

*Our Mission:
Strengthening
communities and
improving lives of Latinos
and others through
educational, social, and
economic opportunities.*



Reflections From Our President & CEO

As I reflect over our past 40 years, I think about those who looked beyond their own sphere and saw a need for a central place where community members could come and feel welcomed, giving them a sense of connectedness within their community. Father Gaitan, the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Richard Ruiz, and the Cordi Marion Sisters saw such a need in the Armourdale and Argentine community – somewhere place where community members could gather together, talk, share food and fun, and find out about resources to make their lives fuller and richer. All those years ago with a \$10,000 grant from the Archdiocese, *El Centro Servicios para Hispanos* was born. Residents flocked to the organization, finding people who had shared experiences, shared language, shared culture, and shared community. The original program, the Senior Day Program, was soon joined by a children's daycare, afterschool tutoring, English lessons, computer keyboard classes, housing, and connections to many other programs and resources.

El Centro has not stood still over the past 40 years, but has grown and changed to meet needs. We strive to be responsive to the community and get clients connected with the services they need. Over the years, we have watched families grow and our children become adults. Children who were in our original daycare program now have children of their own. Some of these children have attended our Academy for Children, a dual-language pre-K school preparing children for educational success, different than our first daycare program. Those graduating our Keyboards to Success and our afterschool tutoring programs have gone on to continued learning and have successful careers. Today we continue to strengthen families by offering them educational, economic, and social opportunities to do so.

This year, we not only look back on what has happened over the past 40 years at El Centro, but more importantly, we are looking forward to the next forty years and beyond. We look forward to serving and advocating with our communities, all the while keeping up with the emerging needs that impact our community. El Centro prides itself as the vanguard of anticipating needs and working to meet those needs; something that will continue far into our future. Happy 40th Anniversary, El Centro, and here's to many more years to come!

Irene Caudillo

2015-2016 Annual Report



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“ We have supported El Centro for many years with gifts from our family fund because the organization offers essential assistance through their programs to a community that is in great need. ”

Jim Graham, Graham Family Fund

“ A VITA client was thrilled to have our help preparing her tax returns. By the time she left our office, she was in tears and couldn't stop thanking us for helping her receive a refund of over \$9,000! This is exactly how we help our community and why we provide the service. ”

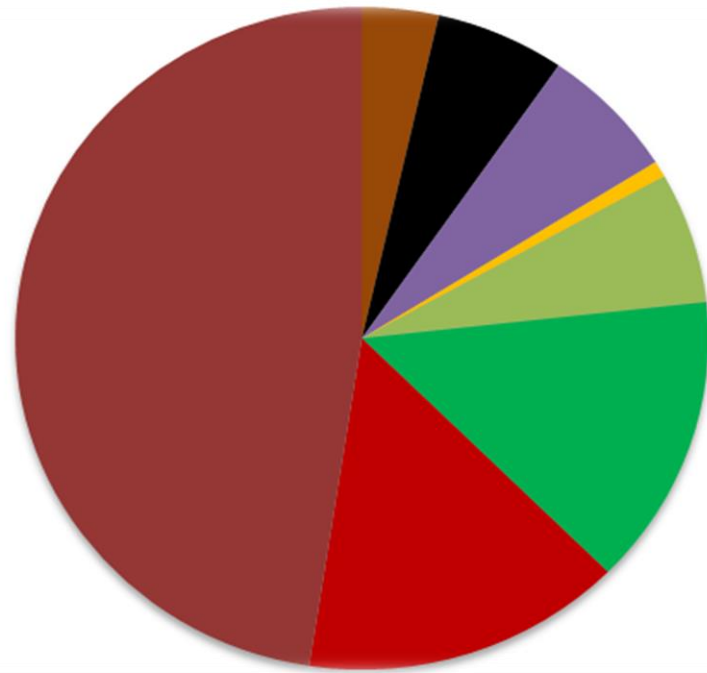
Suzie Mize, Volunteer



This program is funded by generous donors to the Archbishop's Call to Share.



2015-2016 Revenue Sources



Investment Return	-1%
Corporate & Individual Donations	4%
Rental Income	6%
Other	6%
United Way	7%
Program Service Fees & Tuition	14%
Government Contracts & Grants	15%
Foundation Grants	48%

El Centro's Community Impact

Our **Academy for Children** educated more than 100 children in our preschool and summer programs, providing activities and exploration with an educational focus, and working with over 75 pre-K children during the school day on skills in literacy, numeracy, social skills, language, and exploratory play. Parent involvement grew significantly through activities such as Family Nights, parent-teacher conferences, volunteering, and being the proud attendees at our children's performances. Of the 37 students we graduated, 98% were Kindergarten-ready!



Our **Health Navigation Program**, which serves both Wyandotte and Johnson counties, served 837 unduplicated clients. Through partnerships forged over the years clients were able to resolve billing issues, arrange surgeries, access specialty care, enroll in health insurance (some for the very first time), and receive the service impacting the most lives – the gift of better vision for 356 people through eye exams and eyeglasses. Many others received additional direct assistance including hearing aids, dental care, prescriptions and medical equipment totaling \$109,173.



Our **Promotores de Salud Program** serves the metro area with community outreach and education, including grocery store and farmers' market tours, cooking classes for healthier eating, and budgeting family food dollars to serve healthier meals to their families for less money than they were spending before. As they are members of the community we serve, they have the language, leadership, and cultural skills to expand participants' knowledge of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Over the last year, the Promotores signed up 2,123 eligible Latinos– increasing families' knowledge and capacity to live a healthier lifestyle, building better, stronger communities along the way.

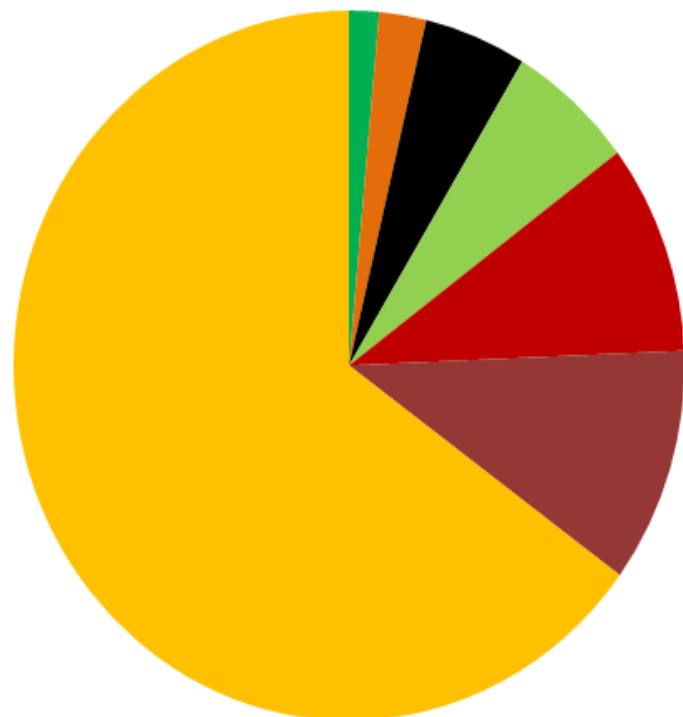
Our **Economic Empowerment Program** provided emergency financial assistance to 251 clients, representing a total of \$34,259 in services provided. Most of these clients were given individual financial counseling, classroom style courses or were required to take a self-paced online financial education course to build knowledge. El Centro's Financial Education Courses include topics like money basics, budgeting, managing debt, building credit and saving.

FY 2015 Income & Expenses

“I was first introduced to El Centro when I was a senior in high school, serving as a volunteer for the organization. I would have never guessed that after graduating from KU, I would get the opportunity to work here. Fast forward 15 years and I am still here, loving my work every day.”

Erica Andrade, Health Navigation Manager

2015-2016 Expenses



Transportation	1%
Office Expenses	2%
Depreciation	5%
Agency Expenses	6%
Client Specific Expense	10%
Occupancy	11%
Salaries & Employee Benefit	65%

VITA Information

For Johnson County

851 Number of total returns for tax period 2015

Total Adjust Gross Income Average **\$24,282**

Total Earn Income Tax Credit **\$359,988**

Total Refund **\$1,017,030**

Average refund per return **\$1,623**

For Wyandotte County

614 Number of total returns for tax period 2015

Total Adjust Gross Income Average **\$22,130**

Total Earn Income Tax Credit **\$260,882**

Total Refund **\$768,597**

Average refund per return **\$1,731**