# EVERY LATINO & LATINA IN EAST TENNESSEE thriving.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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#### Querida familia,

As I look back on the past year, I cannot help but feel proud of what the Centro Hispano team has accomplished. Here are a few highlights:

Our team added three AmeriCorps VISTAs who are helping build capacity, strengthen fundraising, and manage community volunteers

Our Community Health Education (promotora) program, which helps Latinas become more active and eat healthier, flourished

We launched the only High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) prep site in the region, with 26 participating in our first class and a 95% success rate

We started a mentorship program for high school students with the help of a graduate student from the University of Tennessee. I'm proud to say I have three mentees who have changed my life!

The 2019 Latino Awards Fundraiser was our most successful to date, raising over \$75,000 to support our work throughout the greater Knoxville area

With an increased operating budget, Centro has offered better services and ensured Latinos in our community feel connected, integrated, and empowered. Our efforts were recognized with two special awards. In September, we received the SunTrust Foundation Lighting the Way Award for our trailblazing work addressing workforce development for Latinos. Two months later, Bank of America awarded our team the Neighborhood Champions Award for our work addressing economic mobility and social progress issues in the community. The funding that came with these awards provided Centro an opportunity to step back and strategically plan new growth opportunities for the organization.

As Centro Hispano continues to grow, we are focused on generating more organizational revenue. In 2019, we were contracted for our translating services, which allowed us to support 12 projects, studies, and websites. We offered three diversity trainings for companies in the region and organized seven focus groups across the state to help one of those companies better understand their Latino market. We also launched a successful 10week Spanish language course for those trying to improve their basic language skills. While these programs were small, they were very significant for covering administrative costs with earned revenue. This work ties into our belief of serving as a bridge between cultures. Centro is here primarily for the Latino community, but the greater community also has much to benefit from the intermingling of our cultures.

We are grateful that our success in 2019 laid the framework for flexibility and adaptation of programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, we continue our commitment, stronger than ever, to the Latino community. We work to ensure everyone has the tools they need to achieve their American dream of health, safety, education, and prosperity. As we help our community navigate the world during the new decade, I hope you will continue to support us with your volunteerism, expertise, partnerships, and financial contributions. With your help we will find innovative ways to empower Latinos to thrive culturally, educationally, and economically in the post-pandemic world.

Thank you, East Tennessee, for being a part of *nuestra familia*!

CLAUDIA CABALLERO PRESIDENT & CEO

## MISSION

To connect, integrate, and empower the Latino community through education and engagement, information and resource services, and communitystrengthening initiatives.

# VISION

To see every Latino and Latina in East Tennessee thriving culturally, educationally and economically.

# VALUES







LATINIDAD COMUNIDAD

CORAZÓN

# **SERVICES OFFERED**

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

English classes Digital literacy Adult literacy

### YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Early childhood development After-school programs Youth leadership programs

### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Health education Good-neighbor workshops Financial literacy









MORE LATINOS *thriving* CULTURALLY, EDUCATIONALLY & ECONOMICALLY IN EAST TENNESSEE.



1,164 COMMUNITY RESOURCES CLIENTS **307** WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CLIENTS **341** YOUTH & FAMILY CLIENTS





INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS





### "I had closed the door to many opportunities, but I have reopened those doors at Centro."

Flor Jimenez Chavez joined the Centro Hispano family in 2017. After learning about us through our community resources department, she was intrigued by the opportunity to learn English and immediately enrolled in one of our beginner level ESL classes.

After three years of hard work, Flor recently completed our most advanced ESL class. Not only has what she's learned in our classes given her more confidence in her day-to-day life, but it has also reinforced her passion for learning.

To further her education, Flor regularly participates in our English conversation table and women's wellness groups. She is also studying for her High School Equivalency exam through our Spanish HiSet preparatory program.

By earning her HiSet diploma, Flor hopes to improve her career opportunities and ultimately motivate others to continue their studies.

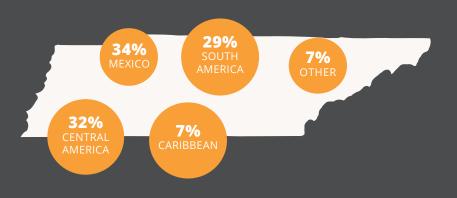
"Before I came to Centro, I didn't know where to go to find help. I had found other organizations, but I didn't feel as comfortable as I do here. At Centro I feel like I'm part of a family."



## **307** CLIENTS SERVED



11,532 HOURS OF ESL INSTRUCTION





# 2 AWARDS

SUNTRUST FOUNDATION LIGHTING THE WAY AWARD

BANK OF AMERICA NEIGHBORHOOD CHAMPIONS AWARD

# SANDRA'S STORY

### ""I love that the schedule of programs Centro offers is accessible for families."

One of Centro Hispano's strengths is our focus on family. In many cases, our services touch every family member. That was the case for Sandra Macias and her three children.

Sandra first came to Centro Hispano in the summer of 2019 to participate in a women's exercise group that met every weekday at 8:30 in the morning—rain or shine. The women did aerobics and jogged laps in the parking lot. Sandra brought Romeo, her 2-year-old son, along with her.

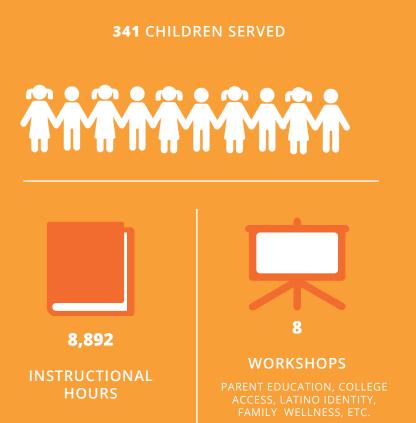
Romeo had never been away from his mom. At first, he wanted to keep her in his sight at all times. After they both grew more comfortable, Romeo joined the organized childcare Centro offers so that the women can work out without distraction.

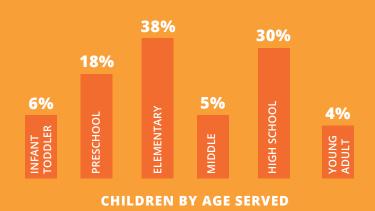
While working out at Centro, Sandra learned about summer camp, offered

weekly with focuses on STEM, careers, and community. She enrolled her older kids—Juan, 11, and Judith, 8. They had a blast.

When summer ended and the older children returned to school, Sandra enrolled in ESL classes and signed Romeo up for preschool at Centro. She remains involved in the women's exercise group. She loves that our staff is friendly and helpful, and that the schedule of programs is accessible for families.

Meanwhile Romeo is flourishing. He no longer cries when his mom leaves. He is eager to spend time with his new friends, play with his favorite toys, and participate in activities. Like many of the children we serve in the preschool, this is his first formal care experience and will help prepare him immensely to start kindergarten in a few years.





# **JELYN'S STORY**

### "We all have the ability to improve, but having someone to push us to achieve our goals is incredibly helpful."

At age 20, Jelyn was diagnosed with diabetes and a fatty liver. Her diet was junk food. She never exercised.

"My lifestyle was not good, and my health reflected that," she says.

After discovering Centro Hispano through our English classes, she learned about our health program. Her friend then connected Jelyn to Centro's health promoter, Hilda Castillo.

"When I walked into Hilda's office, I immediately felt a sense of encouragement to take the first step in changing my lifestyle," Jelyn says. "Hilda explained to me that I needed to make changes in my current lifestyle. It would be a challenge, but I was ready."

Hilda and Jelyn started by improving her diet and getting her to exercise daily. Jelyn traded a sedentary lifestyle for daily workouts with our Team Fitness. She swapped junk food for healthy meals inspired by our Eating Smart classes.

Centro provides opportunities for change. A support system makes the change much more achievable. Hilda has remained a strong supporter, who constantly motivates Jelyn to move forward.

# 1,164 CLIENTS SERVED



955 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS





43

WORKSHOPS

### **TYPES OF WORKSHOPS**

HEALTHY EATING, FINANCIAL EDUCATION, WOMEN'S WELLNESS, HOUSING, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND VARIOUS LEGAL TOPICS. WE ALSO HOSTED EXERCISE GROUPS INCLUDING A WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM, A 5K RACE GROUP, AND AN AEROBIC FITNESS GROUP.



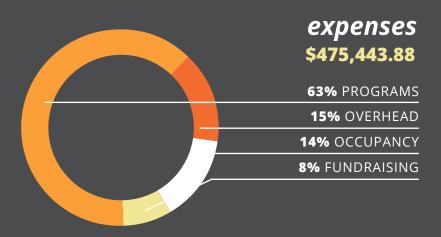


**NEW PARTNERS** 

In 2019, Centro was honored with the *SunTrust Foundation* Lighting the Way Award and the *Bank of America* Neighborhood Champions Award for our dedication to workforce development in East Tennessee.

# *revenue* \$613,416.83





#### YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:

Knox County Schools **Great Schools Partnership Community Schools** Project GRAD Knoxville Knoxville Area Urban League **Kindred Futures** Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Neighbors (AKIN) Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley **Doorway to College** Scouts BSA/STEM Scouts **Emerald Youth Foundation Bridge Refugee Services** Pearls of Grace ljams Nature Center **Dragonfly Aerial Circus & Arts Great Smoky Mountains National Park Beardsley Farm** McClung Museum Zoo Knoxville Pellissippi State Community College Roane State Community College Walter State Community College **Lincoln Memorial University King University** 

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

University of Tennessee Knoxville Haslam School of Business Pellissippi State Community College Maryville College **Johnson University Roane State Community College** TCAT Knox Area Urban League Knox County Public Library Visit Knoxville AmeriCorps VISTA HomeSource East Tennessee Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Net-Bridge Refugee Services Friends of Literacy Bank of America

#### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

Knox County Health Department Boys' and Girls' Club UT Extension YWCA YMCA Angela Masini BB&T The Trinity Foundation STEP, Inc Adelante

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Marité Pérez BOARD CHAIR Daisy LeDuc VICE BOARD CHAIR Kathy Buckingham TREASURER Wesley Wilson SECRETARY Darris Upton Quineka Moten Richard Duncan Brian Canever

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Claudia Caballero **PRESIDENT & CEO** Brandon Ledford **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR** Megan Barolet-Fogarty **YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR** René Yanes **COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTOR** 

### SUPPORT STAFF

Luci Diego Annie Duran Wil Turner Jacquelinne Padilla Doris Fernandez Laura Esquivel Hilda Castillo Leroy Goñez Rodriguez Cheyenne Peters Luis Urrea Alexandra Rasmussen Angeli Sosa

### INTERNS

Liz Gonda SOCIAL WORK INTERN Olivia Morfas CHILDREN'S PROGRAM INTERN Chloe Weaver SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

OUR BOARD & STAFF | 15

### JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE LATINO COMMUNITY OF EAST TENNESSEE!

Come enjoy traditional Latin American food and music, an exceptional silent auction, and great company. All proceeds will go towards continuing Centro Hispano's vision of every Latino and Latina thriving culturally, educationally, and economically. *This event is subject to change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.* 

## EVENT SPONSORSHIPS AND ADS ARE AVAILABLE

For information, contact Claudia Caballero at claudia@centrohispanotn.org or visit the web page at centrohispanotn.org/latinoawards.





### gracias TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS

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**FAMILIA SPONSOR** 

JOHNSON UNIVERSITY

#### AMIGO SPONSORS

HOME FEDERAL BANK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF EAST TENNESSEE BOLDSQUARE BRIGHTON DEVELOPERS, LLC DENSO MANUFACTURING EMERSON AUTOMATION SOLUTIONS FIRST COMMUNITY MORTGAGE FIRST TENNESSEE LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY MARYVILLE COLLEGE PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESTIGE CLEANERS REGAL SHERWIN-WILLIAMS gracias TO OUR MAJOR GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS









conexión











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