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

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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.
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.”

MAIN REASONS FOR STAY IN 2020

- Crisis or Domestic Violence: 19%
- Homelessness: 22%
- Treatment or Appointment: 29%
- Respite Care: 30%
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.

What we do:

• 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.
• 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.)
• 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.)

2020 Highlights

“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

- 22% English Speaking
- 36% Spanish Speaking
- 42% Bilingual

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE CENTER

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EARLY EDUCATION & CARE CENTER
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.

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.)

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.

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.
### 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 DRI Foundation

Vincent Eralto Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
Four-Four Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors
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Waukesha County Community Foundation/ Wildcat Fund
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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.

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.

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.

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

CONTACT THE AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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WHERE CHILDREN & FAMILIES COME FIRST.

THANK YOU!

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

Thank You to our Partners!

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