Dear Friends,

We are happy to provide you with our annual report for 2021. As the pandemic continues to linger and change how the world functions, we are proud to let everyone know that our commitment and dedication to our mission and the people we serve has not wavered. Through the fog of worry and concerns of uncertainty, our staff remains focused and stays the course to continue to provide our customers the services they have come to expect from La Causa since 1972. As we prepare to celebrate our 50-year anniversary of serving this community, you, too, should be proud because it is only through your support and encouragement that we are able to reach this rare and significant milestone. All of our divisions forged ahead and re-establish some normalcy in 2021. The Charter School returned to live classes, our Early Education and Care Center reopened to full enrollment, and the Crisis Nursery & Respite Center also returned to full capacity. Social Service staff were resilient and remained strong for the good of their clients and helped bring people back from the emotional and physical stresses created by the pandemic. We were also blessed to have been able to successfully complete construction and move into our new Corporate Offices located at 413 West Scott Street in the heart of our community. We are both proud and yet humble, knowing that all of these things were only possible because of our wonderful staff and the ongoing support from people like you. Please know that we are committed to keeping our finger on the pulse of the needs of this community to ensure we remain a vibrant resource they can turn to for help in improving the quality of life for themselves and their families. Again, thank you for your generosity and friendship.

Respectfully Submitted,

George A. Torres & Lyman Tschanz
2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CORPORATE OFFICE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Our Corporate Office division is the support arm of our agency, providing administrative services to all divisions and departments.

OUR TEAMS INCLUDE:

- Accounting & Finance
- Human Resources
- Awareness & Engagement
- Audit & Compliance
- Information Technology
- Facilities Management
- Office of the President & CEO

2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Designed, constructed, and moved into our brand-new state-of-the-art Corporate Offices located at 413 West Scott Street. As we enter into our 50th year (1972-2022) in business serving the people of this community, we are now anchored in our own permanent home, ensuring the families and community we serve know we are here for the long run.

- As the Pandemic continues to change how the world functions, we are extremely proud that 2021 was again a year of growth and expansion. Both schools were able to continue to provide our students an excellent education via virtual classes until it was safe to return live. All of our other divisions were also able to return to full service in early 2021 and ensure that we were here for our families when they needed us the most; for that, we are so grateful to our wonderful staff.

- We are also very proud to say that we were also able to ensure that none of our most valuable assets, “our employees,” realized any adverse personal impacts such as job loss and other adverse setbacks stemming from the pandemic.

- Once again, we are especially proud to be able to provide a 2021 financial audit free of any findings or concerns, which confirms that the agency leadership continues to be fiscally responsible with the funds entrusted to us to provide a well-run and successful business!
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, after-school 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
    - Video production through our Eagle News Network (ENN)

- Bilingual / Dual Language program in English & Spanish

- Extracurricular activities including:
  - Cultural Dance
  - Guitar, Cuatro, and Percussion Ensemble
  - Girls on the Run and Boys on Track
  - Taekwondo
  - Before and After school programs, clubs
  - High school and college scholarship program

2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- In August 2021, the school was able to ensure a safe return to in-person instruction while maintaining a strong digital instructional platform developed during virtual instruction from the prior school year. We have been able to continue with our 1:1 initiative to give students and families flexibility while maintaining quality instruction during intermittent quarantines. We are proud to say we had no internal transmission of Covid-19 due to our vigilant efforts in mitigation strategies.

- Our first in-person concert since 2019 was held at Christmas and was a tremendous success, with standing room only!

- We held three successful vaccine clinics for students, their families, and the community, vaccinating over 100 people.

- The Education Action Committee was launched. This teacher-led, principal-facilitated group is focused on staff communication, staff culture and climate, staff professional growth and development, and school improvement.
For over 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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Crisis Nursery successfully served 316 children with 797 overnight stays.
- Due to the ongoing pandemic, the CNRC continued to serve families at a reduced capacity. As the year progressed and conditions warranted, capacity levels were increased.
- Safety measures for families and staff alike were refined, improved, and continued throughout the year, helping us mitigate the extended health crisis.
- Due to the pandemic, the decision was made to hold our annual fundraiser this past May virtually. The event had an apropos theme of “Cabin Fever.” The event was well received and was a smashing success. We are so grateful to the sponsors and donors who made our first-ever virtual event successful.
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 aged 4 weeks to 36 months.
- Members of Early Head Start Partnership with Next Door providing services to income-eligible children ages 4 weeks to 3 years old and their families.
- Three & Ready is a program that La Causa developed for children ages 3-4 years, to help prepare children for school focusing on their social-emotional skills, including following directions, peer-to-peer relationships and stronger self-help skills.
- Before and After School programs provide social-emotional skills, homework assistance, games and enrichment activities to children ages 4-12.
- A full-day summer camp for children ages 4-12 years old focusing on preventing “summer learning loss” and social-emotional development, including peer-to-peer interactions while staying active and safe. Children participate daily in reading, journaling, math, field trips, and science activities disguised as fun!

2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The division successfully completed reaccreditation through NAC (National Accreditation Commission), allowing us to maintain our 5-star rating by the state’s YoungStar program. Only 6% of childcare centers in Milwaukee county have achieved this rating.
- Successfully transitioned back to and permitted families back into the building for drop off and pick up.
- Continued a successful partnership with Nextdoor, as a grantee for the Headstart Program.
2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- We continued to provide in-person services throughout the majority of the pandemic while other agencies were working remotely, resulting in a reduction in inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.
- We saw an increase in the number of consumers needing help during the pandemic. We were able to assist them with basic needs such as paying rent, finding housing, accessing medication, and looking for jobs.
- Staff have continued to embrace the use of technology to enhance how we support consumers, such as telehealth services. Based on our continued efforts to support consumers by increasing their knowledge and accessibility to such technology, we have afforded them more ways to connect with us based on their preferences.
- The TCM/CCM programs consistently exceeded performance indicators set by Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services, resulting in an enhanced service rate for the programs.

Mike was referred to RSC services in February 2021 while he was at the First Step for detox for substance abuse. During his time in RSC services, Mike completed residential treatment before transitioning to bridge housing and engaging in outpatient treatment. Mike’s recovery goals were to maintain sobriety while building on his self-care and positive coping skills for long-term success. Mike became very involved in community support meetings during this time, spending much of his time with others in recovery, always celebrating his sober milestones. Mike successfully completed his outpatient treatment in November 2021 and continues to attend meetings regularly where he has also found employment. Mike was successfully discharged from RSC services in December of 2021. (Name changed to respect consumer’s privacy.)
We continued 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. Our Treatment Foster Care program was able to successfully license several new treatment foster homes, expanding the capacity to support children and families in need of a safe, supportive home environment. Our Treatment Foster Care program assisted five children in reunifying with their families and licensed two TFC homes in 2021 despite pandemic barriers.

In collaboration with the Boucher Automotive Group, we distributed hundreds of toys, coats, and other gifts to children in our youth services programs over the 2021 holiday season.

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**Jada** was placed in our foster care program in July 2018 as her mother had passed away and her father was dealing with addiction and unable to care for her. Jada had a severe trauma history which led to her experiencing extreme Post Traumatic Stress Symptoms throughout her placement. The foster parent, who was new to this whole process, committed to this young lady until it was time for her to reunify. Jada was successfully reunified with other family members out of state in February 2021. She remains in touch with her foster mom as they have built a beautiful and supportive relationship with one another.

*(Name changed to respect consumer’s privacy.)*
2021 FINANCIALS

2021 REVENUE BY SOURCES

- Government: $7,533,975
- United Way: $64,512
- Donations: $276,314
- Special Events: $103,695
- Child Care and Program Fees: $1,390,481
- Fees for Services: $7,272,464
- Miscellaneous: $79,486
- **TOTAL**: $16,720,927

2021 REVENUE BY DIVISION

- Early Education & Care Center: $1,895,460
- Crisis Nursery & Respite Center: $573,472
- Social Services: $6,211,041
- Charter School: $7,857,184
- Supporting Services: $183,770
- **TOTAL**: $16,720,927

2021 EXPENSES BY DIVISION

- Early Education & Care Center: $1,848,849
- Crisis Nursery & Respite Center: $573,646
- Social Services: $5,995,338
- Charter School: $6,877,326
- Supporting Services: $385,209
- **TOTAL**: $15,680,368

ASSETS

- Current Assets: $6,561,720
- Property, Plant & Equipment: $14,682,855
- Other: $278,335
- **TOTAL Assets**: $21,522,910

LIABILITIES

- Current Liabilities: $3,454,991
- Long-term Liabilities: $8,099,176
- Net Assets (Deficit): $9,968,743
- **TOTAL Liabilities and Net Assets**: $21,522,910
THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DONORS

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A Younger You
Above & Beyond Children’s Museum
Adventure Rock
Advocate Aurora Healthcare
Amazon Smile
American Family Insurance Group
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Rockin’ Jump - The Ultimate Trampoline Park
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OUR IMPACT IS GREATER WITH THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BECOME A SPONSOR
Sponsor a table at our annual gala or donate an auction item.

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION
You may support any of our divisions.

HOST A DONATION DRIVE!
Our divisions are always in need of items such as books, school supplies, coats, formula, diapers, etc.

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

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

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

Please contact the Awareness & Engagement Department with any questions engage@lacausa.org — 414-647-8750
OUR LOCATIONS:

La Causa Corporate Office
413 S. Scott St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Phone: (414) 647-8750

La Causa Charter School
1643 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Phone: (414) 902-1660

La Causa Early Education & Care Center
809 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Phone: (414) 647-5980

La Causa Social Services
5235 N. Ironwood Rd.
Glendale, WI 53217
Phone: (414) 902-1500

La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
522 W. Walker St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Phone: (414) 902-1620
Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

www.lacausa.org
NEXT YEAR
WE CELEBRATE!

La Causa, Inc
50th Anniversary
1972-2022