HELPING FAMILIES
Shine Brightly

ANNUAL REPORT 2014
Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles.

– Thomas Browne
Dear Valued Friends,

Have you ever heard someone say, “He’s just a kid?” It’s hard to understand how anyone can dismiss a child as unimportant, insignificant, or without value. As we all know, children grow up fast—they become teenagers and college students and adults right before our eyes.

All children start out as blank slates—like a shard of stone or a pebble on a beach. Life’s journey smoothes them and polishes them. But life can also deliver hard knocks that cause chips or even serious cracks. The journey of childhood can sometimes explain why some adults shine like diamonds, while others might remain rough or scarred.

At La Causa, every child is a gem seeking to be polished. We work daily to provide safe care, preschool, and elementary and middle school so our children can achieve and excel. And when rough times create nicks or dents, our multitude of social service programs are available to help heal the scars and hold damage in check.

We are also proud to offer programs for adults whose fractures and chips prevent them from living life to the fullest. By addressing instability, we daily see our participants living healthier, happier, more productive lives.

As one of La Causa’s many supporters, please share in our pride at the success of our efforts. Your support and contributions make our work possible, helping us to polish the gemstones of thousands of individuals each year. With your help, our world is brighter and holds more promise.

With warm appreciation,

Steve Sperka
Board Chairperson

George A. Torres
President & CEO

Our Mission
To 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.
2014 Financials

Service Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Education &amp; Care Center</td>
<td>$1,741,726</td>
<td>$1,729,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Nursery &amp; Respite Center</td>
<td>$510,743</td>
<td>$539,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>$8,457,799</td>
<td>$8,194,758</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Causa Charter School</td>
<td>$8,327,304</td>
<td>$8,161,159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
<td>$947,877</td>
<td>$847,098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$19,985,449</td>
<td>$19,471,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$513,667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assets

- Current Assets: $1,942,974
- Property, Plant & Equipment: $7,320,377
- Other: $302,105
- Total Assets: $9,565,456

Liabilities

- Current Liabilities: $3,785,861
- Long-term Liabilities: $3,515,966
- Net Assets (Deficit): $2,263,629
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $9,565,456

2014 Revenue by Source

- Government: $11,053,752
- United Way: $150,813
- Donations: $1,198,102
- Fundraising: $146,405
- Private Pay: $220,680
- Fees for Services: $7,111,801
- Miscellaneous: $103,896
- Total: $19,985,449
**2014 Client Data**

**Total Individuals Served by Division**

- **Early Education & Care Center**: 606
- **La Causa Charter School**: 935
- **Social Services**: 4,057
- **Crisis Nursery & Respite Center**: 948
- **Total**: 6,456

Numbers reflect individuals directly served by programs. In 2014, La Causa, Inc. was proud to impact thousands of parents, siblings, and extended family members who benefited indirectly from our services.

**Total Individuals Served by Ethnicity**

- **Hispanic/Latino**: 2,098
- **African American**: 2,669
- **White**: 1,564
- **American Indian/Alaskan**: 47
- **Asian**: 14
- **Other**: 154
- **Total**: 6,456

**Total Individuals Served by Gender**

- **Male**: 3,591
- **Female**: 2,955
- **Total**: 6,546
Emerging research shows that by age 3, a low-income child hears thirty million fewer words than a child from a high-income family. Known as the Thirty Million Word Gap, this discrepancy directly correlates to a child’s knowledge, skills, experiences, and success in school.

For low-income children, high quality early education is a direct route to improved language development, age-level development, and kindergarten readiness. For children to shine like gems, the polishing must begin early!

*The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3* by Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley
Our very own bilingual preschool program, called Three & Ready, emphasizes age-level skills and English language acquisition. Children learn the skills needed for kindergarten and are excited to start school!

Creative Curriculum

The best tools produce the best results! We are proud of our framework—the nationally-acclaimed Creative Curriculum. This system, together with the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment package, places all children on a continuum of learning and development from age 4 weeks to 5 years along with frequent checks of their progress. This research-proven package supports every child in becoming a creative, confident thinker.

2014 Highlights

Our summer program, Take Flight, offered summer-long fun and learning. Children explored the world of airplanes, helicopters, balloons, and animals; built bird houses and planes; experimented with simple rockets; and visited the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh for an exciting hands-on experience.

Our Hispanic Early Learning Program (HELP) screened children for developmental progress. Referrals and parent coaching assisted children who exhibited delays, ensuring that they could receive needed attention and stay on track to be ready for kindergarten.

Parent activities such as Open House, a Mother’s Day program, summer picnic, and more brought parents to the center for fun and refreshments. Children performed songs, displayed artwork, and demonstrated science skills.

We are proud to be accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education. This confers a Five-Star rating through Wisconsin YoungStar, ranking our center in the top 8 percent of child care centers in Wisconsin. Our children receive top-quality care and education right in their own neighborhood!
La Causa Charter School

La Causa Charter School provides a solid, bilingual core curriculum enhanced by our strong Fine Arts and Vocational Education program. We strive to develop well-rounded students who are ready for the next challenges of high school, college, and career.

With two-thirds of our kindergarteners being English-language learners, three goals drive our curricula: English-language proficiency for all students, third-grade reading proficiency, and high school readiness for eighth graders. Our graduates are truly prepared to face challenges and to shine in every endeavor.
21st Century Community Learning Center

The after-school hours are a valuable opportunity for youth development and to help students who struggle academically. Our after-school program is a qualified 21st Century Community Learning Center and benefits from federally designated funding. Our program meets standards for math and literacy time, sports and extracurriculars, mentoring, and valuable life skills. This year, students in our after-school program showed a significant increase in standardized testing and classroom behavior.

Project Lead the Way LAUNCH

Thanks to a generous grant from the Louis Calder Foundation, we added the Project Lead the Way LAUNCH program to our coursework in the 2014-15 school year. This provides a national STEM curriculum for children in K5 through 5th grade, expanding our traditional Project Lead the Way offerings for grades 6 through 8.

Impact of Real-World Skills

Roberto was a bright student but had trouble paying attention in class and applying himself to his work. His robotics class changed his outlook on schoolwork. After seeing math and engineering in action in the form of robots, he could make the connection between theory and application. Roberto became better focused and worked harder on his lessons after realizing the importance of the foundation he was building.
A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.

– Forest Witcraft
La Causa Charter School
Community Enrichment Center
Early Education & Care Center
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
Social Services
Community Enrichment Center
La Causa Charter School
Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
In 2014, the Crisis Nursery hosted 607 children for a total of 1,361 stays and 2,887 overnights.

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center

Every child deserves a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, and comfortable surroundings. But when families suffer from hardship, parents need time to seek help and find stability. La Causa Crisis Nursery & Respite Center (CNRC) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year to shelter and care for children in any kind of crisis. We provide safety and support for children while parents address adult concerns.

As a licensed shelter, we accept children age birth to 12 years for up to three days during any kind of emergency—at no cost to parents. The CNRC also encourages respite care for families under stress—the only facility in southeastern Wisconsin to do so—so parents can breathe, stabilize the family, and take their children home to a better living situation. Reducing stress in parents is shown to reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect.
In 2014, the Crisis Nursery hosted 607 children for a total of 1,361 stays and 2,887 overnights. Families Feel at Home in Our New Facility

Our beautiful new Crisis Nursery opened in October, 2013. Custom designed for 12 children plus staff, and handicap accessible, the new center truly provides a feeling of safety and comfort for our children. Staff report that our young guests settle in quickly and easily, and parents are reassured when they place their children in our care. The smiles and hugs have been endless!

Child Comforts

Many families arrive during emergencies and aren’t able to bring belongings. The Crisis Nursery is ready with everything a child might need: meals, snacks, bath supplies, spare clothing, sheets, towels, pajamas, toothbrushes, and toys—all provided by compassionate, trained crisis care workers. Every child is a special guest and is treated with compassion.

"I was so nervous when I dropped off my children, but our apartment wasn’t safe and I had to move. The staff made us feel welcome and cooked meals for my little girls. I found an apartment and got us moved while my girls were safe and cozy for three nights!"
La Causa Social Services

Life’s journey is not always smooth, and sometimes delivers challenges in the form of substance use, behavior issues, child safety difficulty, or mental health needs. La Causa’s Social Services division is ready to smooth out life’s rough spots and aid with healing. Our care coordinators, social workers, and specialists are able to locate services, find placements, counsel, train foster parents, assist with adoptions, restore family bonds, and help individuals achieve their goals and find personal success.

Service Areas

Wraparound Milwaukee
REACH Milwaukee
Transitional Coordination
Wraparound Screeners
Crisis Stabilization
Specialized Crisis Stabilization
Healthy Girls (Making Proud Choices)
My Life My Choices
Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
WATTS Reviews
Question, Persuade, Report (QPR) Training
Treatment Foster Care
Children’s Court Foster Care
Professional Foster Parent Coordinator
Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Advocacy
Community Linkage and Stabilization Program (CLASP)
Peer Specialist Training
Targeted Case Management (TCM)/TCM AODA
Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)
Treatment Services
Crisis Mobile Team—Third Shift
Access Clinic—South
Recovery Center/Peer-Run Drop-In Center
Recovery Support Coordination

We served 4,057 individuals plus many more family members in 2014. Our staff is proud to have helped so many families find stability!
New Initiatives

- **Specialized Crisis Stabilization**: Assistance for youth who are at-risk or sexually exploited
- **Youth Living Out Loud**: Through a federally funded grant, mentoring of youth who are at-risk or sexually exploited
- **AODA Targeted Case Management**: Case management for individuals with substance use needs
- **Recovery Center**: Peer-run drop-in center offers a recovery-oriented environment
- **Comprehensive Community Services**: Care Coordination services for adults with significant mental health or co-occurring needs
- **Access Clinic-South**: Mental health and substance use assessment for uninsured adults
- **My Life, My Choice**: Group curriculum to prevent youth sexual exploitation
- **Transitional Coordination**: Care Coordination services for young adults with mental health needs

**Success Story**

Maude, in her fifties, had been homeless for six years and abusing alcohol for more than three decades. After sixteen days in a detoxification program, she transferred to residential treatment for two months, then a day treatment program. Nearly a year later, Maude graduated from treatment and had been sober for nine months. She entered a work adjustment program and eventually acquired permanent employment. Maude has a new outlook and is able to pay her rent and support herself. She has become an accomplished spokesperson for the value of her treatment and willingly shares the story of her journey.
2014 Financial Partners

Foundations
- Byers Foundation Ltd.
- Catholic Community Foundation
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Fleck Foundation
- Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation
- Four-Four Foundation, Inc.
- Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.
- Green Bay Packers Foundation
- The Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Inc.
- Herzing University Foundation Ltd.
- Louis Calder Foundation
- Miracle on Canal Street
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Palmer Family Foundation
- Runzheimer Foundation, Inc.
- Racine Dominican Mission Fund
- The ROS Foundation
- Service Club of Milwaukee
- Waukesha County Community Foundation
- We Energies Foundation
- Weiss Family Foundation
- Wigchers Family Fund
- Wildcat Foundation
- Wochinske Family Foundation

Businesses
- Associated Financial Group
- AT&T
- Aurora Health Care, Inc.
- Balanced, Inc.
- BMO Harris Bank
- Bostik, Inc.
- Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
- Diversified Insurance Solutions
- Donors Forum of Wisconsin, Inc.
- Dryit Carpet Dry Cleaning, Inc.
- Hales Corners Woman’s Club
- Hatco Corporation
- In Tandem Theatre Company
- Johnson Controls
- Jubilee Christian Family Church
- Kohl’s Community Relations Field Trip Program
- La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.
- Landmark Credit Union
- Latino Peace Officers Association
- Leader Paper Products, Inc.
- The Milwaukee Urban League
- MSI General Corporation
- Northwestern Mutual
- Project Lead the Way, Inc.
- Rockwell Automation, Inc.
- Saxon Homestead Farm, LLC
- Seek Careers / Staffing
- St. Mary Congregation Catholic Faith Community
- St. Mary’s School
- St. Matthias Parish and School
- The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Trade Press Publishing Corp.
- United Healthcare Services, Inc.
- United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
- United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
- UPS, Inc.
- Vulcan Global Manufacturing Solutions
- Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church
- We Energies

Individuals
- Anonymous (11)
- James A. Arend
- Nedda & Onie Avila
- Kirsty Beatfeld
- Jacquelyne Beaumont
- Karen Binder
- Anne Brown
- Denise Bruneau
- Stephanie Bull
- Kathryn Cieszki
- Don Cohen
- Roy & Teena Cook
- Ryan Corsaro
- Elizabeth and Will Craig
- Micki D’Acquisto
- Corey Daleness
- Andy & Diane De Leon
- Calvin De Leon
- Karl M. Dickson
- Eric Dingeldein
- Doug and Ginny Mills
- Patricia Ellis
- David Erllitz
- Mary Pat Farrell
- Audrey Fischer
- Andy & Jan Fleckenstein
- Bonita Gantzer
- John A. Goelz
- Rebecca Goldman
- Socorro Gonzales & Felipe Rodriguez
- Tami Griffin
- Sarita Gwinn
- Bonnie T. Hady
- Douglas Hagerman
- Jim Halverson
- Kathy Hanson
- Kathleen Hartl
- Maureen Hilbert
- Melissa Howard
- Trudie Hughes & Larry Sontoski
- Nancy & Frank Jelen
- Eduardo & Catherine Jimenez
- Kurt & Kathleen Kellogg
- Kari Klasen Lisi
- Mary Jane Klement
- Michelle Klos-Gonzalez
- Robert & Julie Kotecki
- Fred and Marianne Kramer
- Linda Kramer
- Douglas Lackey
- Martha A. Lamelas
- Gregory A. Larson
- Nancy Lehrer
- Al Letourneau
- Elizabeth Longo
- Delphine M. Lukomski
- Elizabeth Lynch
- Julio Maldonado
- Wilda Maldonado
- Tamara Martinsek
- Phyllis May
- Ann McKillip
- Stacy Melichar
- Jean Mercier
- Kristina R. Meridith
- Rodney Michael
- David and Elaine Michaud
- In Loving Memory of Joe G. Morales
- Cynthia M. Muhar
- Jeffrey Natrop
- Lauretta Olszysk
- Raul Ornelas
- Suzanne Orth
- Dan Pipia
- Rick and Shelia Quinnes
- Lester Radtke
- Jertha Ramos-Colon & Felix Colon
- Cheryl A. Rosinski
- Mary Ellen Ruzga
- Sangeeta Sarna
- Suzy Schmidt
- Karl T. Schoendorf
- Kathleen M. Seitz
- Susan Shimoyma-See
- Larry Sorenson
- Steve & Lisa Sperka
- Kim Stormo
- Paula Storniolo
- Audrey Strnad
- Alisha Terry
- George & Denise Torres
- Lyman & Susan Tschanz
- Marty Tykanski
- Elizabeth Vokac
- Marilyn Wilke
- Mary Wilson
- Randall Wondergem
- Laura Wynn
- Zapata Family
- Joan Zbichorski
Foundations
Assurant Health Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation
The Harley-Davidson Foundation

Businesses
A. J. Ugent Furs & Fashions, Inc.
Acacia Theatre Company
Accio Hispano
AFL-CIO
Allen Edmonds Corporation
Antigua Latin Restaurant
AT&T Telecom Pioneers
Baker’s Square
Best Buy
Broadlands Golf Club
Buffalo Wild Wings
Carroll Studios of Photography
Casita de Fiestas
Cermak Market
Cheesecake Factory
Cieltito Lindo Restaurant
Colectivo Coffee Roasters
Cubanitas Restaurant
Culver’s of West Milwaukee
Data Dimensions
Discovery World Museum
Dunkin’ Donuts
El Rey Mexican Products, Inc.
Fandango
Floraleers Garden Club
GE Medical Systems
Girl Scout Troop #6314
Goodwill Industries
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa
Great Lakes Distillery
Green Bay Packers
Half Price Books
Harley-Davidson Museum
Hemingway’s
Home Depot—Holt Avenue
Horny Goat Brewing Co.
Il Mito's Restaurant
The Iron Horse Hotel
Joseph Campione, Inc.
Kalmbach Publishing Co.
Klement Sausage Co., Inc.
Koss Corporation
La Champagne Bakery
MainStay Hotel
Menards
MG Multiservicios
Milwaukee Ballet Company
Milwaukee Brewers
Baseball Club
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Milwaukee County Zoo
Milwaukee Public Market
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Mother of Good
Counsel Church
New Threads of Hope
O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub
Office Furniture Options, Inc.
Old Country Buffet
Oscar’s Pub and Grill
Palermo’s Pizza
The Pfister Hotel
Pick’n Save (4)
Ray’s Liquor
Red Lobster
Rockwell Automation, Inc.
Roob Photographic Design
The Rumpus Room
Shaker’s Cigar Bar
Sports Page Bar and Grill
Sprecher Brewing Company, Inc.
St. Mary Congregation Catholic
Faith Community
St. Matthias Parish
St. Pius X Congregation
Starbucks Coffee (4)
Stone Creek Coffee
Summerfest
Sunset Playhouse
Target Brands, Inc. (2)
Tessera Design
TGI Friday’s
Three Holy Women Parish
Transfer Pizza
Wauwatosa Montessori School
WAHM Learning Center
Wayward Kitchen and Bar
We Energies
Wendy’s
Windfall Theatre
Wines for Humanity

Individuals
Anonymous
Amanda Adrian
Charles Anderson
Judy Berther
Neil Besougloff
Frank Boucher
Jan Catlett
Kelly Catlett
Jennifer Clement
Adrian Czerwinski
Patricia Damian
Mike Dison
Brian Drier
Trish Dukla
Petra Eccarius Brylow
Jacqueline Eckstrom
Susan Engstrom
Nereida Favela
Johanna Ferreira
Jody Fitzmaurice
Bridget M. Flad
Catherine Foulard
Gigi Gamboa
Teresa Geiger
Ashley Giagilino
Socorro Gonzalez
& Felipe Rodriguez
Colleen Gotowitz
Ray Grassl
Bill Hagel
Heidi V. Havens
Irina Linda Hernandez
Maureen Hilbert
Jodi Holz
Charlene Hornor
Trudie Hughes-Sontoski
Sandy Ingram
Mike Jacobs
Nancy & Frank Jelen
John Jirik
Andrea Johnson
Anthony Jones
Gregory A. Larson
Nick Lawrence
Peggy Leonhardt

Al Letourneau
Nadia Lopez
Craig Lucas
Victor Lugo
Joy Luy
Lisa Marchese
Elizabeth McDonnell
Aaron Miller
Mary Ann Molter
Judi Mueller
Luis Arturo Munoz
Mary Ann Nekich
Keith Nosbusch
Brandon Orlando
Louie Orlando
Vincent Orlando
Liliana Perez
Kara Pitt-D’Andrae
Djurda Ristic
Jelaine Robbins
Scott Roeker
Cheryl A. Rosinski
Paul Sackmann
Audrey Schanning
Geraldine Scherer
Tracy Schuster
Sally Severson
Dan Smith
Steve & Lisa Sperka
Alex Tick
George & Denise Torres
Ann & Lee Van Dixhorn
Toya Washington
Jason Wautier
Jill Wesloski
Amanda Wojnar
Zapata Family
Joan Zbichorski
You Can Help Our Families Gleam!

Every donation helps a child or family in need, whether through shelter, education, or social programs for mental health, foster care, or workforce development. When children and families can see a successful path before them, they are driven to reach their goals.

Here’s how you can help our families succeed. No gift is too small—every contribution is meaningful and important!

Provide **financial gifts** in the form of cash, check, money order, or credit card.

Participate in **planned giving** through a bequest, memorial, or tribute.

Make **pledges** of a one-time gift or a recurring gift lasting months or years.

Solicit **matching gifts**—make your contribution work harder with the help of your employer.

Donate to our **long list of needs** including personal care items, diapers, laundry soap, books, toys, and gently used clothing.

Attend or sponsor our **Annual Fundraiser** dinner—an evening of food, fun, auction items, and more!

Become a **volunteer**! The gift of your time is invaluable and supports us in a multitude of ways.

Our Development Team is eager to assist you in making a contribution. For more information, contact us at 414-316-5498 or visit www.lacausa.org
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UPS, Inc.

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

Jertha Ramos-Colon
Community Representative

Lyman Tschanz
Rockwell Automation

Chad Winters, J.D.
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La Causa, Inc. is an AA/EEOC/LEP Employer and Service Provider and participates in E-Verify.
EOE of Minorities/Females/Vets/Disability

ANNUAL REPORT
2014

Locations
Administration
P. O. Box 04188
136 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-8750

Crisis Nursery & Respite Center
522 W. Walker St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5990

Early Education & Care Center
809 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5980

Community Enrichment Center
804 W. Greenfield Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-647-5971

La Causa Charter School
1643 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-902-1660

Social Services Division
1212 S. 70th St. Suite 115A
West Allis, WI 53214
414-902-1500

www.lacausa.org

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.
- Garrison Keillor