



**La Causa**, Inc.

**2023 Annual Report**

# Table of Contents

A Letter from Our Leadership.....	02
Agency Overview.....	03
Our Leadership Team.....	05
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center.....	06
Early Education & Care Center.....	07
La Causa Charter School.....	08
La Causa Social Services.....	09
Who We Serve.....	10
La Causa Financials.....	11
Donors, Grants & Foundations.....	12
Our Year in Pictures.....	14
Thank You Partners.....	16
2023 Summer Celebration.....	17
Engage with Us.....	18



# A Letter from Our Leadership

## 2023 Board of Directors

### **Robert Kotecki – Board Chair**

Senior Vice President  
Marsh & McLennan Agency

### **Scott Sanders – Co-Vice Chair**

Retired President/CEO  
Brakebush Brothers

### **Luis Ayala**

President & CEO  
La Causa, Inc.

### **Nancy Jelen – Co-Chair & Secretary\***

Community Representative

### **Kenneth Little – Treasurer**

SBDC State Director  
Wisconsin Small Business Development Center

### **Robert Buttermore**

SVP-Chief Supply Chain Officer  
Rockwell Automation

### **Nicole Druckrey**

General Counsel  
EMCO Chemical

### **Eduard Jimenez**

Senior Director, Freight Management & Transport  
Molson Coors Beverage Company

### **Christian Laurinavicius**

Vice President – Distribution Service Operations  
Northwestern Mutual

### **Erico Ortiz**

Owner / Gallery Director  
Inspiration Studios

### **Joy Rivera**

Executive Director Patient Safety & Patient Relations  
Froedtert & MCW

### **Nilda Cintrón-Cortez, PhD.**

Chief People Office  
Sellars Absorbent Materials, Inc.

### **Teri Serverinsen\***

Chief Financial Officer  
Midwest Fiber Networks

*\* Indicates board member who ended their term in 2023.*

As we near our 52nd year of operations, we realize that professional achievements are accomplished through resolute employees and a strong and strategic board. Both are vital to our success, and we can proudly say that each has made tremendous contributions to the longevity and future of our organization. We sincerely thank you!

As my first full year as CEO, 2023 was a year of learning, introspection, and optimism for the future. As a team, we were able to make foundational improvements to our workplace culture by listening to each employee and implementing initiatives that served both the betterment of our corporate environment and the organization. Steps taken during 2023 will prove invaluable as we set our company on a path to success by valuing our employee base. We have also begun the initial steps of taking a more strategic, data-driven approach to assessing and analyzing our different divisions – thus utilizing key market indicators to measure and drive our own performance. We will undoubtedly face challenges, but with a solid foundation in place, we feel confident about our future.

As we focus on future growth and pushing the limits of our organization, we must always remember the single mission of why we continue to provide services – that is for the improvement of each child and family member within our community. Ensuring that everyone has access to our services is our way of playing a small part in enriching their lives.

Thank you for your generosity and for believing in our organization.

¡Que Viva La Misión de La Causa!



Luis Ayala  
President & CEO



Robert Kotecki  
Board Chair

# Agency

## Early Education & Care Center

The Early Education & Care Center offers high-quality, bilingual, early childhood education for children from six weeks to twelve years old. Our nurturing environment and developmentally appropriate curriculum ensure that children are well-prepared for academic success and lifelong learning.



## Our Mission

Provide children, youth and families with quality, comprehensive services to nurture healthy family life and enhance community stability.

## La Causa Charter School

La Causa Charter School offers a bilingual, dual-language immersion program from K4 to 8th grade, promoting academic excellence and cultural diversity. Our curriculum fosters critical thinking, creativity, and social responsibility, ensuring that every student is well-prepared for future educational and personal success.



# Overview



## Crisis Nursery & Repite Center

The La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center provides a safe, temporary haven for children in times of family crisis. Our 24/7 services offer immediate relief and support to families, ensuring the safety and well-being of children while addressing the underlying issues causing the crisis.

## Our Vision

Where stable communities and healthy families have the resources and opportunities to maximize personal development and self-sufficiency.



## La Causa Social Services

La Causa's Social Services division provides comprehensive support to individuals and families in need. Our programs include foster care, mental health counseling, and family support services, all designed to promote stability, well-being, and self-sufficiency within our community.

# Our Leadership Team



**Luis Ayala**  
La Causa President & CEO



**Sylvia Zapata**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Spencer Brink**  
Director of Awareness & Engagement



**Joanne Diaz**  
Director of Human Resources



**Jakob Eisen**  
Director of La Causa Social Services



**Aderson Gonzalez**  
Director of Information Technology



**Kari Hendricks**  
Director of La Causa Charter School



**Karl Schoendorf**  
Director of Crisis Nursery & Respite Center



**Sarah Smith**  
Director of Early Education & Care Center

# Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

## 246

families used CNRC  
15% over 2022

## 485

children visited CNRC  
5% over 2022

## 1,017

duplicate visits  
34% over 2022

## 1,699

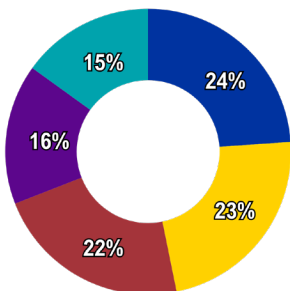
overnight stays  
15% over 2022



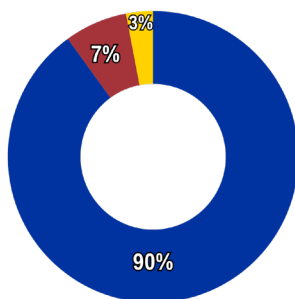
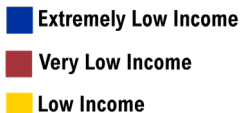
“ I like the Crisis Nursery staff. Everyone was so nice, and they made sure we liked what we were eating. They gave us new pajamas for bed, which was weird because I’m used to sleeping with street clothes but they said they have to wash my clothes, which was great because we had school the next day. ”  
-CNRC Child (Age 10)

### Take a deeper look:

#### Reasons for stay:



#### How poverty affects our families:



- 1. Extremely Low Income Level.** As defined by HUD, this income level is at or less than 30% of County Median income.
- 2. Very Low Income Level.** As defined by HUD, this income level is between 31% and 50% of County Median income
- 3. Low Income Level.** As defined by HUD, this income level is between 51% and 80% of County Median income



Scan me to learn more about the CNRC

# Early Education & Care Center

# 137

children served

# 59

Hours of music in partnership with Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

# 97%

of families qualify for Wisconsin Shares

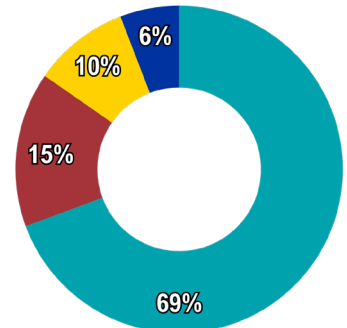


“ My children have thrived at Early Ed. They love their teachers, learn Spanish, and have made new friends. I like getting the progress reports and evaluations, I feel like their teachers, and I am working toward the same goals for my children. Having after school and off school day care has been amazing and gives me peace of mind that my children always have a safe place to thrive while I am at work. ”  
 -Abi B. (EECC Parent)



## Take a deeper look at our program breakdown:

- 0-1 years old
- 1-3 years old
- 3-4 years old
- School-age care



School age care is defined as before, after, off school day care & summer camp.





# La Causa Charter School

# 588

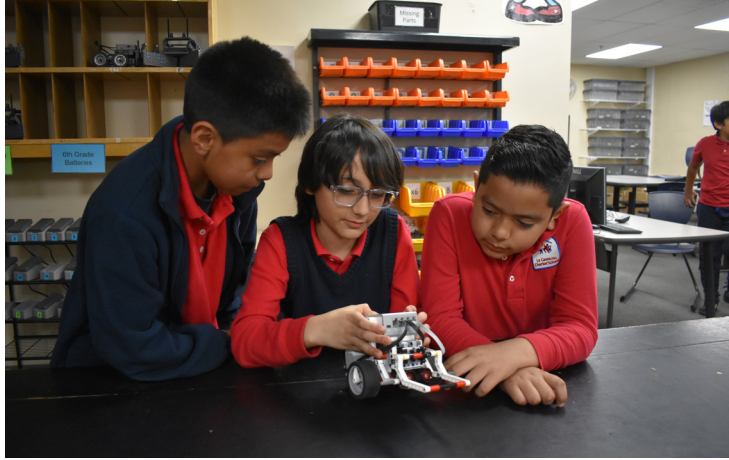
children enrolled in  
2023-2024 school year

# 90%

of students qualify for  
free & reduced lunch

# 97.5%

of students are of  
Hispanic/Latino Heritage



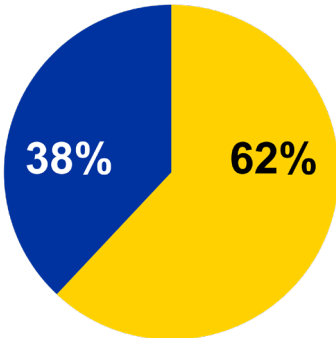
“ I've been with La Causa Charter School for 7 years, and my children have thrived academically and personally. The bilingual program, supportive teachers, and respect for our culture make it an excellent choice. This year, I start again with a child in K5 and I highly recommend La Causa for its commitment to my children's future. ”  
- Epifania P. (LCCS Parent)

In the 2023-2024 school year  
La Causa Charter School offered  
**18 different after school programs**  
serving **300+** students  
an increase of 10 programs & 200+ students

## Take a deeper look:

■ Native Spanish Speakers Learning English

■ Native English Speakers Learning Spanish



**100%**  
**8th Grade**  
**Graduation**  
**Rate**



Scan me to learn more about the LCCS

# La Causa Social Services



698

adults served

279

youth served

32

foster youth placed in

La Causa homes

33% over 2022

91

new foster family

applicants

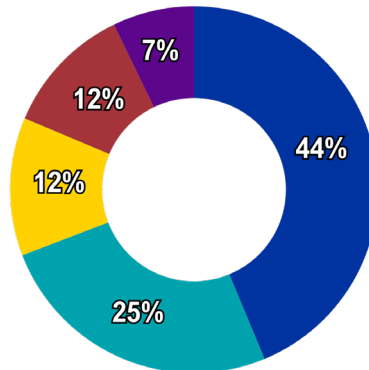
237% over 2022

“ My care coordinator communicates well with my son, family, and team members one on one and in groups. She calls, emails, or texts if she is unsure of something or needs to touch base about an appointment. She does a good job of getting team members together and sharing information. ”

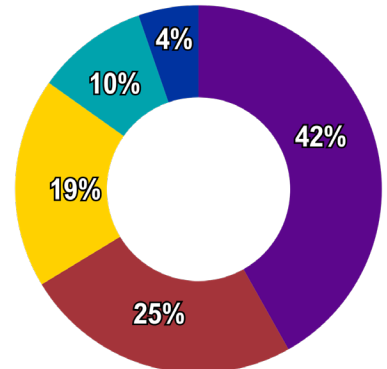
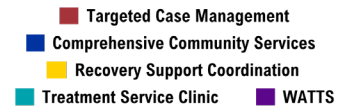
-Parent of CCS Youth

## Take a deeper look at our participant breakdown:

### Youth Programs



### Adult Programs



“ Meghan is very easy to talk with. She is responsive, caring, and goes above and beyond to help me through the licensing process. ”

- La Causa Foster Parent

Scan me to learn more about the LCSS



# Who We Serve

## Total Individuals Served by Division

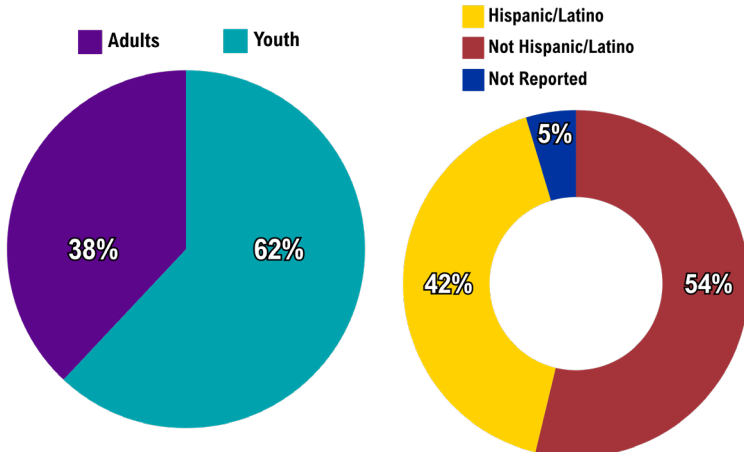
Information based on the 2023 calendar year.

Charter School.....	645
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (incl. adults).....	746
Early Education & Care Center.....	137
Social Services .....	977
<hr/>	
Total.....	2,505

## Take a deeper look at our client demographics:

Information is based on self-reported data.

American Indian or Alaska Native.....	11
Asian.....	14
Black or African American.....	948
More than One Race.....	156
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.....	4
Not Reported.....	83
White.....	1,284
Other.....	5
<hr/>	
Total.....	2,505



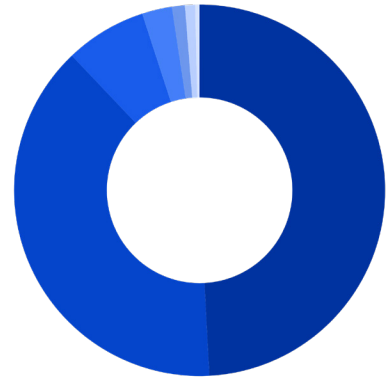
# 94%

of the families we serve are at or below the poverty line

# La Causa Financials

## 2023 Revenue By Sources

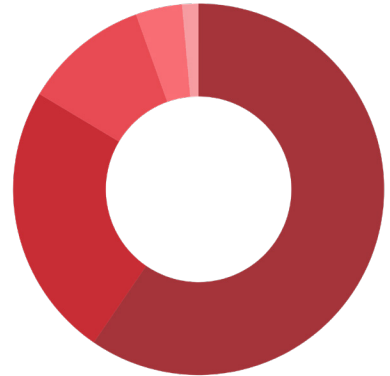
Government Grants	\$8,006,794
Fees for Services	6,308,767
Child Care & Program Fees	1,153,125
Donations	426,039
Miscellaneous	183,246
Special Events	142,132
United Way	64,512



**Total** **\$16,284,615**

## 2023 Revenue By Division

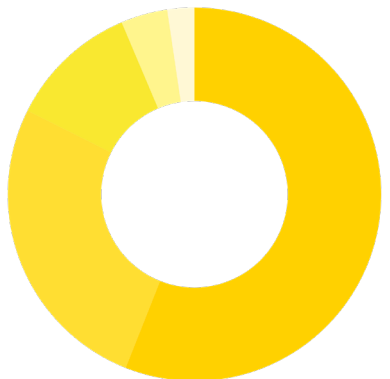
Charter School	\$9,698,471
Social Services	3,910,793
Early Education & Care Center	1,782,403
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	660,119
Supporting Services	232,829



**Total** **\$16,284,615**

## 2023 Expenses By Division

Charter School	\$9,118,433
Social Services	4,295,919
Early Education & Care Center	1,827,895
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	658,022
Supporting Services	380,710



**Total** **\$16,280,979**

## Assets

Current Assets	\$5,814,406
Property, Plant & Equipment	13,762,661
Other	267,862

**Total** **\$19,844,929**

## Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$2,701,522
Long-term Liabilities	6,579,720
Net Assets	10,563,687

**Total** **\$19,844,929**

# 2023 Donors

## Individuals

Allison Ahern	Nicole & Tom Druckrey	Jill Johnston	Julie Olson
Natasha Anderson	David & Barbara Ellwein	Shane & Marie Judd	Tom & Yukio O'Reilly
Dave & Linda Arend	Sharon Engel	Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg	Gary Pezze
Jim & Dorothy Arend	Tina Fanselow	Kathleen Kirst	John & Barbara Pezze
Robbie & Sandi Armstrong	Diane Francis	Sue Konrath	Ron Pezze
Luis & Mari Ayala	Rosemarie Fridrick	Adel Korkor	Carolyn Rausch
Stacy Barnett	Barbara & Henry Fuldner	Robert & Julie Kotecki	Robert & Joanne Reuss
Alejandra Barry	Rosie Galarza	Karen Kruse	Joy Rivera
Cheryl Bennet	Lucia Galezewski	Douglas & Barb Lackey	Adam & Nicole Sanders
Jennifer Bergschneider	Jorge Gamarro	Lloyd & Cindy LaRoque	Mike & Abbey Sanders
Maureen Bialaszewski	Jim Geurts	Susan & Sean LaRoque	Scott & Amy Sanders
John Blanchard	Anthonie Goedheer	Christian Laurinavicius	Karl Schoendorf
Patrick Blankley	Aderson Gonzalez	Frederick & Kathleen Licau	Michael & Mary Jo Schoendorf
Anne Bobb	Cordario Gooch	Pamela Lieberman	Barbara Schwartz
Aracely Bonilla	Harry & Lisa Gramoli	Lily Lipinski	Ashley Servi
Todd & Cindy Bourdo	Michael & Julie Graverson	Angie Lopez	Matthew Shawlin
Susan Boyd	Mavis Green	Rebecca Loss	Daryl Smith
Spencer Brink	Randall Green	Scott Macpherson	Dianne Sposito
Robert & Amy Buttermore	Tracy Grosspietch	Glenn Margraff	Marilyn & Thomas Swiontek
Jenni Cadman	Bruce & Bonnie Hady	Audrey Markowski	Alyssa Temple
Dawn Caldart	Krystal Hardy	Anais Matais	Thomas & Sue Touchett
Milagros Campos	Keegan Hasbrook	Rosemary Meinholz	Destiny Velez
Nilda Cintron-Cortez	Kristin & Steve Hasbrook	Jonathan Mendoza	Lisa Vincent
Roy & Teena Cook	August Herschede	Kristina Meredith	Brett & Amy Vondra
Anne Coolidge	Megan Hindman	Amy Miller	Susan Waldman
Carol Corbett	Trudie Hughes	Doug & Ginny Mills	Andrew Warren
Karina De La Torre	Erin Idler	Teresa Miskimen	Judi Williams - Killackey
Omega Delarosa	Colleen Jakubowski	Genelle Missurelli	Sara & Randall Wondergem
Joanne Diaz	Kerry Janovitch	William Mongan & Linda Mohr	Sylvia Zapata
Bob & Inge Dick	Nancy & Frank Jelen	Michael & Victoria Morrison	Nicole Zavala
Karl & Lisa Dickson	Eduard Jimenez	Cindy Nicholson	Paul Zavala
Laura Dodge	Marialinda Jimenez	Jennifer Niessen	Debbie Zemel

Several gifts were made In Memory of Francesca Torres

## Organizations

Advocate Aurora Health	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Amazon Smile	Potawatomi Hotel & Casino
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP	Prime Financial Credit Union
Bank of America Private Bank	Rockwell Automation, Inc.
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Scripps Howard Fund
Duck Creek Technologies	Straight Up Sports, Inc.
Educators Credit Union	United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Enterprise Holdings Foundation	USI Insurance Services
Froedtert Hospital Foundation, Inc.	Waukesha County Community Foundation
Frontstream Holdings, Inc	Wellspring Construction Group, LLC
Kwik Trip, Inc	Wintrust Commerical Banking
Madison Investments Fund, Inc.	Anderson Commercial Group, LLC
Midwest Fiber Network and Cable Com	Gruber Law Offices, LLC
Milwaukee Film	Johnson Controls
Northwestern Mutual Downtown Milwaukee	Marsh McLellan Agency
Northwestern Mutual Foundation	

# 2023 In-Kind Donors

## Individuals

Marylee Barret  
Juza Blaze  
Margaret Childers

Roy & Teena Cook  
Carol & Patrick Corbett  
Aderson Gonzalez

Mary Lou Herbeck  
Perla Jimenez

Alma Morris  
Dan Nelson  
Barbara Pezze

Antionette Steadman  
Jill Wesloski  
Sylvia Zapata

## Organizations

1840 Brewing Company  
Adventure Rock  
Aggies Bakery & Cake Shop  
Brady Corporation Foundation, Inc.  
Breadsmith  
Cheesecake Factory  
Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee  
Dry Bar Milwaukee  
Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton  
Explorium Brew Pub- Third Ward  
Festival Foods  
Florentine Opera Company  
Goldfish Swim School  
Green Bay Packers Give Back Foundation  
Greendale Women's Club  
Hiram Jean Photography  
Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee  
Indulgence Chocolatiers  
J.F Ahern Co.

Kessler's Diamond Center, Inc.  
La Causa Charter School  
La Causa Crisis Nursery  
La Causa Social Services  
Lela Boutique  
Let's Roam  
Lotus Om Wellness  
Marquette University  
Marsh McLellan Agency  
Milwaukee Admirals  
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club  
Milwaukee Milkmen - ROC Ventures  
Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM)  
Molson Coors  
Moorland Road Golf Center  
National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum  
Navy Pier  
Northwestern Mutual Downtown Milwaukee  
Oak Creek Community United Methodist

Church  
O&H Danish  
Pizza Shuttle  
Prime Financial Credit Union  
Rocky Rocco  
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
Scripps Howard Fund  
Shepard of the Hills Church  
Six Flags Great America  
St. Matthias Parish  
St. Pius X Church  
The Cheesecake Factory  
The Harwood Hair Co.  
The Jewelry Center  
Tiffany Kells Williams Photography  
Tuckaway Golf Club  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County  
Wawatosa Avenue United Church

# 2023 Grants & Foundations

Aldi Cares Community  
American Family Dreams Foundation  
Bader Philanthropies  
Brady Corporation  
Charles D. Jacobus Foundation  
Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation  
Four-Four Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors  
Hickory Fund

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation  
Northwestern Mutual  
Otto Bremer Trust  
The Matty Eappen Foundation  
The ROS Foundation  
WE Energies  
Weiss Family Foundation  
Wochinske Family Foundation



# Thank You Partners!



nextdoor  
Childcare Partnership



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



City  
of  
Milwaukee



DHHS

Department of  
Health &  
Human Services



Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County



# Our Year in Pictures

## LeRoy Butler presents Butler on Bullying at LCCS



## George Torres' Retirement



## K5 & 8th Grade Graduation



## 2023 Employee Recognition Luncheon





# Our Year in Pictures

## Spring & Summer Fun



## First Annual Facts & Familia Trivia Night



## Christmas Across La Causa

Thank you to our donors & supporters who helped make Christmas possible.



# 2023 Summer Celebration

Thank you to all those who joined us for our 2023 Summer Celebration *Planting Seeds of Hope*. We look forward to seeing you all this year at our 2024 Celebration, *Hope on the Horizon*!

## \$104,000 Raised



Thank you to our 2023 Summer Celebration sponsors:

### Crisis Sponsors



**Rockwell Automation**



### Nursery Sponsors



STRAIGHT UP



### Respite Sponsors



### Friends of Crisis Nursery

Prime Financial Credit Union  
Nancy & Frank Jelen

Nicole & Tom Druckrey  
Eduard Jimenez

Karl Schoendorf  
Kwik Trip

Milwaukee Film



## Join La Causa's 2024 Celebration!

Raising Funds for  
La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center  
September 19th, 2024  
Rooftop Ballroom - Baird Center

## Hope on the Horizon



<https://bitly.ex/LaCausa24>



# Engage With Us

## Become a Volunteer

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.

<https://lacausa.org/get-involved/>



## Make a Donation

Make a simple tax-free donation to the La Causa agency or a specific division.

Host a donation drive! Our divisions are always in need of items such as school supplies, formula, diapers and more.

<https://lacausa.org/donate/>



## Subscribe to our Newsletter

Stay up to date with all the happenings around La Causa and our upcoming events.



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



# La Causa, Inc.

Where Children and Families Come First

## **Crisis Nursery & Respite Center**

522 W. Walker Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414.902.1620

## **La Causa Charter School**

1643 S. 2nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414.902.1660

## **Corporate Office**

413 W. Scott Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414.647.8750

## **Early Education & Care Center**

809 W. Greenfield Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414.647.5980

## **Social Services**

5235 N. Ironwood Road  
Glendale, WI 53217  
414.902.1500

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[LaCausa.org](http://LaCausa.org)





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