



Honoring  
**LEGACY**  
embracing  
**THE FUTURE**



fiscal year 2024 annual report

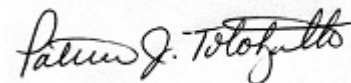
# Hola Amig@s,

As I reflect on this past year, my heart is filled with gratitude and pride. For over four decades, Esperanza United has been a beacon of hope for Latin@ survivors, families, and communities. Together, we have built a strong foundation rooted in resilience, collaboration, and a shared commitment to our mission, allowing us to thrive and create lasting impact.

This year is particularly meaningful as it marks the near conclusion of my tenure as President and CEO of Esperanza United. It has been the honor of my professional life to serve this organization, and as I prepare to pass the torch, I find great comfort in knowing that our work will continue to grow under new leadership. I am thrilled to welcome Vivian Huelgo as our next President and CEO. Vivian's extensive experience in supporting culturally specific initiatives and advancing gender equity ensures that the future of Esperanza United is bright.

Our achievements this year reflect the strength of our foundation and the vision that guides us forward. We significantly increased our training and technical assistance offerings, providing 473 units of TA and hosting 52 trainings that reached over 1,000 people nationwide. Locally, our family advocates provided community advocacy and transitional housing for over 267 adult participants and their children, with new initiatives focusing on financial literacy, mental health, and wellness. Our shelter in St. Paul, El Refugio, provided safe housing to 88 residents including 42 head of households. Our policy advocacy and research efforts continue to elevate the voices of Latin@ survivors, ensuring culturally specific solutions remain at the forefront of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking intervention and prevention.

As I prepare to step away, I am inspired by the extraordinary team at Esperanza United and our Latin@ community which is at the heart of all we do. Thank you for being part of this incredible story. I invite you to read more about our accomplishments in fiscal year 2024 and join us in welcoming Vivian.



Adelante,  
Patti Tototzintle  
President and CEO  
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 deepened our advocacy through enhanced legal support and resources for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. We amplified outreach with community-centered events such as the Feria Latina Expo, where over 40 vendors plus a COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinic showcased resources and support for survivors and their families. We hosted our third annual Dia de Los Muertos event, where we honored and remembered the lives lost due to violence.

## Interpretation services



## Emergency financial assistance



## Transportation assistance



## Personal advocacy



You're in a new country without your son. You don't speak the language and your partner is trying to control your every move – how you feel, what you spend, how you think. That's the position Yeni found herself in before eventually calling the police and Esperanza United.

She wanted something different and through our community partnerships, we were able to find her a safe and stable apartment. Next, it was gently used furniture, English classes, and a work permit.

With this new foundation, she's been able to bring her son to join her – he's participating in our youth programs and adjusting to his new country. She applied for and got one of our Sembrando Esperanza microgrants to achieve another of her dreams – opening an important business.

Yeni changed her life and she changed her son's too. Helping her turn her courage and determination into a life free from violence is the very core of Esperanza United's mission and work. We are inspired and proud of Yeni and the community that came together to support her – nonprofits, government agencies, friends, family, and local leaders.

# Prevention & social change

Esperanza United works with the entire community to end domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, using a whole-family approach. Our Padres en Liderazgo program, a leadership initiative empowering Latin@ parents and youth, made significant strides in addressing topics like domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, mental health, and adolescent communication. Eight amazing teen leaders organized our 2024 Youth Conference, that connected 54 local students. Our commitment to community-building also extended to recreational events, such as our fishing events, which provided 64 participants with healthy-relationship education in a fun, outdoor environment.

**311**  
local youth served



**Padres en liderazgo participants:**

**88%**

**understood the impact domestic violence has on their children.**

**88%**

**have the tools and information to plan for their children's safety**

**100%**

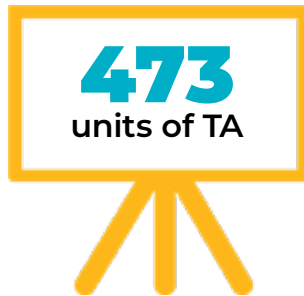
**felt confident as a parent**



“Exploring the often-overlooked connection between peace and financial practices along with my team and cohort has been deeply enriching. We feel grateful to have had the chance to watch participants grow more confident and gain clearer paths to financial stability, ultimately leading to a better quality of life.”

- Marcela

# Training & technical assistance



Esperanza United increases the capacity of government and community-based organizations to deliver culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches to Latin@ survivors. This year, we received 520 requests for support and offered 137 trainings focusing on topics such as language interpretation and translation, trauma-informed care, and cultural responsiveness. Our work reached diverse audiences, thanks to partnerships with organizations like the Ohio Supreme Court, the International Institute of New England, Puerto Rico's domestic violence coalition, and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. We developed culturally responsive tools like the Language Interpretation and Translation Toolkit and strengthened connections with advocates across the U.S. and Latin America.

"It is truly an honor to be in person with such a powerful brilliant group of Latin@s - there is magic when we are in the room together!"

- Training participant



# Research & 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 year, our research efforts focused on advancing culturally responsive solutions for Latin@ communities. Highlights include using photovoice as part of youth participatory action research, collaborating on national studies, publishing peer-reviewed papers on intimate partner homicide prevention, and mentoring student researchers. These initiatives filled knowledge gaps and provided actionable insights to enhance support for Latin@ survivors.



## Four conference presentations

- **2023 American Public Health Association**
- **2024 ResilienceCon**
- **Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Children's 2024 Peer to Peer Convening**
- **Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues**



"This picture represents friendship and how friendship can help mental health. For me, friendship helps because you have someone you trust, who helps you when you are sad, mad and happy. Also, friendship helps you to process emotions."

- 2024 Youth photovoice participant

# Public policy



## Co-chaired

- Alliance for Immigrant Survivors
- NHLA Latina Taskforce

## Developed and disseminated key information on

- The WISE Act
- The Crime Victim Fund
- The Victims of Crime Act



“Over the summer, as a policy and advocacy fellow, I had the incredible opportunity to work closely with Esperanza United’s national policy team and contribute to the Latin@ leadership program. This experience was nothing short of transformative, and it showed me the power that Latin@ leadership has to create lasting change.”

- Policy fellow

Esperanza United works to ensure that policies nationwide are responsive to the needs and realities of Latin@ survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and their communities. This year, key achievements included advocating for the Crime Victim Fund and contributing to the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda’s (NHLA) policy agenda. We raised awareness about survivors’ challenges by leading the WISE Act advocacy and participating in congressional briefings. Through partnerships with national organizations, we addressed harmful policies and enhanced access to safety for survivors and their children.

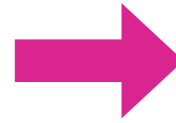


# Sembrando esperanza

The Sembrando esperanza initiative enhances the capacity of Latin@ culturally specific community-based domestic violence and sexual assault programs and strengthens Latina leadership, economic security, and survivor advocacy. This year, we continued administering grants to 28 sexual Hispanic and Latin@ culturally specific, community-based domestic violence and sexual assault organizations across the U.S., including four in Puerto Rico. We were especially proud to help organize a national convening, bringing together nearly 450 advocates and leaders from various culturally specific communities in October 2023. We also partnered with local organizations to host listening sessions in Puerto Rico, Texas, New Mexico, New York, and Minnesota, gathering insights into economic security and access to community-driven solutions. And we continued the Policy and Research Leadership Fellows Program, through which we provided 10 research and policy fellows with mentorship and training, culminating in projects addressing community needs.



**\$12 million**  
in multi-year grants



**28**  
culturally  
specific  
domestic  
violence and  
sexual assault  
organizations

**10**  
policy and research  
fellows empowered

**Economic security listening  
session goals identified:**

- Meeting basic needs
- Growing financial knowledge

“We are most proud of being able to serve our community members in their language and being able to attend family court with them in person and help them navigate the court.”

- Grant recipient





# Individual donors

Adam Born  
Adriana Alejandro-Osorio  
Anam Cara Therapies  
Anne M. Applebaum  
Barbara F. Weissberger  
Bob Sparkins  
Brian Miller and Deborah Schlick  
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Cesaria M Bauer  
Charlotte Zelle  
David Roth  
Donna Allan and Bill Mahlum  
Douglas and Sheila Grow  
Element Fleet Management  
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Jacques Herbert  
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Katie Cloyd  
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Stephen and Margaret  
Swanson  
Susan Olsen  
Terri Habisch  
Theodora Zastrocky  
Tracey Middlestadt  
William Mahlum  
Vicki Shurmur

# Corporate, foundation, and government funders

City of Minneapolis

Minnesota Department of  
Health

Minnesota Department of Public  
Safety

United States Department  
of Justice - Office of Justice  
Programs

United States Department of  
Justice – Office on Violence  
Against Women

United States Department of  
Health and Human Services

Anonymous

Patrick and Aimee Butler  
Foundation

F. R. Bigelow Foundation

Allstate Foundation

WCA Fund of the Minneapolis  
Foundation

MN Fund for Safety of the  
Women's Foundation of  
Minnesota

Otto Bremer Trust

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation

HRK Foundation

Kyllo Family Giving

Greater Twin Cities United Way

Saint Paul and Minnesota  
Foundation

General Mills

3M

Women's Advocates

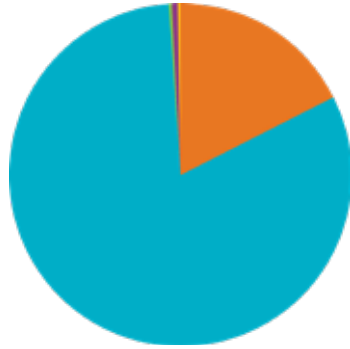
McKnight Foundation

Fidelity Charitable

Pledgeling Foundation



# Financials



## OPERATIONS

### Revenue sources

	2024	2023
• Grants & Contributions	1,736,959	1,555,425
• Government	8,056,879	4,096,257
• In-Kind	35,031	44,251
• Service Fees	43,713	52,100
• Other	18,751	29,689
Total Revenue & Support	10,553,478	6,430,173

### Expenses

	2024	2023
• Family Advocacy	1,484,494	1,585,587
• Prevention & Social Change	415,791	371,695
• National Initiatives	6,728,329	2,948,324
• Management & General	1,933,732	1,263,126
• Fundraising	216,665	103,508
Total Expenses	10,779,011	6,272,240

## BALANCE SHEET

### Current assets

	2024	2023
Net Property & Equipment	116,726	130,742
Total Assets	9,902,619	9,182,511
Total Liabilities	1,929,301	983,660
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,413,379	7,276,665
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	559,939	922,186
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	9,902,619	9,182,511



**ESPERANZA UNITED**  
PO Box 40115  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651.646.5553

MN 24 hr bilingual crisis line: 651.772.1611

[esperanzaunited.org](http://esperanzaunited.org)



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