



**TOP
WORK
PLACES
2025**

journal sentinel



La Causa, Inc.

2025 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Letter from our Leadership.....	01
Agency Overview.....	02
Our Leadership Team.....	03
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center.....	04
Early Education & Care Center.....	05
La Causa Charter School.....	06
La Causa Social Services.....	07
Who We Serve.....	08
La Causa Financials.....	09
Donors, Grants & Foundations.....	10
Programs Supported in Part By.....	13
Our Year in Pictures.....	14
2025 Celebration.....	16
Engage with Us.....	17



Letter from Our Leadership

2025 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*

Oscar Tovar

*Director of Community Relationships and Partnerships
to the Mayor
City of Milwaukee*

Robert Buttermore

*SVP- Chief Supply Chain Officer
Rockwell Automation*

Nilda Cintrón-Cortez, PhD.

*Chief People Officer
Sellars Absorbent Materials*

Marwill Santiago

*Director of Student Enrollment and Call Center
Milwaukee Area Technical College*

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*

Valerie Vidal

*President & CEO
Meta House*



Robert Kotecki
Board Chair



Luis Ayala
President & CEO

Dear Donors, Board of Directors, and Employees,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support, partnership, and belief in our mission. Because of you, La Causa remains a strong, resilient organization—one that continues to grow, adapt, and serve our community with purpose.

Throughout 2025, we maintained a strong foundation while advancing key priorities across the organization. Our commitment to responsible stewardship, meaningful impact, and organizational excellence continues to guide every decision we make.

This year marked several important milestones. We successfully relocated our Social Services program to our Administrative Building on Milwaukee's south side—bringing this critical work back to the heart of Familia La Causa. Our Social Services Division continued to innovate and expand services, launching both the SHINE team and the Third Shift Mobile Crisis Unit to better meet our community's needs. These efforts reflect our ability to evolve while staying deeply committed to those we serve.

We are also proud to share that La Causa was named a Southeastern Wisconsin Top Workplace by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for both 2025 and 2026. Earning this recognition in consecutive years is a powerful reflection of the culture we are intentionally building—one where employees feel valued, supported, and engaged.

Our commitment to excellence is equally reflected in the achievements of La Causa Charter School. The school was recognized with a Four-Star rating of "Exceeds Expectations" on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction report card, achieved a 12% increase in Forward Exam scores, and celebrated the renewal of our five-year contract with Milwaukee Public Schools. These accomplishments underscore both the academic progress of our students and the continued trust placed in us by our partners.

Across the organization, we continue to invest in creating a positive and inclusive workplace culture. These efforts are ongoing and future-focused, grounded in the understanding that a strong internal environment directly enhances our impact in the community. As we continue to listen, learn, and improve, we are building a foundation that will support our teams and our mission for years to come.

Looking ahead, we are focused on how to build on this momentum. We are thinking intentionally about the future—how to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and continue strengthening the services and opportunities we provide to the communities we serve. With a clear vision and a strong foundation, we are well-positioned for continued growth and innovation.

Thank you for being an essential part of La Causa's journey. With your continued partnership, we are confident that the future holds even greater promise.

Salud de parte de La Causa!

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



"I don't know where me or my kids would be today, or if I would have been able to raise them successfully, and watch them grow up to be assets to the community, while trying to hold everything together as a single mother, predominantly by myself, had it not been for Karl and the Crisis Nursery."
 – Shantel, CNRC Parent

264

families used CNRC
2.7% increase over 2024

525

children visited CNRC
4.8% increase over 2024

1,197

total visits
6.9% increase over 2024

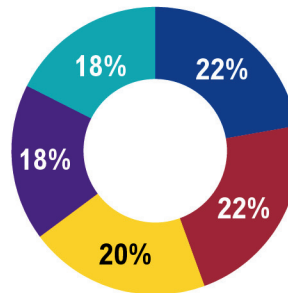
1,833

overnight stays
2.5% increase over 2024

Take a deeper look:

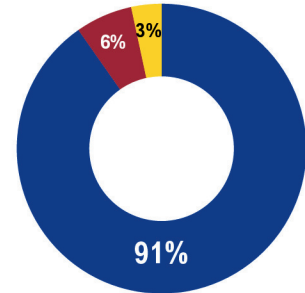
Reasons for stay:

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



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



"La Causa has become part of our family's story. Watching our daughter blossom in both English and Spanish has been incredible, and knowing she is more than ready for 4K gives us so much confidence in her future. Most importantly, our children feel loved, supported, and excited to learn every day."
- Emily, EECC Parent

Thanks to your continued support our services provided

158,080 hours

of stable childcare so families could pursue employment or education in 2025.



NAC Accreditation 2025-2029

192

Children Served
32% increase over 2024

15%

of children receive
individualized support services.

83%

of families receive
Wisconsin Shares

326

Combined Years of Experience
Across our 20 Early Education teachers



Scan me to learn more about EECC

La Causa Charter School



"La Causa has helped my son grow not only academically, but also as a confident and involved member of his community. Through programs like folklorico dance, soccer, and guitar, he has discovered new opportunities and built important life skills. The teachers and staff truly partner with families, creating an environment where children feel supported to succeed both in school and in life."
- Magali, LCCS Parent

558

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

100%

**staffed for the first time since
the 2017-2018 school year**

12%

Growth on Forward Testing
State academic achievement measure
7% higher than expected

5 Year

renewal for MPS charter contract



La Causa Charter School



Exceeds Expectations!



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction



Logo redesign completed in 2025

Scan me to learn more about LCCS



La Causa Social Services

Record Year for the Treatment Foster Care Team!

148

foster parent applicants

3

new homes licensed

3

adoptions

3

kinship reunifications



"Fostering is not always easy, but it is incredibly rewarding to witness the growth and progression of every child placed in my care. Seeing my daughter grow from struggling with behavioral challenges to graduating high school and excelling in college has been one of the greatest reminders of the impact that love, patience, and support can have on a child's life."

- Tyra, TFC Foster Mother

S.H.I.N.E. Supporting Holistic Interventions for Needs & Empowerment, launched!

- Addition of SHINE allowed for 19 new participants.
- Serves people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs through Care Coordination, Parent Peer Support, a Mental Health Clinician, & an Occupational Therapist.

Third Shift Mobile Crisis Unit activated!

Third Shift Mobile Crisis Unit is a mental health crisis team that expands the ability for participants to access mental health services at all hours, because emergencies don't always happen during business hours.

We're on the move!

We sold our Glendale, WI building, and we have relocated to the Corporate Office at 413 W. Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204.



Scan me to learn more about LCSS

Who We Serve

Total Individuals Served by Division

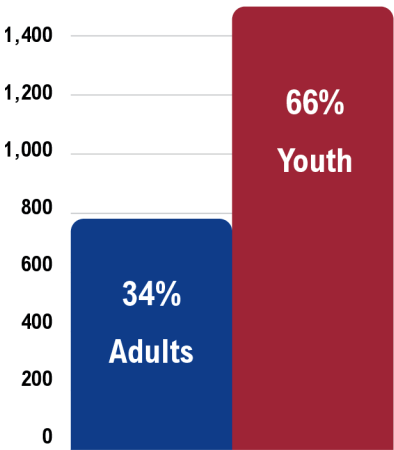
Information based on the 2025 Calendar year.

Charter School.....	561
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (incl. adults).....	792
Early Education & Care Center.....	192
Social Services.....	735
Total.....	2,280

Take a deeper look at our client demographics

Information based on self-reported data.

Hispanic/Latino.....	42%
Black or African American.....	38%
White.....	14%
More than One Race	6%
American Indian, Asian, Not Reported, Pacific Islander & Other.....	1%

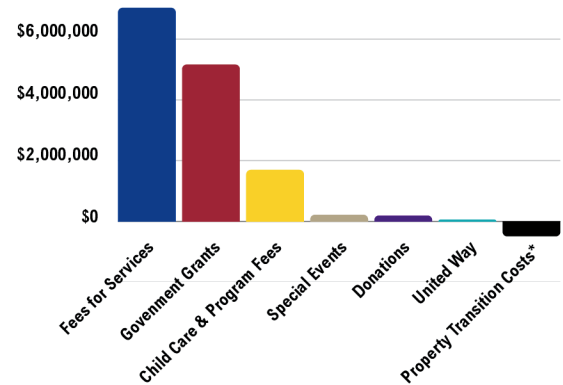


92%
of the families we
serve are at or below
the poverty line

La Causa Financials

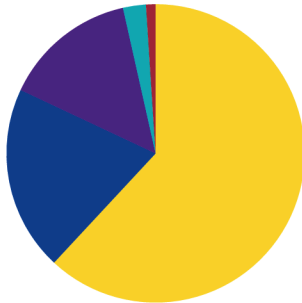
2025 Revenue By Source

Fees for Services	\$7,028,941
Government Grants	5,163,042
Child Care & Program Fees	1,695,922
Special Events	218,840
Donations	193,975
United Way	57,259
Property Transition Costs*	(490,122)
Total	\$13,867,927



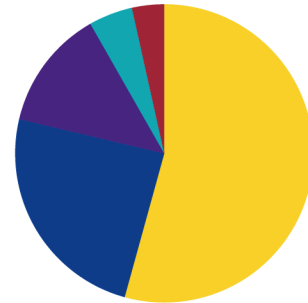
2025 Revenue By Division

- Charter School - 62%
- Social Services - 20%
- Early Education & Care Center - 14%
- Crisis Nursery & Respite Center - 3%
- Supporting Services - 1%



2025 Expenses By Division

- Charter School - 54%
- Social Services - 24%
- Early Education & Care Center - 13%
- Crisis Nursery & Respite Center - 5%
- Supporting Services - 4%



Assets

Current Assets	\$5,909,564
Property, Plant & Equipment	10,250,824
Other	287,686
Total	\$16,448,074

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$2,425,200
Long-term Liabilities	4,804,941
Net Assets	9,217,933
Total	\$16,448,074

* This is a one-time loss as a result of the sale of our Social Services building in Glendale, WI.

2025 Donors

Individuals

Shay Agsten
Jessica Aguilar
Ian Airaudi
Tim Andrews
David & Linda Arend
Michael Arkens
Robbie & Sandi Armstrong
Brian P. Atkinson
Damaris Ayala
Luis & Mari Ayala
Rafaela Ayala
Stephen Bachhuber
Greg & Janet Barczak
Stacy & Michael Barnett
Rae Beaudry
Craig Becknell
Delia Noblecilla & Gabriel Bellido
Douglas & Susan Berg
Aracelly Bonilla & Nicholas Binder
Megan Borkenhagen
Todd & Cindy Bourdo
Susan Boyd
Daniel Brenton
Caitlin Brillowski
Spencer & James Brink
Alexandra Brown
Ruth Brown
Robert & Amy Buttermore
Thomas F. Callan
Pat Campbell
Elizabeth K Campos Lesniewski
James & Judith Cappleman
Paula Castro
Suzanne Castro
Lourdes J. Chevrez
Nilda Cintron-Cortez Ph.D.
Michael Coello
Rebecca Coello
Benjamin A. Cole
Roy & Teena Cook
Justin Coolidge
Mike Coolidge
Deborah A. DeDecker
Joanne Diaz
Karl & Lisa Dickson
Shelby Ditter
Tom & Nicole Druckrey
Jakob Eisen

David & Barbara Ellwein
Giulliane Falbo Janini
Rosalina Fernandez
Mary Frankowski
Roger Frankowski
Catherine Freed
Barbara N. Fuldner
Armando Garcia
Renee Garcia
Rene Garcia
Michael Gentry
Anthonie Goedheer
Zuly Gomez
Edward Gonzalez
Jonathan Gonzalez
Diana Gottschalk
Jeff Gould
Harry & Lisa Gramoll
Richard Gramoll
Michael & Julie Graverson
Randall Joseph Green
John & Peggy Griffith
Tracy & Jim Grosspietsch
Pedro Guerrero
Aaric Guerriero
Paulina Gutierrez
Susan Hackbarth
Bruce & Bonnie Hady
Mike Haensgen
Omar Hamdan
Steve & Kristin Hasbrook
Richard Haskey
Haley Heaviland
John Henderson
Kari Hendricks
Salmai Hernandez
Ambika Hetrick
Mary Hilscher
Steven Hipp
Adam Holcomb
Jazzmon Hughes
Trudie Hughes
Niksa & Kelly Ivancevic
Tom & Annette Jacobson
Sofia Jaegersberg
Julia & Ulf Jaesgerberg
Brett Jamroz
Nancy & Frank Jelen

Eduard R. Jimenez
CharlotteJohn Gomez
Alyssa Johnson
Christopher Johnson
Lakesha L. Jones
Shelli Kanter
Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg
Gyldnis King
Carol Klingbeil
Robin & Tim Knepprath
Robert & Julie Kotecki
Claude Krawczyk
Carl Kunzler
Dorothy Kunzler
David & Geramin LaBrie
Douglas & Barb Lackey
Celaneese Landon-Edwards
Sean & Susan LaRoque
Denise Latto
Tina Lawler
Eileen Lozada
Ashley Lucas
Daniel Luna
Katherine Lunde
Justin Machata
Scott & Barbara Macpherson
Jose Madrigal
Melinda Mahdasian
Megan Maikowski
Cinthia Maldonado
Brian Mangold
Nicole Marsh
Rebecca A. Martinez
Lauren Mascari
Kathryn Mccanna
Margaret McCanna
Alaynah McClain
Holly McCormick
Shelby Mcculley
Emily Melnick
Kristina R. Meridith
Joan A. Meyers
Daniel Middleton
Rebecca Mikelonis
Nadine Millot
Doug & Ginny Mills
Genelle Missurelli
William Mongan & Linda Mohr

2025 Donors

Individuals Continued

Alma Morris
Michael & Victoria Morrison
Hart Moss
Olivia Navarro
Sarah Neubauer
Rodrigo Neves
James Nichols
Jennifer Nissen
John R. Oconnor
Chizo Okon
Ivan & Tamara Olivas
Clarissa M. Ortiz
Felicia Ortiz
Jose Oviedo
Brittany Palenski
Polo & Jen Paredes
Derek Parker
Amanda Parks
Gary Pezze
Ronald G. Pezze
Barbara Pickus-Starr
Amber Piphorn
Michael Poniewaz
Addie Prochnow
Damarr Purifoy
Catherine Rabenstine
Carolyn Rausch
Lydia Ravenwood
August & Geralee Ray

David & Sarah Ray
Robert & Joanne Reuss
Danielle R. Rickert
Antonia Joy Rivera
Danny Rivera
Scott & Diane Roeker
Diana Rojas
Luis Gerardo Roman Lopez
Elva Romo
Allison Rooney
Richard Rosinski
Nickie Rouleau
Timothy Ruesch
Abbey & Mike Sanders
Adam & Nicole Sanders
Scott & Amy Sanders
Judith Schelling
Karl T.Schoendorf
Michael & Mary Jo Schoendorf
Sally Schoendorf
Angelina Schubert
Kathy R. Schultz
Samantha Schwartz
Tyler Selby
Ambika Sharma
Chris Smith
Exina Smith
Danielle Sorensen
Patricia Sprenger

Leah Stewart
Annie & Tim Stringer
Becca Stringer
Audrey Strnad
Beth Swenson
Thomas & Marilyn Swiontek
Shruti Thaker
Patricia Thompson
Alyssa Tobias
Lilliana Tobias
Dori Tooke
Erin Van Derven
Angelina Velazquez
Valerie Vidal
Lisa Vincent
Patrice R. Vnuk
Valentina Wagner
Susan & Steve Waldman
Pat Warchol
Clarke & Andrea Warren
Amy Wesolowski
David & Elizabeth Wilke
Greg & Linda Wilke
Neil & Adria Willenson
William R. Wilson
Rick Zaffiro
Sylvia A. Zapata
Dean & Deborah Zemel
In Memory of Marilyn "Skeeter" Wilke

Organizations

American Family Insurance
Associated Bank
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Blessed Hope United Methodist Church
Brady Corporation
Educators Credit Union
Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
Gartner Inc.
Gruber Law Offices, LLC
Johnson Controls
Joseph F. Schoendorf III Family Foundation
Kriete Truck Center

Marsh & McLennan Agency
Matenaer Corporation
Midwest Fiber Networks
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
MolsonCoors
Mortenson
Northwestern Mutual Downtown Milwaukee
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Nutricion y Bienestar
Potawatomi Hotel & Casino
Roeker Family Foundation
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated

Rockwell Automation, Inc.
St. Matthias Parish
Siebert Lutheran Foundation
Touchett Family Foundation
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
Scripps Howard Fund
USI Insurance Services
VBA Software
Waukesha County Community Foundation
Wellspring Construction Group, LLC
Wintrust Commercial Banking
Peoples State Bank
BNY Pershing

2025 In-Kind Donors

Individuals

Jeff Budzien
Roy N. Cook
Niksa Ivancevic
Nancy C. Jelen

Eduard Jimenez
Tim Knepprath
Joanie Luedke
Susan Mogren

Dan Nelson Jr.
Erico Ortiz
Danielle R. Rickert
Karl T. Schoendorf

Michael T. Schoendorf
Trudie Hughes Sontoski
Sylvia A. Zapata

Organizations

5 Star Energy Services
Anodyne Coffee
Babboni Photography
Bars & Recreation
Benson's Restaurant Group
Berres Brothers
Blessed Hope United Methodist Church
Bloom Skin Spa
Brady Corporation
Brass Bell Music Store
Butters-Fetting Co., Inc.
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Destination Kohler
Dry Bar Milwaukee
Dubois Formalwear
Eaton Corporation
Fates Aligned
Festival Foods
Float Milwaukee
Florentine Opera Company
Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
Green Bay Packers
Historic Milwaukee
Hunger Task Force, Inc.
Huppy And Abraham

Indulgence Chocolatiers
Inspiration Studios
Jen's Sweet Treats
Johnsonville
Kapco's Kids2Kids
La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
Lakefront Brewery, Inc.
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
Milwaukee Admirals
Milwaukee Area Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Milwaukee Ballet Company
Milwaukee County Parks Dept.
Milwaukee Domes
Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM)
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Milwaukee Zoo
Mortenson
Northwestern Mutual Downtown Milwaukee
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Palermos Pizza
PRP Wine International
Raising Canes
Restaurants Portillos

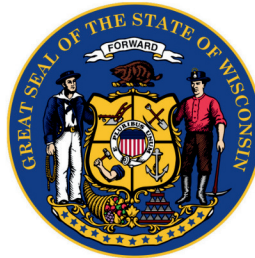
Road America
Rockwell Automation, Inc.
Ross Stores
Saint Kate-The Arts Hotel
SALA-Modern Sicilian
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
Solskin Wellness LLC.
Sprecher Brewing Company, Inc.
St. Matthias Parish School
St. Pius Parish
Stone Creek Coffee Roasters
Summerfest (Milwaukee World Festival Inc.)
Texas Roadhouse
The Tin Widow
Theatro Zinzani
TMJ 4 Community Baby Shower 2024
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
VBA Software
Vita Bella Salon
Waking Daisy
Walker's Point Tattoo Co.
Wauwatosa Corner Bakery
Wellspring Construction Group, LLC
Wisconsin Club
Woodman's Markets

2025 Grants & Foundations

Anon Charitable Trust
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
Catholic Community Foundation
Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation
Four-Four Foundation, Inc.
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.
Green Bay Packers
Harri Hoffman Family Foundation

Old National Bank
Palmer Family Foundation
Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Inc.
The Burke Foundation
The Gardner Foundation
The Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Inc.
The ROS Foundation
We Energies Foundation
Wochinske Family Foundation Inc.

Programs Supported in Part By:



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Health & Human Services



Our Year in Pictures

County Executive David Crowley Visits La Causa Crisis Nursery



La Causa Charter School goes to Cantos de las Americas



La Causa Top Workplace Celebration



Early Education & Care Center Summer Camp



Our Year in Pictures

La Causa Charter School First Day of School



Facts & Familia Trivia Round 3



Treatment Foster Care Holiday Gathering



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



La Causa's 2025 Celebration

Thank you to everyone who made our 2025 *Guarding Dreams Gala* a success. Together, we raised over **\$160,000!** We are so excited to see you all at our 2026 Gala!



Thank You, Sponsors!

Crisis Sponsors



Nursery Sponsors



Respite Sponsors



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/volunteers/>



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

413 W. Scott Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414.902.1500

Follow Us On
Social Media
@LaCausaMKE



LACAUSA.ORG

