



iADELANTE!
Celebrating Latina-Led Advocacy



Casa de Esperanza, now Esperanza United
FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



A letter from our CEO



Hola Amig@s,

This year, our community continued to face unprecedented challenges - a global pandemic that disproportionately affected Latin@ health, safety, and economic stability. But Latin@s are nothing if not resilient and despite these hard times, we made strides forward.

In fact, ¡Adelante! is our theme for this year, a way to honor the continued strengths of Latin@ survivors, their families, and communities. We all had to adjust to the continuing pandemic and we at [Casa de Esperanza \(soon to be Esperanza United\)](#) are no different.

I am proud of the way our community rose to support us and the survivors we serve. Philanthropist [MacKenzie Scott](#) made the single largest donation in our organization's nearly forty year history. Various offices within the federal government renewed or increased their support. And those in our local St. Paul community stepped up to make sure the needs of our most vulnerable were met.

With this support, we were able to make some key organizational investments, laying the groundwork to launch a new agency name and brand in the forthcoming year, update our staffing structure to better reflect our current provision of services, and expand our external influence through media and high-level national appointments. For example, I was elected as the secretary for the [National Hispanic Leadership Agenda \(NHLA\)](#), the Governor of Minnesota selected various staff members to serve on state-wide executive councils, and our Senior Director of Public Policy Rosie Hidalgo joined the new administration as a Senior Advisor on the White House Gender Policy Council. Meanwhile, our work and resources were featured on Univision, ABC affiliates across the country, and in local media.

The results of all this investment are substantial. In 2021, we provided support and advocacy to 984 individuals, sheltered 65 adults and children, and answered 1,595 calls to our 24/7 bilingual crisis line. In the same time period, 438 people participated in our prevention program and we trained 14 new local leaders. We also provided consultations and training to 6,802 people across the country and internationally.

As we look ahead, we know we will continue moving forward, celebrating Latin@ survivors and the people who support them.

Adelante,

Patti Tototzintle
CEO of Casa de Esperanza, now Esperanza United



Family advocacy

We provide 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, COVID 19 continued to be one of the biggest challenges so we partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health on a variety of public health efforts, helping our community prevent, address, and heal from all the ways the pandemic has affected our lives.

“I thank first God for allowing me to survive what I went through and secondly, I thank Esperaza United and [my advocate] for helping me and guiding me through the worst days of my life.”

- Survivor

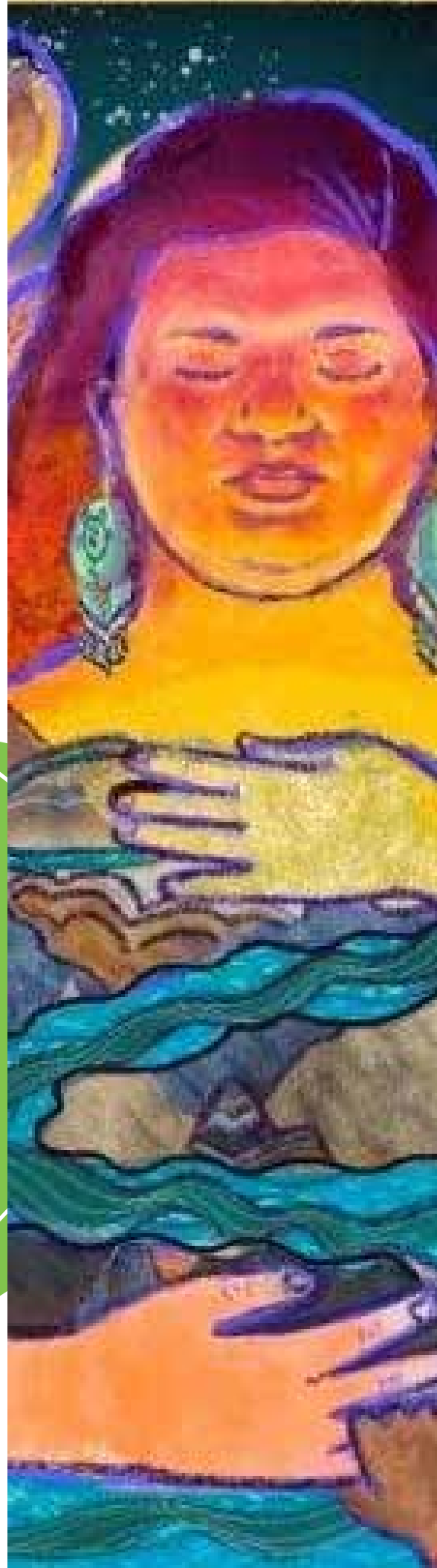


Community engagement

We work with the entire community to prevent gender-based violence, using a whole-family approach. With the on-going challenges of the pandemic, we continued a hybrid service model of in-person and virtual work, bringing our community together in ways that were both safe and effective. We were proud to advance our work with men and boys and honor women's contributions through in part, a new mural created by a local artist after listening sessions with our community.

“He mejorado mucho porque yo siempre hablaba con mi hija a gritos con regaños y he aprendido que debo escuchar primero lo que quiere decirme para yo poder opinar o decir algo. Mi propia hija me lo ha dicho ‘mamá cómo has cambiado porque ahora ya no me gritas.’”

- Amiga, participant in mother's circle





Training and technical assistance

We work with service providers nationwide to make sure that together, we are meeting the needs of Latin@ survivors.

This year, we were proud to host [¡Adelante! A virtual celebration of Latin@-led advocacy](#). In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this two-week event highlighted the successes, challenges, and contributions Latin@s have led to the field of gender-based violence. A hundred people registered within the first hour, and the event reached 300,000 people across the country and Latin America.

¡Adelante! started with the first-ever joint interview between two barrier-breaking Latinas - the first Latina to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, former Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), and the first Latina to serve in the U.S. Senate, sitting Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.). And it concluded with a fireside chat between leading Latina activist Mónica Ramírez and storyteller/tech entrepreneur Ivana de Maria. Throughout, Latin@ advocates created a transnational community that affirmed their culturally responsive work and fostered connectivity through discussions of leadership, program evaluation, and resilience.



Research and evaluation

We are elevating 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 year, we were happy to investigate the role of data visualization, participatory research, and restorative approaches in our field through original projects, program evaluations, and literature reviews.

“I hope by doing this kind of relationship-building model, youth are learning about their voice and consent practices, but much of our discipline system and the way adults use their power does not encourage safety for youth in their dating practices.”

- Research partner





Public Policy

We work to ensure that policies nationwide are responsive to the needs and realities of Latin@ communities. With a new Congress and Administration in place, our policy efforts focused on reauthorizing a few key pieces of federal legislation - the Violence Against Women Act (which passed the House this year), the Victim of Crimes Act, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act - as well as making sure all survivors' needs were being addressed in stimulus and other COVID-related legislation. We also played a key role as Co-chairs of the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors and members of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.

“My advocate took the time to listen to me without judgment and asked me ‘What do you want to do?’ A very easy question - that for years no one had asked me.”

- Survivor



Financials

Operations

| Revenue Sources | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Grants & Contributions | 8,852,548 | 838,616 |
| Government | 3,267,927 | 2,626,658 |
| In-Kind | 11,781 | 8,802 |
| Service Fees | 68,628 | 91,432 |
| Other | 34,663 | 15,581 |
| Total Revenue & Support | 12,235,547 | 3,581,089 |
| Expenses | 2021 | 2020 |
| Family Advocacy | 1,298,626 | 1,057,325 |
| Community Engagement | 438,754 | 384,890 |
| National Initiatives | 1,377,470 | 1,456,460 |
| Management & General | 744,359 | 923,999 |
| Fundraising | 185,767 | 147,552 |
| Total Expenses | 4,044,976 | 3,970,226 |

Balance sheet

| Current Assets | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Net Property & Equipment | 164,164 | 130,439 |
| Other Assets | 8,772,104 | 695,122 |
| Total Assets | 8,936,268 | 825,561 |
| Total Liabilities | 922,116 | 1,001,980 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 7,859,798 | 474,392 |
| Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | 154,354 | 297,973 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | 8,936,268 | 825,561 |



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

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