



La Causa, Inc.

2024 Annual Report

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Letter from Our Leadership

2024 Board of Directors

Robert Kotecki – Chair

*Vice President
Business Insurance
Marsh & McLennan Agency*

Scott Sanders – Co- Vice Chair

*Retired President/CEO
Brakebush Brothers*

Luis Ayala

*President & CEO
La Causa, Inc.*

Kenneth Little - Treasurer

*SBDC State Director
Wisconsin Small Business Development Center*

Aaron Bruner

*Sales District Leader
American Family Insurance*

Robert Buttermore

*SVP- Chief Supply Chain Officer
Rockwell Automation*

Nilda Cintrón-Cortez, PhD.

*Chief People Officer
Sellars Absorbent Materials*

Nicole Druckrey

*General Counsel
EMCO Chemical*

Gus D. Hernandez Jr.

*Sr. Vice President & Director of Business Banking
Associated Bank*

Eduard Jimenez

*Senior Director, Freight Management & Transport
Molson Coors Beverage Company*

Erico Ortiz

*Owner / Gallery Director
Inspiration Studios*

Derek Parker

*Sales District Leader
American Family Insurance*

Joy Rivera

*Executive Director Patient Safety & Patient Relations
Froedtert*

Dear Donors, Board of Directors and Employees,

As we reflect on this past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your continued support, dedication, and partnership. Together, we've not only navigated challenges but have also made remarkable strides in advancing our mission and strengthening our organization from the inside out.

Over the past twelve months, we have achieved significant results. Our impact metrics remain strong, and we maintained fiscal responsibility while expanding our reach. These accomplishments are a testament to the collective efforts of our team, the strategic guidance of our board, and the generosity of our donors. Our promise of protecting and optimizing every dollar invested in our organization remains strong.

Just as important as the work we do externally is the culture we nurture internally. This year, we doubled down on our commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and engaging workplace. From launching new initiatives around employee well-being and professional development, to creating more opportunities for staff voices to be heard, we have worked intentionally to create an environment where people feel valued, supported, empowered, and appreciated.

I am incredibly proud to share that these efforts culminated in our organization being named one of Southeastern Wisconsin Top Workplaces 2025 by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Magazine. This recognition is especially meaningful because it is based on direct feedback from our employees – and it reflects the heart of who we are and how we work together.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on deepening our impact, expanding our reach, and continuing to build a workplace where purpose and people thrive together. Thank you for walking alongside us on this journey. The road ahead is full of promise, and with your continued trust and partnership, I am confident we will achieve even greater things.

Salud de parte de La Causa!



Robert Kotecki
Board Chair



Luis Ayala
President & CEO

Agency Overview

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.



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.



Our Mission

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



Our Vision

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

Crisis Nursery & Respite 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.



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.



Leadership Team



Luis Ayala
La Causa President & CEO



Aracelly Bonilla
Chief Financial Officer



Spencer Brink
Director of Marketing



Joanne Diaz
Director of Human Resources



Jakob Eisen
Director of Social Services



Aderson Gonzalez
Director of Information Technology



Kari Hendricks
Director of Education



Lydia Reaves
Director of Early Education & Care



Karl Schoendorf
Director of Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center



"As a single mom of two under two, there were days I wasn't sure how I'd juggle work and everything at home. La Causa's Crisis Nursery was there for us. Their team welcomed my children with warmth, handled every detail—from meals to bedtime—and gave me the time I needed to regroup. Knowing I could count on them made all the difference."

— Crisis Nursery & Respite Center Parent

257

families used CNRC
4.5% increase over 2023

501

children visited CNRC
3% increase over 2023

1,120

duplicate visits
10% increase over 2023

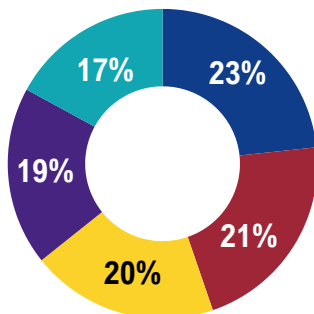
1,788

overnight stays
7% increase over 2023

Take a deeper look:

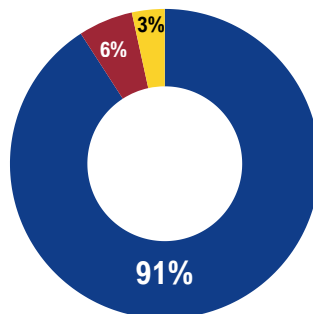
Reasons for stay:

- Treatment
- Respite Care
- Crisis/Domestic Violence
- Appointment
- Homelessness



How poverty affects our families:

- Extremely Low Income
- Very Low Income
- Low Income



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 the County Median income. **3. Low Income Level.** As defined by HUD, this income is between 51% and 80% of County Median income.



Early Education & Care Center

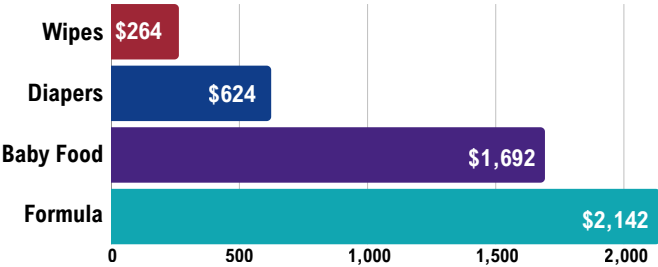


"We chose La Causa because it's bilingual. The teachers speak Spanish with the kids, the classes are smaller than other places we visited, and when we came for orientation, the campus just felt more welcoming and interactive."
-Early Education & Care Center Parent

La Causa Early Education and Care Center provides all diapers, wipes, baby food, and formula, providing an added relief to the 93% of our one-year-old families that are currently using Wisconsin Shares to pay for childcare.

\$4,722

Average 2024 annual savings for a family with one child age 0-12 months.



145

Children Served
5% increase over 2023

97%

of families receive Wisconsin Shares



La Causa Charter School



"We love La Causa Charter School! My kids love it because of everything they get to do—robotics, cultural dance, art, PLTW, martial arts, and a lot more. I love the staff because they really take the time to understand my kids. They know when my son needs a minute to slow down because his brain's going a mile a minute, and they give my daughter space when her anxiety kicks in. It just feels good knowing they're really seen and cared for."

- La Causa Charter School Parent

570

**Children enrolled in
2024-2025 school year**

12%

Increase in Forward scores

36%

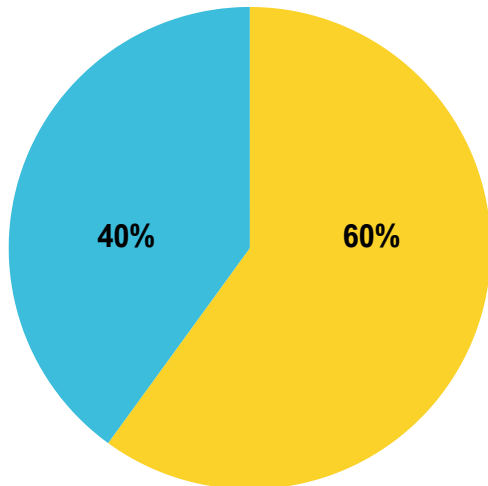
**of new students came
from other countries**

83%

**student retention rate
13% increase over district rate**

Take a deeper look:

- Native Spanish Speakers Learning English
- Native English Speakers Learning Spanish



La Causa Social Services

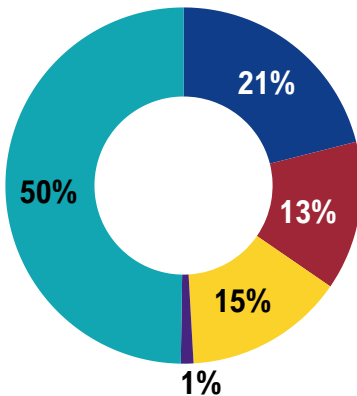


"Being a foster parent has not only helped to shape the lives of the children in my care, but it has equally helped me grow as a person."
 - La Causa Foster Parent

Take a deeper look at our participant breakdown:

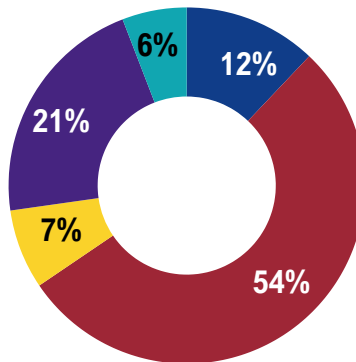
Adult Programs

- Targeted Case Management
- Comprehensive Community Services
- Recovery Support Coordination
- Treatment Services Clinic
- WATTS



Youth Programs

- Treatment Foster Care
- Comprehensive Community Services
- Wraparound
- REACH
- CORE



613

Adults Served

290

Children Served
4% increase over 2023

34

foster parent
recruitment events
21% increase over 2023

35

foster youth placed in
La Causa homes
9% over 2023

Who We Serve

Total Individuals Served by Division

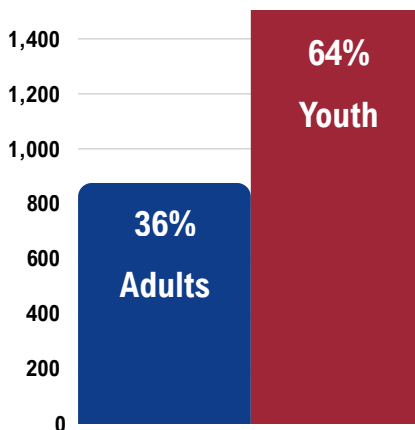
Information based on the 2024 Calendar year.

Charter School.....	615
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (incl. adults).....	764
Early Education & Care Center.....	145
Social Services.....	903
<hr/>	
Total.....	2,427

Take a deeper look at our client demographics

Information is based on self-reported data.

Hispanic/Latino.....	40%
Black or African American.....	39%
White.....	14%
More than One Race	5%
American Indian, Asian, Not Reported, Pacific Islander & Other.....	2%



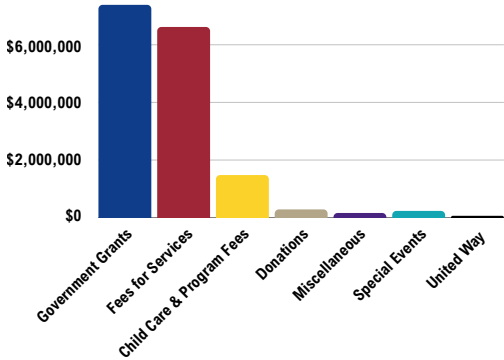
94%
of the families we
serve are at or
below poverty line

La Causa Financials

2024 Revenue By Source

Government Grants	\$7,385,461
Fees for Services	6,617,990
Child Care & Program Fees	1,478,521
Donations	286,661
Miscellaneous	163,010
Special Events	234,679
United Way	64,768

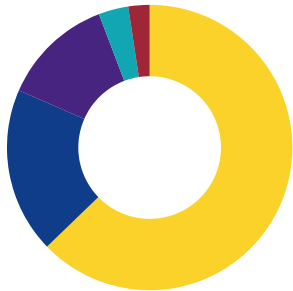
Total	\$16,231,090
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2024 Revenue By Division

Charter School	\$10,189,454
Social Services	3,048,107
Early Education & Care Center	2,054,549
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	548,044
Supporting Services	390,936

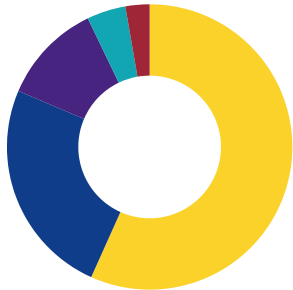
Total	\$16,231,090
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2024 Expenses By Division

Charter School	\$9,063,889
Social Services	3,948,093
Early Education & Care Center	1,829,524
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center	703,615
Supporting Services	435,887

Total	\$15,981,008
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Assets

Current Assets	\$6,290,912
Property, Plant & Equipment	13,134,830
Other	284,735

Total	\$19,710,477
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$2,645,334
Long-term Liabilities	6,251,374
Net Assets	10,813,769

Total	\$19,710,477
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2024 Donors

Individuals

Yusuf Abu-Hatoum
Allison Ahern
Maria Alvarado
Mary Amaya
Natasha Anderson
Robbie & Sandi Armstrong
Brian Atkinson
Luis Ayala & Mari Ayala
Damaris Ayala
Rafaela Ayala
Jergen & Jean Barber
Greg & Janet Barczak
Stacy & Michael Barnett
Deanna Benner
Joyce Bennett
Susan & Douglas Berg
Jesse Bewer
Maureen Bialaszewski
Nicholas Binder
John Blanchard & Elizabeth Vokac
John C. Blanchard
Eva Bongard
Aracelly Bonilla
Susan Boyd
Daniel Brenton
Janet Briggs
Spencer & James Brink
Melissa Buldak
David & Erin Burchett
Amy Burmeister
Robert & Amy Buttermore
Thomas Callan
John Camberlen
Sara Cameron
Elizabeth K. Campos-Lesniewski
James & Judith Cappleman
Erin Carpenter
Sue & Tomas Castro
Nilda Cintron-Cortez PhD
Warren Clarke
Rachael Conrad
Roy & Teena Cook
Mike Coolidge
Ana Cruz
Sean Cullen
Sherry Dega

Jose & Julie Delarosa
Stephen Delassus
Sandra Dempsey
Van Den Heuvel
Joanne Diaz
Karl & Lisa Dickson
Nicole & Tom Druckrey
Jakob & Alex Eisen
David & Barbara Ellwein
Amy Fangmann
Tina & Chris Fanselow
Juan Fernandez
Mary Frankowski
Rosemarie & Scot Fridrick
Barbara & Henry Fuldner
Jorge Gamarro
Rene Garcia
Jay Gilbert
Tracy Glaman
TJ Goedheer
Luis Gonzalez
Aderson Gonzalez
Diana Gottschalk
Harry & Lisa Gramoll
Richard Gramoll
Julie Graverson
Mavis Green
Tracy & Jim Grosspietsch
Pedro Guerrero
Bruce & Bonnie Hady
Mike Haensgen
Romulus Hamelin
Steve & Kristin Hasbrook
Kari Hendricks
Salma Hernandez
Alberto Huerta
Trudie Hughes
Kelly & Niksa Ivancevic
Colleen Jakubowski
Eduard Jimenez
Charlotte John-Gomez
Shane & Marie Judd
Christopher & Sharon Kailas
Shelli Kanter
Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg

Suzanne & Richard Kelnhofer
Gyldnis King
Robert & Julie Kotecki
Douglas & Barb Lackey
Sean & Susan LaRoque
Tracy Lemmer
Kyle Lindberg
Rebecca Loss
Sarah Lubbs-Fairchild
Ashley Lucas
Ryan Lunde
Scott & Barbara Macpherson
James Makouske
Alberto Maldonado
Cynthia Maldonado
John Marchan
Gisselle Martin
Colleen & Leo Martinez
Ella Maseterson
Aileen Maxwell
Rosemary Meinholz
Kristina Meredith
Joan Meyers
Rodney & Cynthia Michael
Doug & Virginia Mills
Genelle Missurelli
Christine Moczynski
William & Linda Mohr
Mary Moore
Lisa Morano
Victoria & Michael Morrison
Jerry Mudlaff
Jeff & Sarah Musa
Robert Myers
Roberta Nellen
Rodrigo Neves
Phuc & Co Nguyen
Alasdair Nichol
Patricia Nimmer
Jennifer Nissen
Ivan & Tamara Olivas
Frank Olson
Clarissa Ortiz
John Osorio
Leopoldo Paredes
Polo Paredes

2024 Donors

Individuals Continued

Trish Pena	Nickie Rouleau	Dori & Adam Tooke
Gary Pezze	Scott & Amy Sanders	Marina Toro
Ron & Rosanne Pezze	Margaret Schacht	Taina Torres
Shari Pezze	Joseph Schilz & Rosalie Schilz	Touchett Family Foundation
Mark Pezze	Chris Schmidt	Dona Tromp
Jose & Ana Pimienta	David Schneider	Maria Vento
Paulino Pradillo	Mary Jo & Michael Schoendorf	Lisa Vincent
Dale Prescott	Karl Schoendorf	Susan & Steve Waldman
August Ray	Jack Schuetz	Sarah White
Mariel Quinones Rosario	Ashley Servi	Marilyn Wilke
Barbara Ramos	Linda & Kyle Shimek	Greg & Linda Wilke
Andye Valencia Rangel	Daryl Smith	David & Elizabeth Wilke
David Ray & Sarah Ray	Diane Steigerwald	Murphy Wilt
Joanne Reuss	Annie & Tim Stringer	Sara & Randall Wondergem
Antonia Rivera	Bob Sullivan	Sylvia Zapata
Scott & Diane Roeker	Amanda Talbott	Nikki & Paul Zavala
Luis Roman Lopez	Ryan Thomas	Dean & Deborah Zemel
Maryceli Rosario	Susan Timlin	Julio Zuaznabar

Organizations

AdvocateAuroraHealth	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Anderson Commercial Group, LLC	Peoples State Bank
Associated Bank	Potawatomi Hotel & Casino
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP	Prime Financial
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Rockwell Automation, Inc.
BMO Harris Bank	Scripps Howard Fund
Brady Corporation Foundation, Inc.	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
BS Wisniewski Custom Hearing Instruments	St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
Charles (David R., Sr.) Family Foundation	St. Patrick Congregation
Duck Creek Technologies	Straight Up, Inc.
Educators Credit Union	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Froedtert & Medical College of WI	UnidosUS
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.	United Way of Dane County
Gruber Law Offices, LLC	United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Inpower Solution	USI Insurance Services
Jani-king	Versiti
Jewish Community Foundation	Walkers Point Association
Johnson Controls	Waukesha County Community Foundation
Kriete Truck Center	Wellspring Construction Group, LLC
Marsh & McLennan Agency	Wintrust Commercial Banking
Milwaukee Gay Football Club	Wisconsin Center District
Northwestern Mutual Foundation	Wisconsin Medical Society
Our Lady Of Guadalupe Congregation	Zurn Foundation

2024 In-Kind Donors

Individuals

Jonathan Brown
Paul Chambers

Carol & Patrick Corbett
Trudie Hughes

Erico Ortiz
Karl Schoendorf

Michael and Mary Jo Schoendorf
Sylvia Zapata

Organizations

Bayside Center
Brady Corporation Foundation, Inc.
Brass Bell Music Store

Cafe Corazon
Carnevor Steakhouse Moderne

City Wide

De-Bar

Forever Gifts

Gage Lake Lake Geneva

GHA Technologies

Glendale Women's Club

Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee

Historic Milwaukee

Hunger Task Force, Inc.

JBC Pottery

Kendra Scott

Kloiber Jewelers

Lakeshore Learning Materials

La Causa Charter School

La Causa Crisis Nursery

Marquette University

Marsh McLennan

Milwaukee Ballet Company

Milwaukee Film

myflight

Napa Valley Wine Train

Northwestern Mutual Hispanic ERG

Molson Coors

Posh Collective

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

Rockwell Automation, Inc.

Saint Kate-The Arts Hotel

SALA-Modern Sicilian

Sendik's Food Market Inc.

SoulShine Yoga

Station 1846

The Cheesecake Factory

TMJ 4 Community Baby Shower 2024

United Way of Greater Milwaukee &

Waukesha

Wisconsin Athletic Club

2024 Grants & Foundations

Bader Philanthropies

Bobs Discount Furniture

Brady Corporation

Brewers Community Foundation

Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation

Forest County Potawatomi

Four-Four Foundation

Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors - Youth Foundation

Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Inc.

Kars4Kids

Palmer Family Foundation

The Matty Eappen Foundation

The ROS Foundation

WE Energies

Weiss Family Foundation

Wochinske Family Foundation Inc.

Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

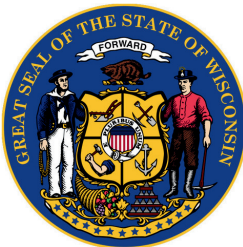
Zonta Foundation



Programs Sponsored in Part By:



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Health & Human Services



Our Year in Pictures

La Causa Social Services Valentine's Day Celebration



La Causa Charter School goes to Cantos de las Americas



Mayor Johnson visits the La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center



La Causa Early Education & Care Center broke ground on a new playground.



Our Year in Pictures

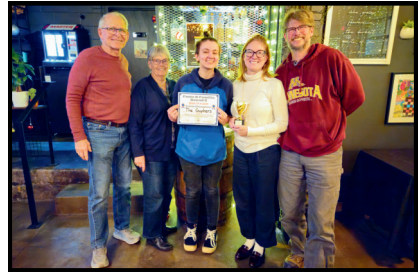
La Causa Charter School First Day of School



First Annual All Staff Townhall



Facts & Familia Trivia Round 2



Christmas Across La Causa - Thank you to our donor & supporters who helped make Christmas possible!



La Causa's 2024 Celebration

Thank you to everyone who made our 2024 Celebration, *Hope on the Horizon* a success. Together we raised over **\$150,000!** We are so excited to see you all at our 2025 Celebration, *Guarding Dreams*.



Thank You, Sponsors!

Crisis Sponsors:



Nursery Sponsors:



Respite Sponsors:



Friends of Crisis Nursery

Eduard Jimenez • Nicole & Tom Druckery • Gruber Law Offices • Peoples State Bank • Karl Schoendorf

Guests of Honor Table Sponsor: Bader Philanthropies



Engage with Us

Become a Guardian de La Causa, Inc.

Los Guardianes de La Causa, Inc. is a community of dedicated monthly supporters, united by a shared commitment to protecting and uplifting Milwaukee. As a Guardian, your monthly support fuels essential programs, ensuring that every child has a safe, nurturing space to learn, grow, and thrive.

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



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/become-a-volunteer/>



Make a Donation

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

Host a donation drive! Our divisions always need 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.

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





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

