



# Casa Central

2017 Annual Report



*Uniting our community. Embracing our possibilities.*



# Dear Friends and Supporters of Casa Central,

Since assuming the role of Interim President and CEO in October 2016, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of Casa Central's programs to help individuals and families meet their full potential.

Across the spectrum of life, Casa Central offers hope to so many throughout Chicagoland, giving young children a quality early education, assisting students when they need a safe place to go after school, helping families during a crisis, whether that be homelessness or domestic violence, and making certain that the older adults in our community are engaged and cared for on a daily basis.

One of the aspects of Casa Central of which I am most proud is the ability of our programs to complement one another and provide comprehensive services to the community. For example, earlier this year, our Early Learning Academy reached out to our Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) program after two young children experienced the deportation of their father. Our VPI Director quickly came to the family's aid and enrolled the children in our Safe Start services so that the children and their mother could receive culturally-sensitive therapy after the abrupt separation from their father. The family is now engaged in both Head Start services and trauma therapy to make certain that they have the appropriate support to move forward in their life.

In addition, many of the families and communities we serve were impacted by the natural disasters in Mexico and Puerto Rico in 2017. As a result, Casa Central has stepped in and taken a leading role in the community to serve evacuees from Puerto Rico. We have families who fled conditions on the Island who are staying at our La Posada interim homeless shelter; we have older adult evacuees being served by our Home Care Services and Adult Wellness Center, we are serving children evacuees in our Early Learning Academy, and we are hiring evacuees to serve in our older adult home service program. We expect these numbers to rise and stand ready to do all we can to serve this new population. Your continued support will assist us in these efforts to serve this new population.

As always, I want to thank all of our stakeholders, donors, volunteers, partners and staff whose support and generosity over the past year has made our work at Casa Central possible. Without you, we wouldn't be able to reach the over 11,000 individuals we impact on a yearly basis. We look forward to continuing to work together to transform the lives of so many and create a more just and equitable Chicago.



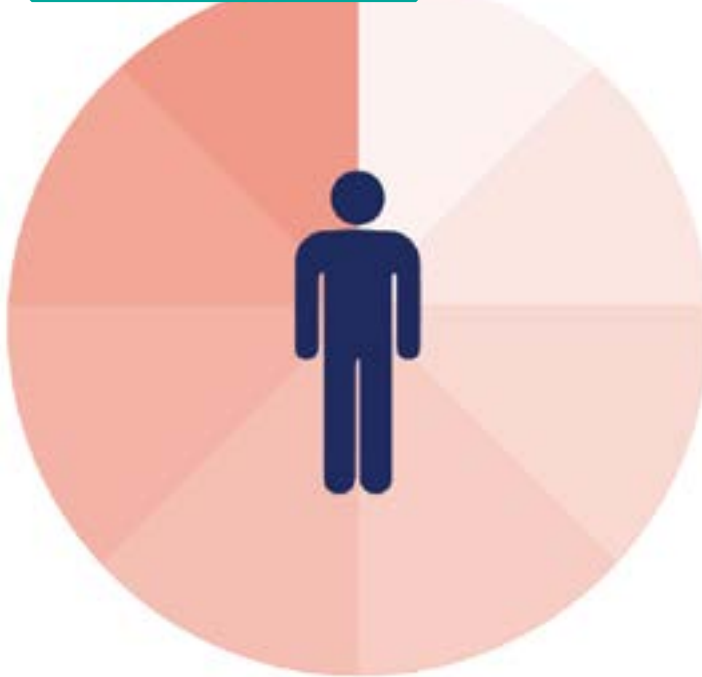
Sincerely,

Martin R. Castro, Esq.  
Interim President & CEO



# Our Impact

## Demographics



**11,182**  
individuals reached

**66%**  
were female

**61%**  
were primarily  
Spanish speaking

**70%**  
reported a household  
income under \$19,000

In 1964, Casa Central started with just three employees and a \$26,000 budget to provide assistance to migrant workers and their families in Chicago's predominantly underserved Hispanic neighborhoods. Now, 64 years after the agency's inception, the depth and range of both programming and those served has greatly expanded, but our mission remains the same:

**Casa Central transforms lives and strengthens communities, with a special focus on Hispanics. Our network of social services propels a diverse population of all ages toward self-sufficiency and a higher quality of life.**

To build a strong community, one family at a time, across life stages and generations, Casa Central offers programming in three main areas:



**Inspiring Lifelong Learning among Children and Youth:**

- Early Learning Academy
  - Home-Based Head Start
  - Center-Based Head Start
- School Age Program



**Providing Safety and Fostering Self-Reliance for Individuals and Families:**

- Intact Family Services
- Violence Prevention and Intervention Program
- La Posada Interim Housing Program for families experiencing homelessness



**Promoting Active, Healthy Lifestyles for Older Adults:**

- Adult Wellness Center
- Home Care Services
- 55 and Better Employment Training Program

**97%** of Casa Central participants reported a higher quality of life as a result of engaging in our services

# Program Highlights

**100%** of parents/caregivers in our Safe Start program **showed improvements in their relationship with their children** after participating in eight therapy sessions.

**98%** of children in our Home Based Early Learning Academy **met or exceeded expectations** in math comprehension.

**83%** of School Age Program students **demonstrated an increase in their social emotional skills.**

**98%** of families in our La Posada Interim Housing Program **maintained permanent housing** for 6 months after exiting our program.

**100%** of Home Care Services participants **reported feeling emotionally and physically safer** as a result of Home Care Services.

**100%** of Adult Wellness Center participants that completed 4 to 6 sessions of the Arthritis Exercise program **reported an increased range of mobility.**

**98%** of families in our Intact Family Services **remained intact** during period of service provision.

# Agency Highlights

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017



**August 2016**

Partnering with Humboldt Park businesses, Casa Central began hosting business networking luncheons in an effort to work together to improve the community.



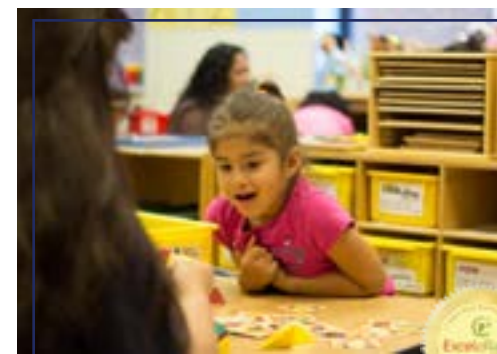
**January 2017**

Our Violence Prevention and Intervention program won the Mary Byron Project's Celebrating Solutions Award, a national award that highlights programs working to break the cycle of domestic violence.



**Oct 2016**

Our Chief Operating Officer, Nilda La Luz, was honored with the Chicago Latino Network's People's Choice Award.



**January 2017**

Our Early Learning Academy received the prestigious Award of Excellence from ExceleRate Illinois.



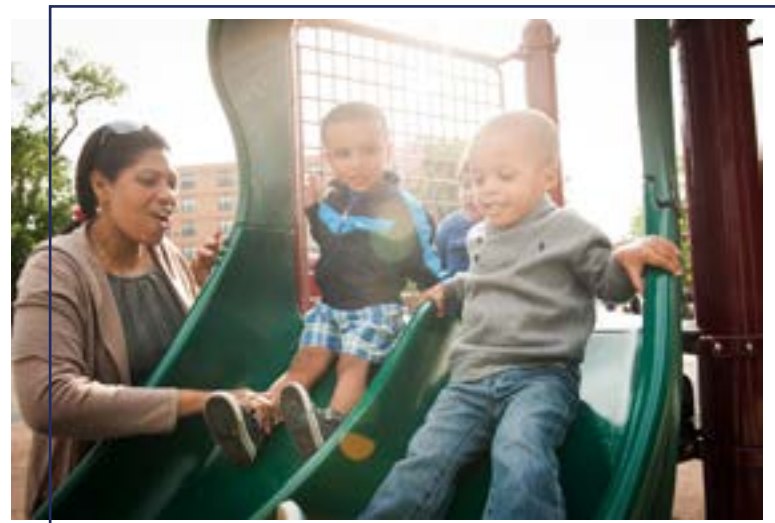
**June 2017**

Casa Central honored the late Ward Fisher, our longest serving board member, with a naming ceremony.



**June 2017**

To the delight of our Early Learning Academy and Adult Wellness Center, Miss World came to visit Casa Central and spent the day with our participants.



# Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) Program

Since 1987, Casa Central's Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) program has worked to help families and young children heal from the trauma of violence and disrupt the cycle of a potential life of violence in the future. Jessica and her children were referred to the VPI Program after her 3-year-old son, Tim, and 2-year-old daughter, Maria, had experienced sexual abuse. When the children became severely symptomatic, Jessica was eventually fired from her job because of the children's high level of needs. Soon Jessica and her children became homeless and were staying at a third-party shelter. It was there that they began services at Casa Central's VPI program in November 2016.

Initially Tim and Maria were unable to leave Jessica's side when they attended therapy sessions. Jessica was unable to use the restroom without taking both of the children in with her, otherwise they would become extremely upset.

Jessica reported feeling stressed and overwhelmed as she began services because she felt that no one had believed her regarding her children's abuse, and she didn't know how to best support her children through those difficult times. Over time though, Jessica and her children began developing a trusting relationship with their VPI therapist.

The therapist began helping Jessica identify ways to best support Tim and Maria through their trauma. Soon, Jessica was able to advocate for herself and for her children's overall safety and made the choice to find a safer place for them. Jessica decided to leave the third-party shelter after she felt they weren't meeting her family's needs at that time and moved in with her sister in Wisconsin. Through Jessica's consistent participation in therapy sessions at Casa Central, she was able to begin feeling empowered again to be able to make difficult decisions about her children's overall well-being.

Now, when 2-year-old Maria walks into the VPI office she leaves her mother's side and immediately greets the therapist and grabs her hand and walks in with her. Currently, the family commutes from Wisconsin to Casa Central once a week for services because Jessica feels that she has found a safe and trusting place her children and wishes to continue participating in services regardless of distance.

**Currently, the family commutes from Wisconsin to Casa Central once a week for services because Jessica feels that she has found a safe and trusting place for herself and her children and wishes to continue participating in services regardless of distance.**



Casa Central staff highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month by placing purple ribbons outside our buildings. The ribbons commemorate and honor the lives lost to domestic violence, and show VPI's continued mission to end the epidemic.



In partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, La Posada distributes over 50,000 pounds of food to families as they work towards permanent housing.

# La Posada

## Interim Housing Program

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Devon, his adult daughter and her younger children were chronically homeless for a year after their apartment caught fire in 2015. After they lost their home, the family resided in a shelter for eight months and then decided to leave the state for a new start when Devon was offered a job in Las Vegas. However, after moving to Las Vegas, the family soon found themselves homeless again, discovering that the job promise fell through and relocation accommodations were to a building that was condemned. Devon and his family desperately returned to Chicago but came back with nowhere to go besides an emergency shelter.

Once at the emergency shelter, the city referred the family to Casa Central's La Posada program, where Devon and his daughter felt safe for the first time in years. Devon immediately began attending La Posada's job readiness workshops while searching for housing and employment. With the assistance of their case manager, he was also able to open a case with Disability Law to appeal for disability benefits. In addition, Devon's daughter, Colleen, enrolled in classes to obtain her GED. Soon after, Colleen was offered a full-time position with Walgreens.

**At La Posada, Colleen's daughter was able to access tutoring and bonded with other children who were also experiencing homelessness. As a result, her school work dramatically improved.**

Contributing to the family's success, Colleen's son and daughter began participating in La Posada's summer and after-school programs. Prior to La Posada, Colleen's younger daughter was not attending school due to the family's constant transitioning, which caused her to fall behind academically. At La Posada, she was able to access tutoring and bonded with other children who were also experiencing homelessness. As a result, her school work dramatically improved.

Despite the many barriers they faced, Devon and his family obtained permanent housing during their time at La Posada and were selected to receive funds from Rapid Re-Housing for 3 months of rental assistance. In addition, La Posada assisted the family by providing generous donations of furniture and household items, including cleaning supplies, housing, toiletries, clothing and bus passes. The family is now happily residing in their new apartment and continues to participate in La Posada's follow up services.

# Financials

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

**Total Revenue: \$16,048,771**

## Revenue Sources:

	2017
Government and Public Support	\$11,648,700
Program Service Fees	\$3,035,535
Private Support	\$1,073,443
In-Kind and Other Income	\$271,093
United Way	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,048,771</b>

0.1%

United Way

1%

In-Kind and Other Income

7%

Private Support

19%

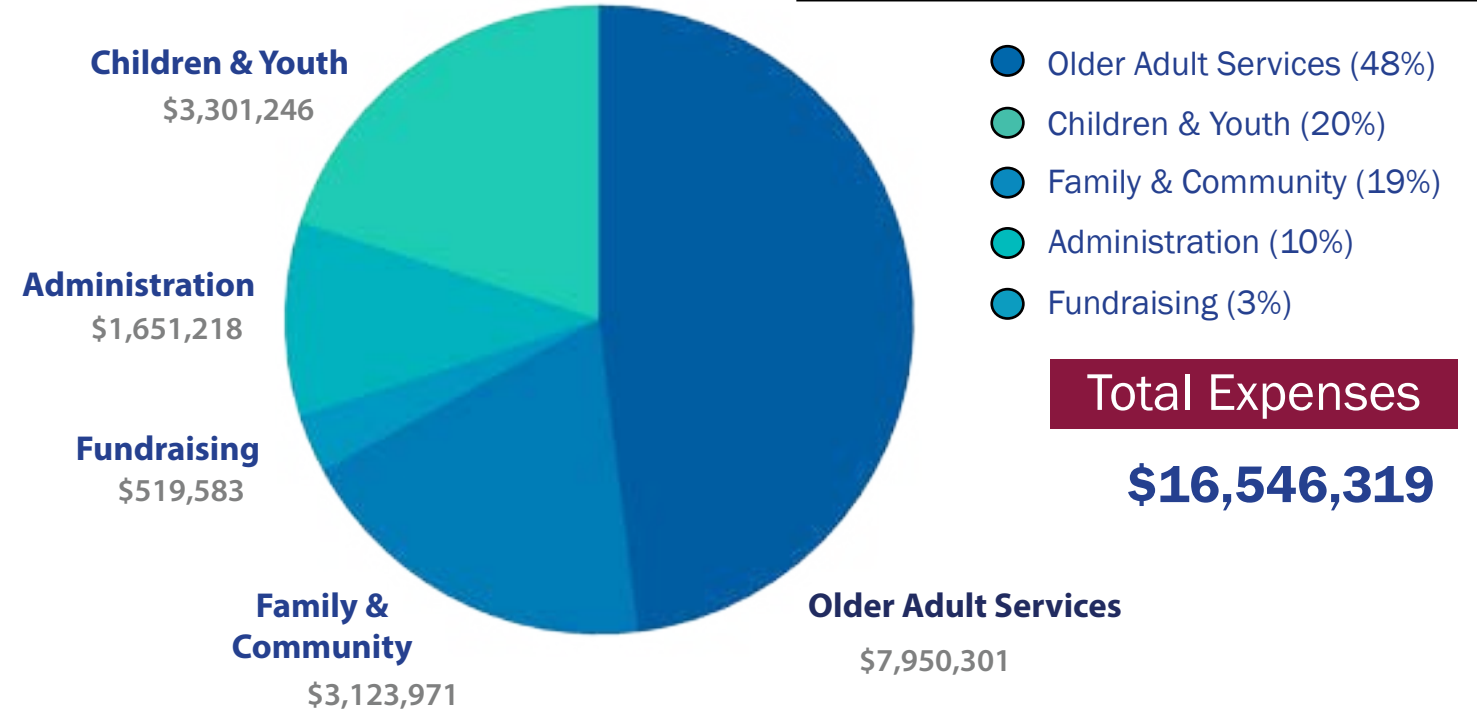
Program Service Fees

73%

Government & Public Support

## How funds are used:

**87% of funding goes to programs**



**Total Expenses**

**\$16,546,319**

# Who We Serve



Children & Youth

21%



Individuals & Families

16%



Older Adults

63%



# Donors

## Fiscal Year July 1st 2016 to June 30th, 2017

### \$50,000 and above

The Chicago Community Trust  
Healthy Communities Foundation

### \$49,999 to \$20,000

Advocate Bethany Charitable Foundation  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
Anonymous Foundation  
Bank of America Foundation  
BMO Harris Bank  
ComEd  
The Crown Family  
Irving Harris Foundation  
Michael Reese Health Trust  
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Robert R. McCormick Foundation  
Waste Management, Inc.  
William Wrigley Jr. Company

### \$19,999 to \$10,000

The A. Montgomery Ward Foundation  
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Chicago White Sox Charities  
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Mary Byron Project, Inc.  
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### \$9,999 to \$5,000

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Alliant Credit Union Foundation

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### \$4,999 to \$1,000

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Aetna Better Health Illinois  
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RBC Capital Markets, LLC  
Mary Reynolds  
Arlene Rodriguez  
RSM US LLP



## Fiscal Year July 1st 2016 to June 30th, 2017

### \$4,999 to \$1,000 (Cont.)

Gordon and Carole Segal  
Solano-De Carrier Management CO., LLC

### \$999 to \$500

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Rosa Alba  
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### \$499 to \$100

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Gerald and MJ Harris  
Millie Hernandez  
Omar Hernandez  
Jane Heron  
Yuki Hirao  
Cherie Hopkins Rumcins  
Noel Hornsberry  
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Oscar A. Jara  
Vipul Kapoor  
Mariela Kimble  
Thomas Koestler  
Samantha Koss  
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Nancy and James Schmidt  
Jack and Helena Schimpf  
Shield Health Care



## Fiscal Year July 1st 2016 to June 30th, 2017

### \$499 to \$100 (Cont.)

Sydney Smith  
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Stratford Square Mall  
Rachel Sturgeon  
Teens of Grace  
Transitions Hospice  
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Sally Weigel  
William Weigel  
Wired @ Heart  
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Sloane York  
Rafael Zendejas  
Barbara Zerfoss

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Barbara Zerfoss

### In Memory of Francisca Muñoz

Teresa Garcia and Nelson Gonzalez

### In Memory of Jose Diaz

Cesar Diaz

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Casa Central

1343 N. California Ave.

Chicago, IL 60622

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[info@casacentral.org](mailto:info@casacentral.org)

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