

El Centro
SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO



A Year of Growth and Transition

As I sit down to reflect on this past year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and purpose. It has been a year of significant transition, not only for me personally as new President & CEO, but also for our leadership team and El Centro as a whole. This journey has been one of immense growth and learning, marked by surprises and challenges that we were able to navigate together, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our incredible staff.

Every day, I am inspired by the dedication of our team—people who have devoted their time, energy, and passion to serving **nuestra comunidad Latina**. They remind me constantly of why this work matters so much. From advocating for equal rights to challenging systems of inequity that impact our Latino and immigrant communities, our mission is clear: to build a stronger, more just society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I am thankful for the warm welcome and support I received from our community allies and funding partners. Their trust has empowered me to continue leading with intention and integrity. I do not take this role lightly. The great honor and duty entrusted to me are deeply personal, having spent nearly half of my life dedicated to the mission of El Centro—first as an employee, and now as its leader.

As we work with our staff and board to embark on a new strategic planning process, I feel a palpable sense of excitement for what lies ahead. The plan we will unveil in the coming months is not only a roadmap for our future but a reaffirmation of our commitment to the values that have guided us for nearly five decades. As we step into El Centro’s 48th year of service, we leave behind the uncertainty and chaos of the pandemic and look toward a new era—one where we build on our legacy while always remembering who we are, why we were created, and who we are here to serve: **nuestra comunidad Latina**.

Siempre Adelante,
Erica Andrade

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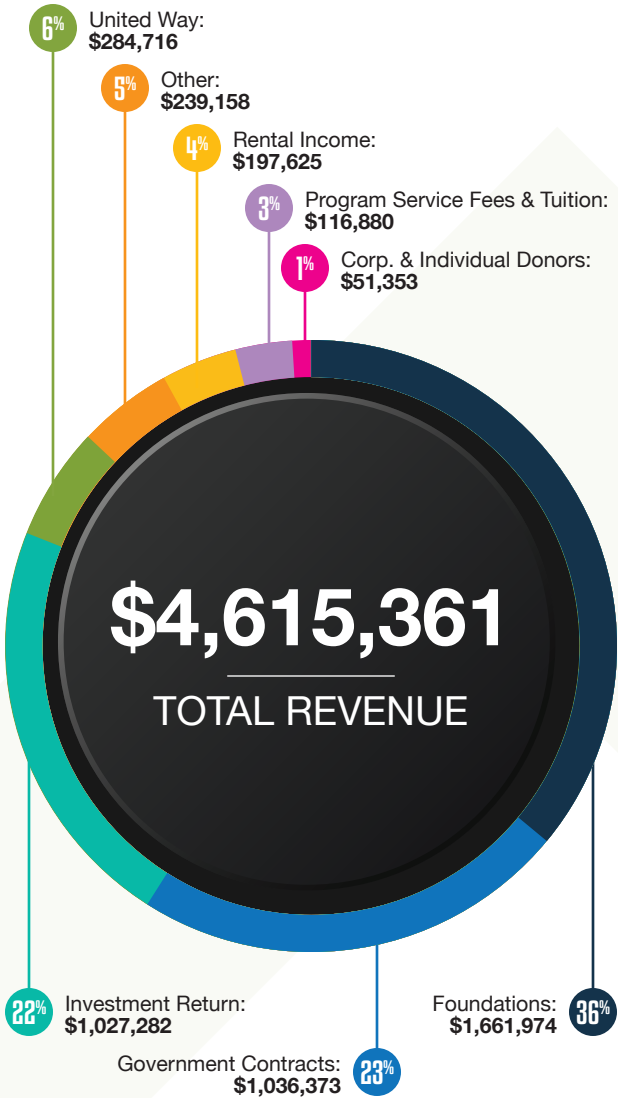
OUR MISSION

The mission of El Centro, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, is “strengthening communities and improving lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities.”

OUR VISION

To be the premiere organization bridging Latinos and others, resulting in healthy, educated communities.

OPERATING REVENUE: FY 2023-2024



OPERATING EXPENSES: FY 2023-2024



ACCESS

At El Centro, we believe everyone deserves access to the services, resources, and programs essential for their wellbeing. We ensure equitable access for Latino immigrants and families by offering personalized, one-on-one support in Spanish. Our dedicated bilingual staff, who share similar cultural experiences, provide assistance with cultural understanding and humility.

3,105

Unduplicated clients assisted with **4,258** services to access healthcare services and coverage.

622

Direct Services provided to help individuals receive prescriptions, optical care, medical equipment, emergency dental care, and diabetes testing kits.

110

Billing Navigation services completed to help uninsured individuals apply for financial assistance and make payment arrangements for their medical bills.

1,875

Insurance Navigation services provided, enrolling families into healthcare coverage through KanCare, Medicare, the health insurance Marketplace, and dental coverage.

372

Specialty Care services received by uninsured individuals needing surgeries, appointments, Patient Assistance Programs, breast and cervical cancer screenings, medical interpretation, health literacy, and care coordination.

1,019

New SNAP applications and renewals were provided.

160

P-EBT (Summer-EBT) applications were processed for students in Wyandotte & Johnson Counties.

327

Households received \$158,215.87 in emergency assistance for help with rent and utilities



1,012

Public Services were received by families to help them apply for disability and Social Security benefits, obtain birth certificates and passports, find a COVID vaccine, apply for an ITIN, LIEAP, and other community programs.

128

Translation and Notary services were provided.

1,786

Households were assisted with filing their Federal income tax through our two VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites.

EMPOWERMENT

At El Centro, we believe everyone deserves information and education necessary for their personal and professional growth. We empower Latino immigrants and families by offering innovative outreach, engaging workshops, classes, and educational opportunities, all designed with our community’s needs in mind and delivered in Spanish.

1,900

Shopping exercises for duplication of SNAP benefits (Double Your Bucks) were completed at the Kansas City Kansas Farmers’ Market and the Farm School at Gibb’s Road.

421

Latinos participated in multi-session, **Comprando Rico y Sano** (*Buying Tasty & Healthy Foods*) classes (6 hours total)

72

Latinos became Naturalized Citizens through monthly citizenship clinics.

229

Latinos participated in multi-session, **Conoce Tus Derechos** (*Know Your Rights*) classes (6 hours total)

61

Latinos were able to renew their DACA status through monthly DACA clinics.

592

Participants attended monthly educational opportunities with topics including first-time homebuyers, credit building, budgeting, and banking services 101.

1,443

Participants attended our monthly job fairs, **Go Green to Get Green** certification courses, small business classes, and received help with writing their resumes and applying for jobs.



EDUCATION

At El Centro, we believe every child deserves a strong base for lifelong learning. We support young Latino and other children in developing social, emotional, language, and motor skills at our Academy for Children. As a fully accredited NAEYC center, we offer high-quality, dual-language early childhood education (ECE) year-round.

84

Children received dual-language ECE, of which **19** children were able to attend through our partnership with Head Start.

26

Children graduated kindergarten-ready.

80

Hours of professional development for teachers provided, focusing on ECE and dual-language. **3 teachers** completed **45 hours** of training certification on social-emotional development.



2023-2024 FUNDING PARTNERS

El Centro gratefully acknowledges the support of the following corporate, foundation and service donors.

ALMA \$100,000 and Above

- Alliance for a Health Kansas - Community Catalyst
- Family Conservancy- HeadStart Contract
- Greater KC Community Foundation
- Hall Family Foundation
- Health Forward Foundation
- Kauffman Foundation
- UnitedWay Impact 100
- Unified Government of Wyandotte County -ARPA
- REACH Healthcare Foundation



CORAZÓN \$50,000 - \$99,999

- Climate + Energy Project
- Community Catalyst
- George K. Baum Foundation
- KDHE - Migrant Farmworkers
- Kansas Health Foundation
- Stanely Durwood Foundation
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COMUNIDAD \$1 - \$49,999

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 - Benevity Employee Match
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 - City of Overland Park - CDBG
 - ChildCare Aware
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 - Frank & Margaret McGee Fund
 - Garmin International
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 - Hispanic Federation
 - Hollywood Casino Grant
 - Human Service Fund - Johnson County Government and
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 - City of Olathe
 - City of Overland Park
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 - City of Roeland Park
 - City of Shawnee
 - City of Spring Hill
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 - Johnson County - CDBG grant
 - Kansas Action for Children
 - Kansas Cares - Division of Children and Family Services
 - Kansas Humanities
 - KC A Regional COVID-19 Res/Recovery
 - KC Medicine Cabinet
 - Keller & Owens
 - KUMC Alzheimer’s Department - R24
 - McGee Foundation

- Menorah Heritage Foundation
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- Olathe Mayors Children’s Fund
- Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
- PayPal Giving Fund
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- R&C Charitable Foundation
- RX Foundation Grant
- Security Bank
- Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
- SOCI Grant - ECE Mental Health Project
- Start Young - Gap
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- Systems of Care Initiative
- UMB Bank
- WK Kellogg Foundation
- Wyandotte Health Foundation

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SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

Richard A. Ruiz Administrative and Services Building

650 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

El Centro – Olathe

201 E. Loula Street
Olathe, KS, 66061

Academy for Children

1340 South 30th Street
Kansas City, KS 66106

913.677.0100

913.362.8513 (Fax)

www.ELCENTROINC.com



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