

# 2014



## La Casa de Amistad Annual Report

Our Mission is to empower the Latino/Hispanic community within Michiana by providing educational, cultural and advocacy services in a welcoming bilingual environment.



**LA CASA  
DE AMISTAD**  
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear La Casa de Amistad Supporters,

Greetings from the Board of Directors, our dedicated staff, volunteers and the families we serve in our community. This year was a special one for me, as it was my first full year working for La Casa de Amistad. It was a year of reflection, assessment, and planning for the future.

I am proud to report that this year brought many blessings including a strong financial position. Our programs continue to grow. The assessments of our programs show that our efforts are having a meaningful impact and benefit on our entire community.

The dedication of our staff and support of our contributors lead us to have a very successful year. This report highlights our success in supporting families, although there is still a lot of work left to complete.

For 2015, we will be working to address two key areas. First, we need to support our community with immigration reform. Second, we need to target the growing digital divide in our community. Our families continue to lag behind in technology literacy and in this modern digital economy we must work to get ahead.

Thank you for supporting La Casa de Amistad, we count on dedicated supporters like you to continue to make a difference on the west side of South Bend and in our families' lives.

Sincerely,



Sam Centellas

Executive Director



TRANSITION

# Financial Report

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Contributions	\$52,547	\$44,203	\$48,241
Grants	\$259,385	\$192,547	\$200,165
Events	\$9,606	\$17,647	\$30,468
Program Fees	\$25,230	\$26,607	\$50,718
In-kind	\$37,899	\$21,397	\$28,945
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$384,667</b>	<b>\$302,398</b>	<b>\$358,693</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Pay Roll	\$171,779	\$166,537	\$156,687
Utilities	\$24,659	\$30,243	\$24,107
Office Exp.	\$22,286	\$28,996	\$26,196
Program Exp.	\$124,096	\$72,684	\$80,102
Depreciation	\$10,187	\$10,889	\$9,996
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$353,006</b>	<b>\$309,379</b>	<b>\$297,091</b>

## ENDOWMENT

Our increase in cash has allowed us to create our first endowment with the Community Foundation and to participate in Give Local SJC in May 2015.

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Our contributors make all of our great programs possible. Below are our key consistent and transformative supporters.



We received a thorough 2013 financial audit of all accounts. Numbers reported here are formatted differently for ease of reading. Audited financial records are available for review in our office.



# La Casa de Amistad Annual Report

## **Yo Puedo Leer (I Can Read)**

Language inclusion program that prepares primarily Spanish speaking children for kindergarten in both Spanish and English. *Our 2014 graduates actually learned a little French as well! We started our fall 2014 Class with full enrollment of 20 students.*

## **Crece Conmigo (Grow With Me)**

After-school program that infuses tutoring, culture, art, social development and recreation to aid in the development of students from kindergarten to 6th grade. *This program all year was full at our capacity of 35 students.*

## **Adelante (Forward)**

Program features academic support, leadership and professional development, mentoring and college prep for 7th to 12th graders. *We enrolled more students than the previous year and were able to better engage our youth.*

## **Summer Programs**

For summer 2014 we had a program called "I Change Myself, I Change the World". *Summer program was enrolled to capacity with 45 students enjoying and learning in our program.*



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## Educational Programs

Since 1973, we have been providing quality bilingual programs for our community. Educational and youth programming has been a pillar of La Casa's foundation since our inception and it will continue to be an essential part of our services.

# 2014



## **English as a New Language (ENL)**

Students are guided through an English instruction program taught by volunteer instructors. *In 2014 we grew the program to include a class at Harrison School in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club and increased our partnership with the South Bend Community Schools Adult Education Department. **Enrollment topped 80 students for the year.***

## **ENL for Citizenship**

English instruction program in small group format that assists students in learning citizenship materials and helping with mock interviews. ***We hit our 300th student to become an American Citizen through the program last year and continue with our 100% pass rate of the citizenship interview for students that complete the program.***

## **Fortaleciendo Familias (Strengthening Families)**

Program to help strengthen families' communication skills and help parents connect better with their children on school work and by working together as a family. ***We calculated that through this program in 2014 we have touched over 1600 lives!***

## **Computer Skills**

Instruction on basic and advanced computer skills. Classes are taught in Spanish in our computer lab. ***We had over 60 students this year, and continue to help close the digital divide for our families.***



## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We have many relationships with other agencies in the community including El Campito, WIC, Christ Child, Boys and Girls Club, and of course our partnerships with the Saint Joseph County United Way, REAL Services, South Bend Community School Corporation and the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

### **Bilingual Services and Immigration Support**

Filing some immigration paperwork, legal document translation, notary services, assistance with online forms and applications for Spanish speakers, on site interpreting and social service referrals.

**2,792 Referrals/Calls (2013)**  
**3,005 Referrals/Calls (2014)**  
**8% Increase from 2013**

### **Food Pantry**

Weekly food pantry for the community living in the 46619 area code. Clients and families are able to come once per month to get food from our pantry.

**393 Families**  
**1,192 Total Individuals**  
**23,962 Meals (36% Increase)**

### **Community Outreach at Marycrest**

We added many partnerships this year to increase use of our space in the Marycrest Building. From WIC using our space in Marycrest, to assisting with interviews for the ND Shaw Center for Children and Families, and many other great new partnerships to help expand our outreach.

**34 Mothers with WIC**  
**150 Families Interviewed**

### **Volunteer Engagement**

We need the entire community to support our efforts and assist with our programs. This past year we increased volunteer opportunities through additional internships, more

**735 Intern Hours**  
**6,466 Total Service Hours**  
**48% Increase in hours tracked over 2013**

## Social Services

As a bilingual social service agency in South Bend, we not only host our own services but function as a referral gateway for the Latino community to other agencies and services.

# Community Engagement and Advocacy

We worked hard this year to increase partnership and collaboration on the westside of South Bend this year. We want to thank our board, staff and volunteers for making this outreach possible.

## Better Block South Bend

In October 2014, Western Ave hosted a special event called Better Block South Bend. The event had a tagline, "Al Ritmo de la Western" and was a visible example of La Casa de Amistad working to make our community and our economy stronger.



## Advocacy on Community Issues

From Immigration Reform to Economic Development, La Casa staff have been visible and active in advocating for our community. We averaged over two local media mentions per month to communicate our community needs.



## Community Partners

We have increased our network of supporters. A key example is our work with South Bend Brew Werks in Downtown South Bend. Their #Beer4Good program averaged over \$500 per month in contributions for La Casa. This partnership and others are helping us continue to focus on positive programming.



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## New Logo

One way to help expand La Casa's outreach was to rebrand our image. We kicked off January 2015 with our new look. A rose symbolizing our families being held by a caring hand which is blooming and growing.





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**La Casa de Amistad**

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