



**ESPERANZA
UNITED**

ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Hola Amig@s,

Latin@ communities remain under threat - whether because of the pandemic and its effects on our health, economic prospects, and social ties or because of gun violence, seen most tragically this year in Uvalde, Texas or because of an unjust immigration system that continues to punish asylum seekers at our southern border.

Still, this year, I was fortified by seeing Latin@s come together, supporting each other as we do here at Esperanza United.

This combination of community and hope embodies the new direction of our nearly forty-year-old organization. This year, we changed our name from “Casa de Esperanza” to “Esperanza United” to better communicate our services, outlook, and approach.

We are a community-led and community-based organization that works locally and nationally to mobilize Latin@s to end gender-based violence. I am proud of the team that helped our organization become “Esperanza United” and all of the things that entails.

This year, we grew substantially, advancing our mission and investing in our infrastructure. In addition to changing our name, we built out a new internal structure, hiring many amazing Latin@s, including our new Chief Programs Officer Vivian Huelgo. Our senior advocate Doña Irene Ochoa completed thirty years of advocacy, earning recognition as one of the MN Women’s Press Changemakers of the year and as the recipient of Standpoint’s “Journey of Hope” Advocacy Award.

Esperanza United also became one of U.S. Soccer’s 2022 Ambassadors, connecting more people with our life-saving services. We partnered with Showtime on their “CUSP” documentary so more people could better understand how gender-based violence is showing up in young people’s lives. And we secured numerous federal grants, further ensuring our sustainability.

Each year we work with thousands of individuals and organizations. Locally, we served more than 1,000 individuals from 286 households. Our shelter safely slept women 1,615 nights and children/youth 1,744 nights. Our staff accompanied and/or advocated for participants 3,855 times. We provided transitional housing support for 12 households and trained 435 local professionals. And we accomplish so much more as we consider all of our local and national work.

As we look ahead, I am inspired to continue building hope together in community with you. We are Esperanza United.

Adelante,

Patti Tototzintle

President and CEO of Esperanza United, formerly Casa de Esperanza

Family advocacy

Esperanza United provides family advocacy to the Latin@ communities in the seven-county metropolitan area of the Twin Cities, Minnesota, meeting survivors where they are. This fiscal year, we focused on offering Latin@ survivors and their families wrap-around services, partnering with key organizations to make sure participants and community members could grow their financial literacy, cover their immediate financial needs, learn a new trade, go to college, file their taxes with confidence, access our resources in person, and heal mentally and physically.



**over 1,000
individuals**



**286
households**

Family advocacy worked with over 1,000 individuals from 286 households, providing family advocacy, shelter, accompaniment, safety planning, etc

“I can understand the challenges that make it hard to escape the abuse. Part of my support is reaffirming that I believe what they say.”

- Senior Advocate Irene Ochoa

Prevention and social change

Esperanza United works with the entire community to prevent gender-based violence, using a whole-family approach. This fiscal year, we kept some aspects of our work virtual, such as our annual youth conference, but were excited to resume in-person programming by hosting a girls' overnight camp, youth photovoice projects, in-person youth groups at several local middle and high schools, healthy masculinity groups and overnight camp, drop-in advocacy hours at schools, a ski trip, and other outdoor expeditions.

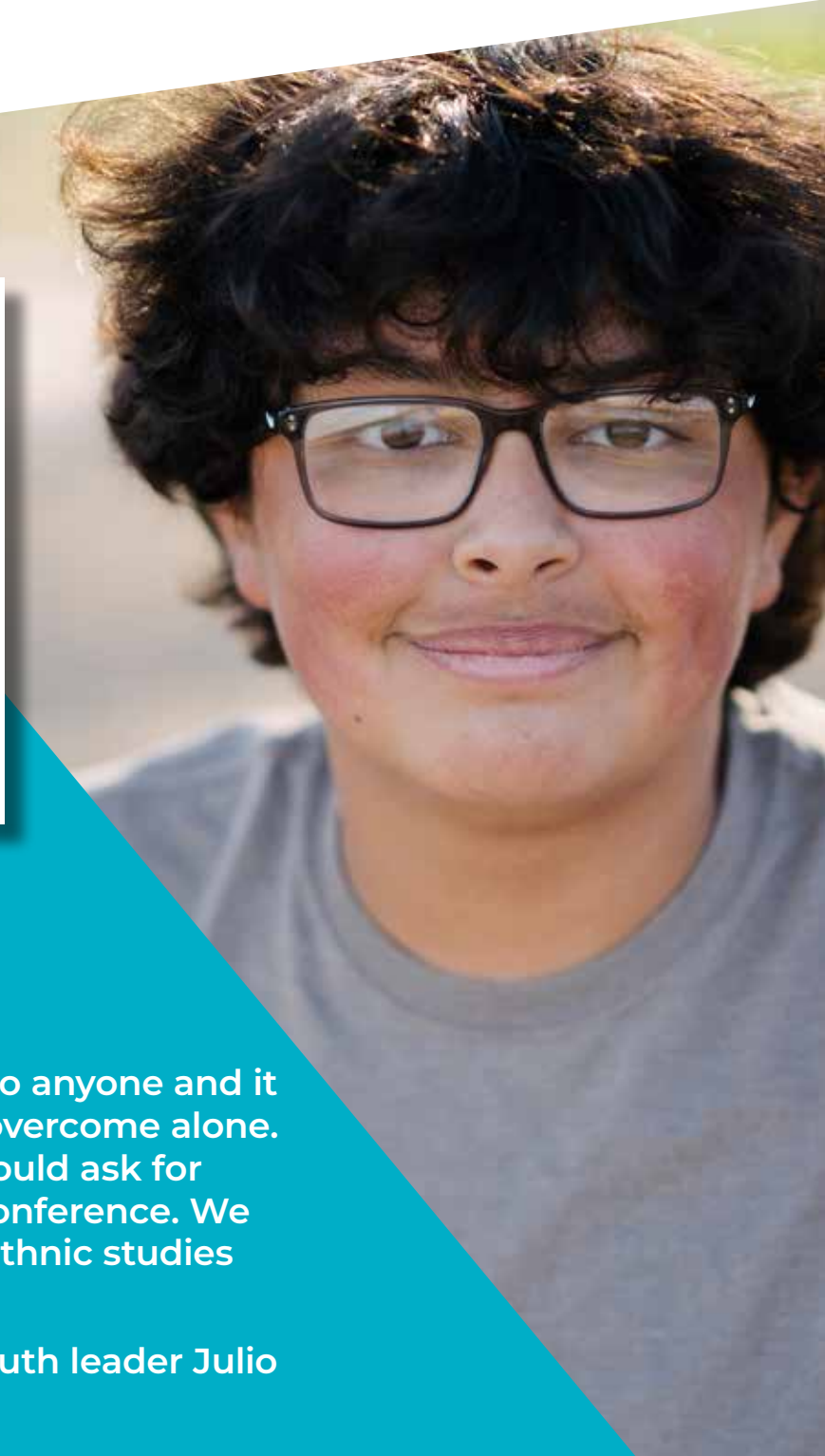


165
leaders trained

Prevention and social change trained 165 local leaders using our whole-family approach that engages adults and youth in preventing gender-based violence.

“Teen dating violence can happen to anyone and it is something that is really hard to overcome alone. I want others to know that they should ask for help. That is why we created this conference. We also have a lot of other topics like ethnic studies and how to relax.”

- Youth leader Julio



Training and TA

Esperanza United increases the capacity of state administrative offices, state coalitions, and community-based organizations to deliver culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches to diverse Latin@ survivors of gender-based violence throughout the country, the territory of Puerto Rico, and beyond. This fiscal year, our most requested training topics were trauma-informed approaches, cultural responsiveness, language access provisions, and organizational development. We also extended our work internationally training 300 police officers (carabineros) in Chile and 70 providers from Ecuador and Latin America through partnering with Ecuador Decimos No Más.



Training and TA conducted 44 trainings, helping professionals nationwide better serve Latin@ survivors of gender-based violence.

“From North America to the Southern Cone, the concept of Afro-Latinidad in the Americas continues to stir deep emotional responses while inspiring local, national, and international movements for racial justice and equality.”

– Women Warriors of the Afro Latin@ Diaspora

Research and evaluation

Esperanza United elevates the voices and realities of Latin@ communities through research and evaluation that promotes social justice in the field of domestic violence and sexual assault. This fiscal year, we grew our impact by convening our research advisory board to discuss pressing issues in the field, publishing multiple peer-reviewed manuscripts and conference abstracts, hosting our first Latin@ leadership fellowship, conducting original research, mentoring Latin@ students, and providing training on our work



Research and evaluation published an article, “Finding voice in a year of collective trauma: findings from a national photovoice project” in the American Journal of Community Psychology, the highest impact journal in its field.

“My experience in participating in the Latina fellowship was extraordinary. The most important aspect was learning how to integrate cultural competency as a researcher. This led me to understand the need for BOTH strength-based and deficit-based research lens.”

-Betsy Serrano



Public policy

Esperanza United works to ensure that policies nationwide are responsive to the needs and realities of Latin@ communities. This fiscal year, we were thrilled to see the Violence Against Women Act get authorized, codifying additional funding and protections for survivors. We also advocated for legislation to address Latin@ survivors' needs including the Build Back Better Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA). We worked with national coalitions like Gender Equity, the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors in addition to working in coalition on projects such as highlighting inequities in the wage gap for Latinas..



Public policy advised federal policymakers including White House officials, federal offices, and legislators on issues ranging from U Visas to the VOCA fix.

“This is a day I will never forget because, after years of on-the-ground advocacy with survivors of domestic violence, I finally got to celebrate a win with lawmakers, their staff, and other advocates. It took time to get VAWA reauthorized, and advocates, victims, and survivors did that. And they didn’t just change the law, they nudged the culture along too.”

- Public Policy Manager Yasmin Campos-Mendez, MSW

Sembrando capacity

Esperanza United invests in the capacity of Latinas and Latin@ communities. This fiscal year, we received historic funds from the Violence Prevention & Services Act and the American Rescue Plan Act to distribute \$12 million to Hispanic and Latin@ culturally specific community-based organizations providing domestic or sexual assault services. We also launched a “Sembrando esperanza” microgrant program, distributing fifty \$2,500 grants to Latina survivors across five sites to help them invest in themselves and their communities. In addition, we began a Latina leadership fellowship, selecting ten Latina students in research and policy for a paid, summer program including mentorship, career opportunities, and a capstone project.



We received historic funds to distribute \$12 million to Hispanic and Latin@ culturally specific community-based organizations providing domestic or sexual assault services.

“Latin@ and Hispanic-specific community-based organizations historically struggle for support. We are proud and grateful to be part of addressing this longstanding inequity by awarding these funds to our truly impressive grantees.”

**- Esperanza United President and CEO
Patti Tototzintle**



Financials

Operations

Revenue Sources	2022	2021
Grants & Contributions	1,403,480	8,852,548
Government	3,091,054	3,267,927
In-Kind	-	11,781
Service Fees	47,781	68,628
Other	24,475	34,6631
Total Revenue & Support	4,638,803	12,235,547

Expenses	2022	2021
Family Advocacy	1,426,010	1,298,626
Community Engagement	394,288	438,754
National Initiatives	1,731,554	1,377,470
Management & General	840,877	744,359
Fundraising	219,308	185,767
Total Expenses	4,612,037	4,044,976

Balance sheet

Current Assets	2022	2021
Net Property & Equipment	146,282	164,164
Other Assets		8,772,104
Total Assets	8,534,995	8,936,268
Total Liabilities	494,077	922,116
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,681,259	7,859,798
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	359,659	154,354
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	8,534,995	8,936,268



Individual donors

We appreciate each and every one of our donors, including those who give in kind, and have done our best to compile this list. However, if we missed you, please let us know and we will correct our records.

Alejandra Hong	Joy McBrien
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U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

U.S. Department of Justice, State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs

U.S. Department of Justice, Vera Institute of Justice

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family Violence and Prevention Services

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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