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
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

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**Our Impact**

11,182 individuals reached

66% were female

61% were primarily Spanish speaking

70% reported a household income under $19,000

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

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

98% of families in our Safe Start program showed improvements in their relationship with their children after participating in eight therapy sessions.

100% 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.

August 2016
Partnering with Humboldt Park businesses, Casa Central began hosting business networking luncheons in an effort to work together to improve the community.

October 2016
Our Early Learning Academy received the prestigious Award of Excellence from ExceleRate Illinois.

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.

January 2017
Our Chief Operating Officer, Nilda La Luz, was honored with the Chicago Latino Network’s People’s Choice Award.

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.
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 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.

**Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) Program**

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
# Financials

**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**

## Total Revenue:

$16,048,771

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government and Public Support</td>
<td>$11,648,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Service Fees</td>
<td>$3,035,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Support</td>
<td>$1,073,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind and Other Income</td>
<td>$271,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,048,771</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Revenue Sources:

- **Children & Youth**
  - $3,301,246
- **Administration**
  - $1,651,218
- **Fundraising**
  - $19,583
- **Family & Community**
  - $3,123,971
- **Older Adult Services**
  - $7,950,301

87% of funding goes to programs

## How funds are used:

- **Children & Youth (20%)**
- **Family & Community (19%)**
- **Administration (10%)**
- **Fundraising (3%)**
- **Older Adult Services (48%)**

## Total Expenses

$16,546,319

- **Older Adult Services**
  - $7,950,301
- **Children & Youth**
  - $3,301,246
- **Family & Community**
  - $3,123,971
- **Fundraising**
  - $19,583
- **Administration**
  - $1,651,218

87% of funding goes to programs

## Who We Serve:

- **Children & Youth**: 21%
- **Individuals & Families**: 16%
- **Older Adults**: 63%

- **United Way**: 0.1%
- **In-Kind and Other Income**: 1%
- **Private Support**: 7%
- **Program Service Fees**: 19%
- **Government & Public Support**: 73%
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
Confid
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
Anonymous Company
Aron Foundation
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois
Chicago White Sox Charities
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Fiscal Year July 1st 2016 to June 30th, 2017

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

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In-Kind Donors

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