5-month-old child was in the hospital for bronchitis. With no one to care for her other children, she learned of the Crisis Nursery through the hospital. She was able to focus on her daughter's care in the hospital and get things organized. She had the peace of mind knowing her children were receiving everything they needed for 72 hours at the Crisis Nursery.

"With them being here and I knew that they were safe, I was able to organize some of my thoughts and today I feel much better," she said. "They love it here."





EARLY EDUCATION & CARE CENTER

The Early Education & Care Center (EECC) is a full-service bilingual center that focuses on the education and social-emotional development of children ages 4 weeks through 12 years old.

All children receive developmental screenings, create goals with parent input and track progress to ensure each individual child is meeting developmental milestones.

What we do:

- Infant and Toddler Care is provided to children age 4 weeks to 36 months.
- Early Head Start Partnership provides services to children ages 4 weeks to 3 years old and their families.
- Three & Ready is developed for children ages 3-4 years, providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for Kindergarten.
- Before and After School provides social emotional skills, homework assistance, games and enrichment activities to school age children (4 through 12 years old).
- A full-day eight-week summer camp for school age children 4-12 years old.



2020 Highlights

- The EECC Maintained a 5-star rating by the State of Wisconsin's YoungStar program. Only 8% of childcare centers in Milwaukee have achieved this rating.
- Due to the pandemic, EECC was closed from March to July. Once reopened, they put several new guidelines in place and created a new school age schedule for children participating in virtual education.
- Other changes to programming include outside drop off/pick up only and parents must complete a screening prior to their child's entry.
- From July through mid-September, EECC was able to distribute fresh produce boxes weekly to families and staff through a partnership with YMCA and Feeding America.
- Enhancements were made to the outdoor play area including a large grass area, new bikes, new sandbox, storage benches, and new equipment (balls, scooters, obstacle courses, etc.)

"I chose La Causa Early Education & Care Center for my twins because it's a great family-oriented environment. My children have a great connection with their teachers and being a working mom that is very important to me, to ensure my children are safe and happy. A huge plus is that the teachers are bilingual so it helps my kids pick up on Spanish. I am happy that I made the change when I did."

-Lilybeth C., Parent

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE DIVERSITY





SOCIAL SERVICES - ADULT

Our Adult Social Services Programs provide an array of supportive, recovery and strength-based services for adults and families throughout Milwaukee County. Core service areas include mental health, substance use and recovery support.

Our programs:

- Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Ancillary Services
- Treatment Services Clinic
- Targeted Case Management (TCM)
- Recovery Support Coordination (RSC)
- Crisis Mobile Team Expansion
- Watts

2020 Highlights

- We continued to provide in-person services throughout the majority of the pandemic while other agencies were working remotely, resulting in a reduction of inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.
- We saw an increase in number of consumers needing help during the pandemic and we were able to assist them with basic needs such as paying rent, finding housing, accessing medication and looking for jobs.
- All programs offered the option of in-person meetings in a safe way or tele-health (virtual) meetings.
- Staff become more efficient/proficient using technology including tele-health and partnered with consumers to show them how to become technologically savvy. If consumers did not have technology available to them, we offered in-person meetings or phone calls.
- Satisfaction ratings have increased during the pandemic, with consumers stating they are pleased that we are able to offer in-person meetings which has helped reduce social isolation.
- We distributed much-needed items to consumers such as masks, wellness kits, and education on safety during the pandemic.



SOCIAL SERVICES - YOUTH

Our Youth Social Services Programs provide developmental and supportive services for youth and families who experience mental or emotional health needs and create a plan that helps them

improve the quality of their lives. Whether services are court-ordered or voluntary, our programs focus on a strength-based approach that encourages stability, empowerment and family development.

Our programs:

- Wraparound Care Coordination
- REACH Care Coordination
- O-YEAH Young Adult Transitional Care Coordination
- Treatment Foster Care (TFC)
- Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)
- Coordinated Opportunities for Recovery & Empowerment (CORE)

2020 Highlights

- La Causa continues to be the only Wraparound agency participating in the Division of Youth & Family Services Aftercare Collaborative for youth transitioning back into the community from corrections.
- O-YEAH provides coordinated community-based services and support to youth and young adults with complex emotional, behavioral and mental health needs. This may include therapy, substance use counseling, job training and more.
- The Wraparound and REACH programs were able to provide face-to-face services during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus assuring that children and families receive in-person contact and remained engaged in services.
- The Wraparound and REACH programs continue to have the highest number of bilingual English/Spanish care coordinators when compared to other agencies with the same programs.
- Our Foster Care Program staff were able to achieve permanency through adoption after being involved in system care for 13 years.

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Robert had recently moved to Milwaukee and was living in his car. Shortly after, he was admitted into psychiatric hospitalization after a psychotic episode where he was diagnosed with unspecified Personality Disorder and unspecified Schizophrenia. Being one of the only bilingual agencies in Milwaukee County, he was referred to our TCM/CCM program and paired with a bilingual case manager. The case manager was able to assist the consumer in managing his mental health needs and stabilize his life by learning how to use public transportation, finding a place to live while also continuing work and attending his appointments. Robert consistently met with his case manager as scheduled, resulting in him being able to find the resources he needed. He is currently not experiencing any adverse mental health symptoms and is continuing to work full-time. (Name changed to respect consumer's privacy.)

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Just recently, Fox News shared the incredible story of the Gerszewski family in Fox Point. Lindsey Gerszewski is a teacher at Riverside High School and also a foster parent through La Causa's Treatment Foster Care Program. She met Tyler through swim class and discovered he was a foster child and had been in 34 foster homes in his lifetime. She ultimately decided to have him join their household and the family adopted Tyler this past May.

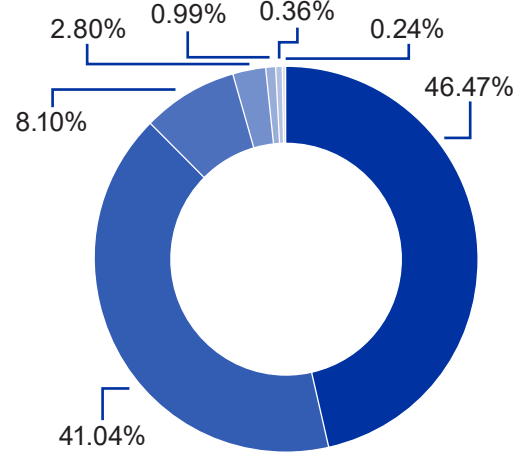
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2020 FINANCIALS

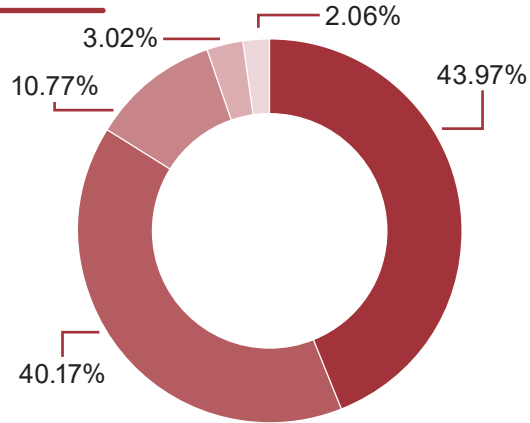
2020 Revenue By Sources

Government	\$8,328,044
Fees for Service	\$7,355,483
Child Care & Program Fees	\$1,451,344
Donations	\$501,796
Miscellaneous	\$176,810
United Way	\$64,512
Special Events	\$43,520
Total	\$17,921,509



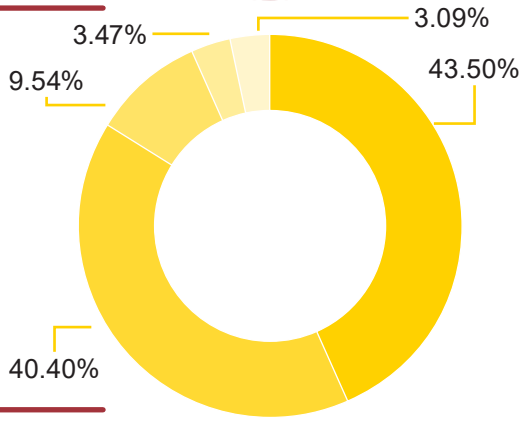
2020 Revenue By Division

Charter School	\$7,880,773
Social Services	\$7,199,492
Early Education & Care Center	\$1,930,554
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	\$541,324
Supporting Services	\$369,366
Total	\$17,921,509



2020 Expenses

Social Services	\$7,033,892
Charter School	\$6,532,825
Early Education & Care Center	\$1,542,591
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	\$561,462
Supporting Services	\$500,000
Total	\$16,170,770



Assets

Current Assets	\$7,835,305
Property, Plant & Equip.	\$11,834,164
Other	\$297,554
Total Assets	\$19,967,023

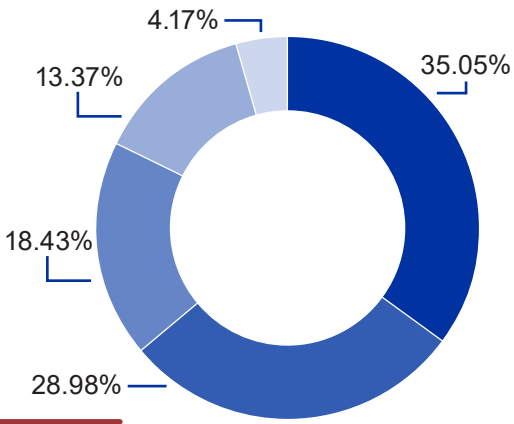
Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$4,883,128
Long-term Liabilities	\$6,155,711
Net Assets (Deficit)	\$8,928,184
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$19,967,023

2020 CLIENT DATA

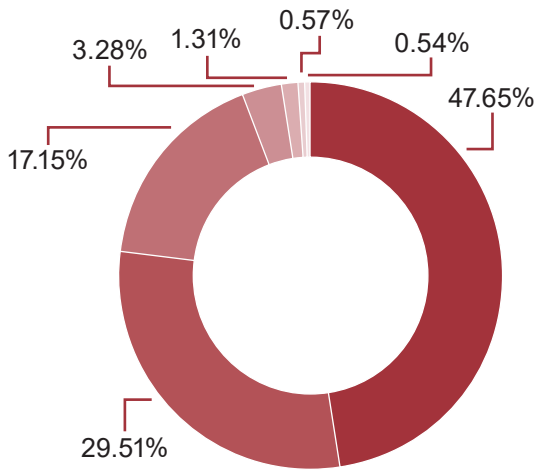
Total Individuals Served by Division

Charter School	1,177
Social Services Adult	973
Social Services Youth	619
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	449
Early Education & Care Center	140
Total	3,358



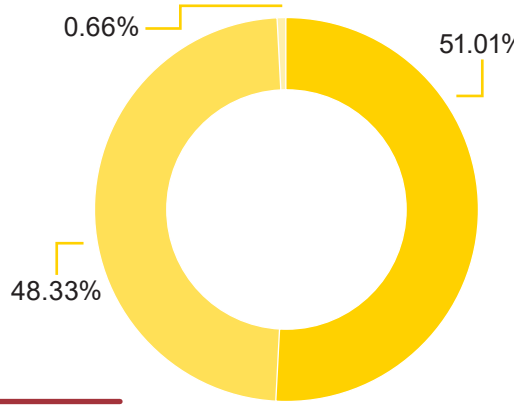
Total Individuals Served by Ethnicity

Hispanic	1,600
Black/African American	991
White	576
More than One Race	110
Not Reported/Other	44
American Indian/Alaskan	19
Asian	18
Total	3,358



Total Individuals Served by Gender

Female	1,713
Male	1,623
Not answered	22
Total	3,358



THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS

2020 Donors | Cash & In-Kind Donations

FOUNDATIONS

Brady Corporation Foundation
Department of Justice School Safety Grant
The Matty Eappen Foundation
Vincent Erato Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Four-Four Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation
Helfaer (Evan & Marion) Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
Palmer Family Foundation
Pick Charitable Trust
Racine Dominican Mission Fund
The ROS Foundation
Summerfest (Milwaukee World Festival Inc.)
Waukesha County Community Foundation/ Wildcat Fund
We Energies Foundation
Weiss Family Foundation
Wochinske Family Foundation

BUSINESSES

Achieve Personal Fitness
Acura Brookfield
Adventure Rock
Amazon Smile
Annex Wealth Management
Associated Benefits & Risk Consulting
AT&T
Aurora Advocate Health Care
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Black Shoe Hospitality
BMO Harris Bank
Boucher Automotive Group
Brass Bell Music Store
Breadsmith
CableCom/Midwest Fiber Networks LLC
Cathedral Center
Catholic Charities
Children's Community Health Plan
ComedySportz Milwaukee
CostCo Wholesale
Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee
DeRosa Restaurants Corporation
Destination Fitness
In-Home Training
Eaton Corporation
Educators Credit Union
Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
First Midwest Bank
First Stage Children's Theater
Five Guys Burgers and Fries
Florentine Opera Company
Frontstream Holdings
Gartner Inc.
Green Bay Packers
Greendale Community Church
Harley-Davidson Motor Company
Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee
Home Depot
Humana, Inc.
Hunger Task Force
Hydrite Chemical Company
Incrediroll Skate & Family Fun Center
Infinite Gymnastics
Italian Community Center
Jared Galleria of Jewelry
Jelly Belly Candy Company
Johnson Controls
KAPCO, Inc.
Tiffany Kells Photography
Kwik Trip
Landmark Credit Union
Lautenbach's Orchard Country Winery
Lifetouch National School Studios

Lumber Axe
Marcus Theatres Corporation
Marsh & McLennan Agency
Mexican Fiesta
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club
Milwaukee County Parks Department
Milwaukee Kayak Company
Milwaukee Urban League
Mister Car Wash
Moorland Road Golf Center
Muderlak Art
NewThreads of Hope Inc.
Nurturing Nook
O&H Danish Bakery
Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt
Oscar's Frozen Custard
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Out & Out
Pump It Up of Brookfield
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, S.C.
ROC Ventures
Rockwell Automation Inc.
Saint Anthony's Catholic Church
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel
Skylight Music Theatre
Broadway Theatre Center
Sew Much More LLC
Stella & Chewy's
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
St. Pius X Church
Straight Up Sports Inc.
Sybaris Pool Suites
Target
Three Holy Women Catholic Parish
UMOS Inc.
UnidosUS
United Health Care
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Uptown Art
Wauwatosa Avenue Methodist Church
Wellspring Construction Group
Woodman's Markets
WTMJ TV Channel 4
ZenZen Yoga Arts

INDIVIDUALS

Samuel Allen
Dane Anderson
Natasha Anderson
Anonymous
David & Linda Arend
James & Dorothy Arend
Brian Atkinson
Stefanie Avery
Fernando Ayala-Rodriguez
Isabel Bader
Jergen Barber
Paul & Rosemarie Barrette
Lillian Batista
Delson Benitez
Keith & Elizabeth Blystone
John Blanchard & Elizabeth Vokac
Linda Brothen
Ruth Brown
Terry Bruhn
David & Erin Burchett
Ruben Burgos
Nicole Caffrey
Thomas Callan
Emily Callan
Natalie Candela
June & Sergio Cantu
James & Judith Cappleman
Megan Carlson
Mary Carlson
Eddie Carrasquillo
Theresa Chojnacki
Linda Cohen
David Condon
Donna Conant
Roy & Teena Cook
Susan Cramza
Bruce Czajka
Robert D'Acquisto
Stephen & Jane De Cleene
Sara Dederich
Carlos Delgado
Inocencia Diaz
Karl & Lisa Dickson
James & Laura Dodge
Sarah Doran
Nicole & Tom Druckrey
Sean Duffey
Amy Ehrlich
David Ellwein
Jessica Elkins
Beatriz Espinoza
Maria Estevez
Darci Fenske
Rosalina Fernandez
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Barbara Fuldner
Virginia Galindo
Tim Garcia-Brown
Ronald Gilles
Andres Gonzalez
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Russell & Linda Graskamp
Jennifer Grayson
Judith Gregor
Bruce & Bonnie Hady
David & Jodi Hanson
James Harris
Maureen Hilbert
Bridget Hirthe
David Hoogerland
Jurgen Huck
Thomas Huizenga
Dan & Lisa Idzikowski
Allison & Michael Iyescas
Richard Janquart
Claudia Jantzer
Jennifer Janusiak
Michael Jelen
Mary Jimenez
Nikki Johnson
Taylor Johnson
Lee & Tristian Kanwar

Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg
Leticia Kenny
Megan Key
Bob & Joan Klein
Mary Jane Klement
Megan Kohlmann
Mark & Sue Konrath
Adel Korkor
Audrey Kostrzewa
Sandra Kulas
Douglas & Barb Lackey
Margaret Lampark
Anne LaDisa
Kathleen Leack
Maria Lebron
Glenora Lenon
Alan Letourneau
Elizabeth Levar
Frederick Licau
Kenneth Little
Lina Lopez
Eileen Lozada
Ernell Lucas
Delphine Lukomski
Terrence & Elizabeth Lynch
Joe Martinez

James McFarland
Kathleen Macak
Scott Macpherson
Trace Malatele
Wilda Maldonado
Alma Marcial Gutierrez
Patrick Mason
Mariah Mateo Sarpong
Mary McBride
Rosemary Meinholz
Jean Mercier
Kristina Meredith
Lillian Miceli
Chad Mickelson
Megan Miller
Doug & Virginia Mills
William Mongan
Cassandra Morales-Salcedo
Alma Morris
Jeffery Mueller
Beth Nacker
Krystina Nardick
Carolyn Neiman
Robertta Nellen
Jennifer Nissen

Delia Noblecilla
Caroline O'Brien
Erico Ortiz
Chad & Krista Pankop
David & Diana Parker
Ann Parks
James Pekar
Barbara Pickus-Starr
Pedro Pierri
George & Claudia Porter
David Prohaska
Lawrence Propp
Kim Quiles
Feliciana Ramirez
Wayne Ramus
Carolyn Rausch
August J. Ray
August & Geralee Ray
David & Sarah Ray
Marilyn Reedy
Timothy Reidy
Kimberly Rivas
Scott & Diane Roeker
Luis Roman Lopez
Cheryl Rosinski
Francisca Sada

Erik Sandberg
Miguel Sanchez
Scott & Amy Sanders
Steven Scalish
Joe & Rosalie Schilz
Donna Schmidt
Karl Schoendorf
Michael & Mary Jo Schoendorf
Thomas Schoendorf
Sandra Schuder
Kathy Schultz
Catherine Schweigel
Jeanette Schweitzer
Carol Searing
Kathleen Seitz
Kyle Shimek
Chris Smith
Mark Smith
Lawrence Sontoski & Trudie Hughes-Sontoski
Toni Soward-Gatford
Diane Sposito
Audrey Strnad
Jill Swanson
Alexandra Swezey

Marilyn Swiontek
Zachary & Mercedes Taft
George & Denise Torres
Javier Torres Matias
Thomas & Susan Touchett
Marc Van Bell
Roxanne Vander Heyden
Clarke & Andrea Warren
Randall Webb
Graham Weimer
Erin Welcenbach
Jill Wesloski
C. Wichinski
Ralph & Marilyn Wilke
Melonese Wilkerson
Andrew Wilson
Randall & Sara Wondergem
Gregory Woodhams
Pam Woyte
Stacy Wucherer
Alice Wycklendt
Carley Young
John Zaganczyk
Zapata Family
Dean Zemel

ENGAGE WITH US!

Be a part of La Causa. We couldn't do our work without the time and generosity of our supporters. How can you help?

Make a tax-deductible donation
to support any of our divisions.

Spread the word!
Follow us on social media for the latest news, stories, events and more.
Like and share our posts!

Volunteer with us!
Volunteers make the difference in the lives of the families we serve by cooking meals, reading to children, helping with homework, assisting at our annual gala or by helping in one of our facilities.

To make a safe and easy donation online, please visit www.lacausa.org.

Contact the Awareness & Engagement Department
to find out how you can plug in! Engage@lacausa.org or 414.647.8750.

Host a donation drive!

Our divisions are always in need of items such as books, school supplies, coats, formula, diapers, etc.

Become a sponsor
at our annual gala or donate an auction item

Have an Amazon account?

Add La Causa as your AmazonSmile recipient and a portion of your purchase will go directly to us. Go to smile.amazon.com to choose us as your beneficiary.

WHERE CHILDREN & FAMILIES COME FIRST.
THANK YOU!

@LaCausaMKE



La Causa, Inc. is an AA/EOC/LEP Employer and Participates in E-Verify. We are an equal opportunity service provider.

Thank You to our Partners!



**United Way
of Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County**

LA CAUSA, INC.

Administration/Support Services
P.O. Box 04188
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.647.8750

Early Education & Care Center
809 W. Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.647.5980

La Causa Charter School
1643 S. 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.902.1660

Social Services
5235 N. Ironwood Road
Glendale, WI 53217
414.902.1500

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
522 W. Walker Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.647.5990

www.lacausa.org