



La Causa,Inc.

Where Children and Families Come First

Annual Report



Letter from the Board Chair and President & CEO

Dear Friends,

This year La Causa, Inc. celebrated 50 years of service to the Milwaukee Community. We attribute this to the generosity of YOU, our friends and supporters, the fantastic staff and volunteers at our facilities, and the amazing Milwaukee community. 2022 was a year of successes and struggles as we navigate the new normal coming out of the pandemic. Here are just a few of the many highlights from our divisions in 2022:

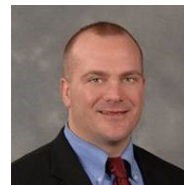
- Crisis Nursery and Respite Center continues as a reliable and free resource for families, becoming that village for a parent in crisis, and protecting children from undo harm. This year the Crisis Nursery served 460 youth, an increase of 144 youth over 2021.
- Early Education Center continues to receive 5 stars for excellence and had their first in person Family Engagement night in two and half years.
- La Causa Charter School returned in person in 2022 and saw a surge of family engagement in events including Mother's Day, Time to Shine, and Breakfast with Santa.
- Our Social Services Treatment Services Clinic is one of the only clinics in Milwaukee able to provide bilingual English/Spanish therapy services for youth and adults.
- Our 2022 gala was back in person after two years, the Oktoberfest Gala was filled with good food, good times, and raised more than \$88,000 for the Crisis Nursery.
- Finally, La Causa, Inc. spent its first year in the new administration building on 413 W. Scott Street and launched a new look to LaCausa.org.

We are 50 years young and continuing to grow and adapt to meet the needs of our current and future families. There is still work to be done. The last few years have taught us just how valuable, and important, community and connection are to families, and to the health and success of children. La Causa, Inc. looks to the future with excitement and energy. As you read our 2022 Annual Report, please join us in celebrating the successes within each division, in thanking the staff for the hours of work and dedication that was needed to serve every family and see the impact that YOU, our partner, donor, friend, our La Causa Familia, have helped us achieve.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our mission and the families we serve.



George A. Torres
President & CEO



Robert Kotecki
Board Chair

2022 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
 - Eagle News Network (ENN)

- Bilingual and Dual Language programs in English & Spanish
- Extracurricular activities including:
 - Cultural Dance
 - Guitar & Percussion Ensemble
 - Girls on the Run & Boys on Track
 - Soccer, Volleyball & Karate
- Before- & After- school Programs
- High school and college scholarship programs

2022 Highlights

- Return to full in person instruction during the 2021 - 2022 school year, including family events and afterschool programming
- Julie Ludwikowski was the teacher of the year for MMABSE (Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators)
- In-person summer school with full academic programming and enrichment programs
- School-wide initiatives in restorative practices, character education, and middle school service hours
- Community partnerships such as Milwaukee County Zoo Ambassadors, Urban Ecology Center, SHARP literacy, and Delta Dental of Wisconsin
- Implementation of Tier I support teams, academic and behavior intervention teams, and core intervention programs
- Reinstated full support staff including guidance counselor, school social worker, school culture coordinator, and three academic coaches
- Engaging parent events including Breakfast with Santa (50 families), Mother's Day Breakfast (100 families), and Time to Shine each trimester (75 families)
- Regular staff team building events to promote positive, professional culture
- Reinstatement of afterschool sports including volleyball, soccer, and basketball leagues in partnership with MKE Rec
- Added medical detectives curriculum to our Project Lead the Way course and reinstated Eagle News Network (ENN) after a COVID-related hiatus



Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

For more than 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 years old 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:

- Offer care and service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at no charge.
- Dedicated staff provide support and safety as needed resources are being identified to help empower and strengthen the families.
- Provide a comfortable and safe setting:
 - Homestyle meals
 - Inviting and fresh bedrooms
 - Positive and enriching playtime
 - Transportation to and from school

2022 Highlights

- The Crisis Nursery served 214 families with 460 children.
- The Crisis Nursery provided 1,472 overnight stays and 761 duplicate stays.
- The Crisis Nursery continued operating under best practice protocols in dealing with the pandemic challenges. Safety measures were adjusted as needed as the conditions warranted to provide a safe environment for participants and staff alike.
- To show gratitude and continued commitment, La Causa along with great community support adjusted the wage grid upward for our dedicated frontline staff.
- A return was made to an in-person gala this past fall with a celebratory Oktoberfest theme and it was a rousing success. We are very grateful for all the sponsors, donors and guests who made the event truly "Wunderbar" All proceeds went to support the Crisis Nursery. A heartfelt thank to all.

2022 Success Story

Nurria is a mother of 3 and she first used the CNRC after she called a suicide prevention hot line in desperate need. Nurria was dealing with some serious depression issues and she was quite afraid of how her state was affecting her decisions and how she was interacting with her children. Nurria immediately utilized the Crisis Nursery for her 3 children and she obtained much needed attention and treatment to stabilize her situation. Nurria had piece of mind knowing her children were receiving all they needed for 72 hours at the Nursery. "It was such a blessing to know the kids were safe. I knew I could just work on me so I could be there for them". Nurria continues to use the Nursery for occasional respite for a much-needed break assisting with her stress. "I just can't express how grateful I am, the Nursery is so wonderful. Thank you so much." It's safe to say we are all very grateful that Nurria and crew are all doing well.



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.
- 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 developed for children ages 3-4, providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for Kindergarten.
- 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!

2022 Highlights

- The EECC Maintained a 5-star rating by the State of Wisconsin’s YoungStar program. Only 6.5% of childcare centers in Milwaukee have achieved this rating.
- Maintained 100% staff retention
- Child enrollment maintained 75% or higher

2022 Success Story

I have 5 children and we have had the privilege of being part of La Causa Daycare since 2006. La Causa Daycare has helped my family with many resources. One in which, provided at no additional cost, Unlimited diapers and infant formula are used within the center. The center has also made it easy for families such as mine with FREE on-site vaccinations (COVID-19+, Influenza, & Flu shots) and dentist visits (Cleaning, Cavity prevention, etc.) regardless of family economic situation. The Next-Door Foundation is also part of La Causa, helping my children reach each milestone needed to be successful.

What stands out the most is their staff. They have been with the center since we began. The familiarity has made it feel like home. A place I can rely on and trust the safety and education of my children.

It’s hard to trust in places to care for my little ones but La Causa has met all my expectations. I love them and their excessive paperwork.

Thank you all!

-EECC Parent



Social Services - Adult

Our Social Services - Adult Programs provide a wide 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)
- Watts

2022 Highlights

- We continued to provide in-person services throughout the pandemic, resulting in a reduction in crisis situations and inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.
- All clinicians in our Treatment Services Clinic provide bilingual English/Spanish therapy services for children and adults, one of only a few such clinics in the greater Milwaukee area to do so.
- The TCM/CCM program continued to consistently exceed performance indicators set by Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services, resulting in an enhanced service rate for the program.
- 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.

2022 Success Story

A consumer was enrolled in the TCM/CCM program on 2/1/2022. At the time of his enrollment into the program, he was homeless and residing at a crisis respite center. In addition, despite having complex mental health issues, he did not have a psychiatrist, primary care doctor, or any other supportive services to assist him. He also lacked the ability to maintain his activities of daily living (ADL). His assigned TCM/CCM case manager and the certified peer specialist worked consistently with him to get him connected with the services he needed to address his needs. As a result, the consumer was also able to get into a community-based residential facility funded through Milwaukee County where he receives transportation and medication management through the group home. Also, the group home and his mother have coordinated to get him social security benefits. Based on his success and the support of formal and informal supports, the consumer is set to discharge soon.



Social Services - Youth

Our Social Services - Youth Programs provide developmental and supportive services for youth and families who experience mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs and create a plan that helps improve their quality of life. 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
- Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Youth
- Treatment Foster Care (TFC)
- Coordinated Opportunities for Recovery & Empowerment (CORE)

2022 Highlights

- We continued to provide in-person services throughout the pandemic, resulting in children and families receiving face-to-face care coordination and direct services within their home and community.
- 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.
- 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 2022 holiday season.

2022 Success Story

A foster child, who was adopted in 2014 at the age of 5 from the Child Welfare System, was placed back in foster care on 01/12/2020 at the age of 11. Since his placement, he has moved to twelve different placements, including group homes, residential centers, inpatient hospitalizations, and treatment foster homes due to his complex mental health needs. In January of 2021, he was placed in a La Causa treatment foster home with the hope that he could finally find a home where he could be successful. Despite the many challenges this young man and the foster family faced meeting his severe mental health needs, they were able to come together to become a family, officially adopting him on 05/04/2022. Because he was being adopted on May 4th and being a Star Wars fan, he wore his, "May the Force Be with You" t-shirt to his adoption hearing. He was beaming from ear to ear when he heard the Judge officially proclamate his adoption.



Administration

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

What We Do:

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

2022 Highlights

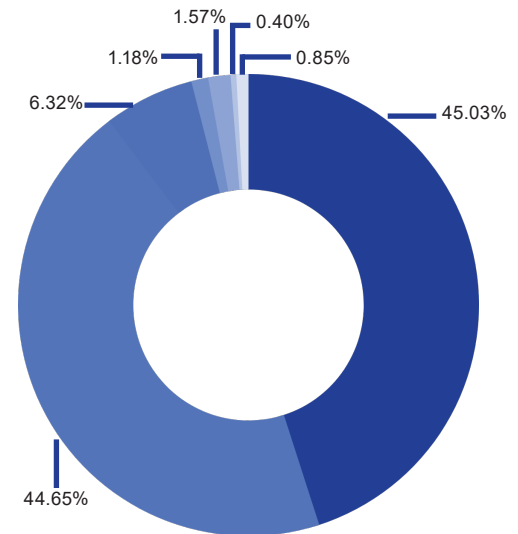
- Coming through the Pandemic, we have focused on building our team and filling vacancies within the departments.
- We did a full evaluation of pay and through the support of partners we were able to increase the hourly pay of our Crisis Nursery, Early Education and Care, Food Service and Facilities staff.
- During the course of 2022 we launched a new look to our website LaCausa.org. The website is more user friendly, engaging, informative and easier to navigate.
- George A. Torres announced his retirement as President and CEO after 15 years of service, Luis Ayala was named his successor and started in February 2023.
- Once again, we are especially proud to be able to provide a 2022 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!



2022 Financials

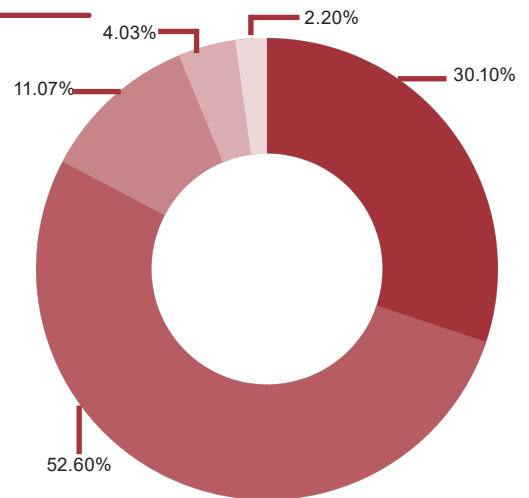
2022 Revenue By Sources

Government	\$7,238,770
Fees for Service	7,177,177
Child Care & Program Fees	1,015,641
Donations	190,034
Miscellaneous	251,872
United Way	64,512
Special Events	136,197
Total	\$16,074,203



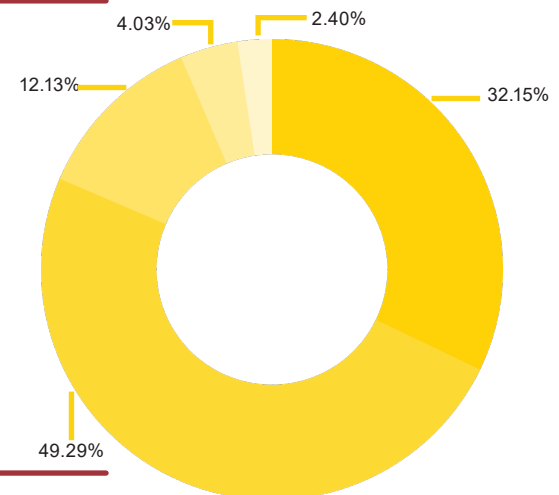
2022 Revenue By Division

Social Services	\$4,837,861
Charter School	8,454,382
Early Education & Care Center	1,779,481
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	648,367
Supporting Services	354,112
Total	\$16,074,203



2022 Expenses

Social Services	\$4,977,223
Charter School	7,631,105
Early Education & Care Center	1,877,391
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	625,392
Supporting Services	371,784
Total	\$15,482,895



Assets

Current Assets	\$6,775,054
Property, Plant & Equip.	14,149,200
Other	261,645
Total Assets	\$21,185,899

Liabilities

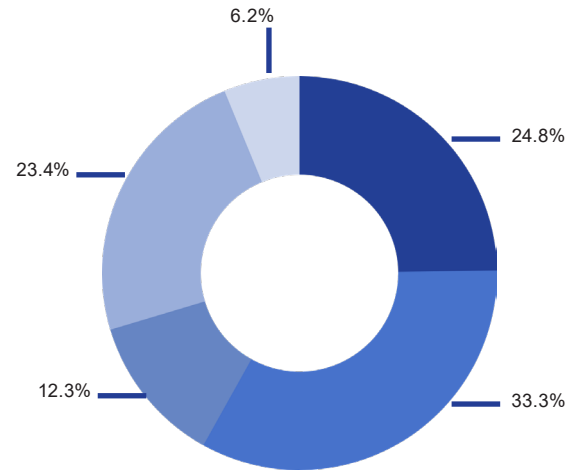
Current Liabilities	\$3,359,699
Long-term Liabilities	7,266,149
Net Assets	10,560,051
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$21,185,899

Who We Serve

The number of individuals served are based on the 2022 calendar year and the demographics are based on self reported information.

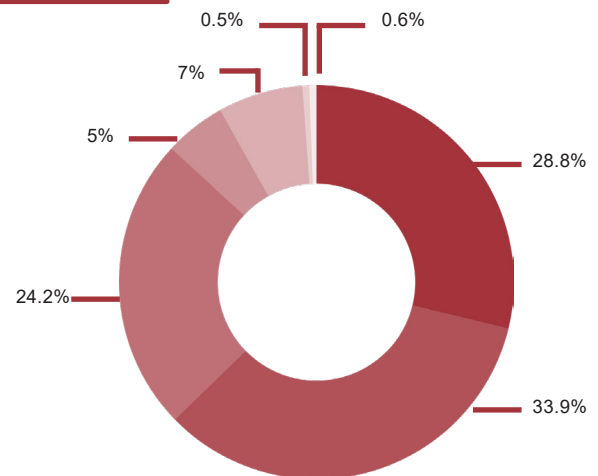
Total Individuals Served by Division

● Charter School	715
● Social Services Adult	961
● Social Services Youth	354
● Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	676
● Early Education & Care Center	179
Total	2,885



Total Individuals Served by Ethnicity

● Hispanic	830
● Black/African American	979
● White	697
● More than One Race	145
● Not Reported/Other	201
● American Indian/Alaskan	16
● Asian	17
Total	2,885



Total Individuals Served by Gender

● Female	1,400
● Male	1,485
Total	2,885



Thank You To Our 2022 Donors

2022 Organization Donors | Cash & In-Kind Donations

AdvocateAuroraHealth	J.F Ahern Co.	Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park
Amazon Smile	Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Inc.	Rockwell Automation, Inc.
American Family Dreams	Jewish Community Foundation	Rocky Rococo Restaurants
American Family Insurance Foundation	Joseph F. Schoendorf III Family Foundation	Saint Matthias Parish
Amerigraphics	KAPCO Inc	Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
Arte Wine and Painting Studio	Kendra Scott	Scripps Howard Fund
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP	Kessler's Diamonds	Service Club of Milwaukee, Inc.
Bank of America Private Bank	Kunes Family Foundation	Shepard of the Hills Church
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Leader Paper Products, Inc.	Pewaukee
Black Shoe Hospitality	Lotus Om Wellness	Shutterfly, LLC
Blessed Hope United Methodist Church	Maders	Straight Up Inc.
Boone & Crockett	Madison Investments Fund, Inc.	Summerfest (Milwaukee World Festival Inc.)
Boucher Automotive	Marsh & McLennan Agency	Sunset Playhouse Inc.
Breadsmith	Midwest Fiber Network	Target
Charles Schwab	Mills Family Foundation	The Cheesecake Factory
CostCo Grafton	Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO	The Harwood Hair Co.
Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee	Milwaukee - Area St. Ambrose University Alumni	The Jewlery Center
Discovery World	Milwaukee Pretzel Company	The Matty Eappen Foundation
Educators Credit Union	Mister Car Wash	The Nurturing Nook, Inc.
Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton	MolsonCoors	The ROS Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	Moorland Road Golf Center	Tiffany Kells Photography
Float Milwaukee	Next Door Foundation	Tuckaway Country Club
Florentine Opera Company	Norris, Inc.	United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Four-Four Foundation, Inc.	Northwestern Investment Management Company, LLC	United Way of Greater Waterbury
Fresh Thyme Market	O & H Danish Bakery	USI Insurance Services
Froedtert & Medical College of WI	Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church.	Usingers
Frontstream Holdings, Inc.	Otto Bremer Trust	Waukesha County Community Foundation
Goldfish Swim School	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church	Wauwatosa Avenue Methodist Church
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation	Palmer Family Foundation, Inc.	Weiss Family Foundation
Gruber Law Offices, LLC	Pilot Club of Milwaukee, Inc.	Wellspring Construction Group, LLC
Herb Kohl Philanthropies	Pizza Shuttle	Wintrust Commerical Banking
Hickory Fund	Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, S.C.	Wochinske Family Foundation Inc.
Home Depot	Robert Haack Diamond	Woodman's Markets
Hunger Task Force, Inc.		WPS Health Insurance
Immaculate Conception Church		

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

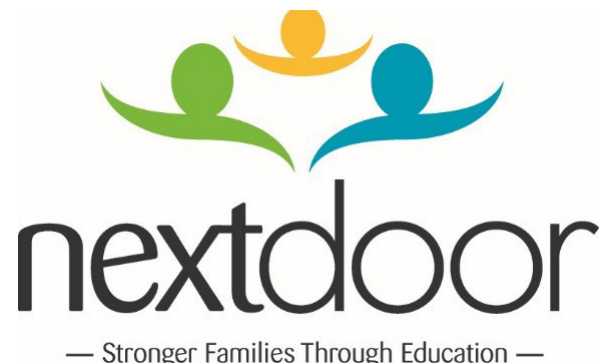
Thank You To Our 2022 Donors

2022 Individual Donors | Cash & In-Kind Donations

Anderson, Deborah	Henning, James Dean (JD)	O'Reilly, Tom
Arend, Dorothy & Jim	Hindman, Megan	Pezze, Gary
Bader, Isabel	Hughes-Sontoski, Trudie	Puerling, Phil
Barnett, Stacy & Michael	Ivancevic, Kelly	Rennebohm, Allyson
Batley, Madeline	Jelen, Nancy & Frank	Reuss, Robert
Birgenheir, Lauren	Jelen, Michael	Rieves, Wendy
Boyd, Susan	Jimenez, Eduard	Roeker, Scott & Diane
Boyer, Brett	Judd, Shane	Sanders, Scott & Amy
Brenton, Daniel	Kellogg, Kathleen & Kurt	Sanders, Mike
Buttermore, Robert	Ketter, Carol	Schlegel, Christine
Callan, Thomas	Kneprath, Tim	Schleicher, Paul
Cook, Roy & Teena	Koehler, Mary	Schoendorf, Mike & Mary Jo
Coolidge, Anne	Koehler, Bill	Schoendorf, Karl
Corbett, Carol & Patrick	Korkor, Adel	Schubert, Erin
Coriano, Marisol	Kotecki, Robert & Julie	Severinsen, Teresa
Dodge, James & Laura	Kowalski, Jean	Smith, Chris
Dorman, Rada	Kreiter, Maria	Sontoski, Andrew
Dowsett, Kendall	Lackey, Doug & Barb	Sposito, Dianne
Druckrey, Nicole & Tom	Licau, Frederick	Steadman, Antoinette
Ellwein, Barb & David	Maertz, Christopher	Strnad, Audrey
Fanselow, Tina	Martinez, Colleen	Swiontek, Marilyn & Thomas
Farrior, Julian & Jenny	Mather, Steven & Donna	Thomas, Emily
Franken, Jessica	Meisles, Diane	Torres, George & Denise
Fridrick, Rosemarie	Mihalko, Robert	Touchett, Susan & Thomas
Fuldner, Barbara	Mills, Doug & Virginia	Venne, Kate
Gamarro, Jorge	Misey, Monica	Vondra, Brett
Gentry, Michael	Missurelli, Genelle	Walkowiak, Cheryl
Ghojallo, Stephanie	Mollgaard, Amy	Wilke, Marilyn
Gill, John	Mongan, William	Wilke, David
Gonzalez, Andres & Jessica	Morris, Alma	Willenson, Neil & Adria
Gramoll, Harry	Neloms, Carin	Williams – Killackey, Judi
Gruber, David	Nimmer, Chris	Wondergem, Randall & Sara
Guzman, Jennifer	Nissen, Jennifer	Yuenkel, Nancy
Hady, Bruce & Bonnie	Nunn, Ian	Zapata, Sylvia
Hartung, Adam	Olson, Julie	Zemel, Dean

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

Our Partners



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Our Impact Is Greater With The Support
Of Our Community Partnerships.**

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?**

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.

Spread The Word

Follow us on social media for the
latest news, stories, events & more. Like,
comment & share our posts!

Host A Donation Drive

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

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.

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

**Please contact the Awareness & Engagement Department with any
questions at ae@lacausa.org or (414) 647-8750**

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE


La Causa, Inc.

2023 SUMMER CELEBRATION

A fundraiser supporting
La Causa Crisis Nursery and Respite Center

You're Invited!

August 3rd, 2023
Boerner Botanical Gardens
6:00 - 9:00 PM
ONECAUSE/LACAUSA2023

Follow Us
@LaCausaMKF




Scan Me

WHERE CHILDREN & FAMILIES COME FIRST.
THANK YOU!



La Causa, Inc

50th Anniversary

Our Locations

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

522 W. Walker Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.902.1620

Early Education & Care Center

809 W. Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.647.5980

Corporate Office

413 W. Scott Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.647.8750

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

Follow us on social media
@LaCausaMKE



Check out our website
www.LaCausa.org