

VOICES of HOPE

Erie Neighborhood House
2016 Annual Report



ON THE COVER

Alan and Kyra explore ecology and nutrition through a summer gardening project with the Health & Leadership program at Erie House.

2016 Highlights

- 100% high school graduation rate for students in TEAM mentoring program for at-risk youth.
- National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization, honored Erie House with Midwest Affiliate Award for second consecutive year.
- 96% of children in Little Village READS program advanced an entire grade level in reading.
- 186 volunteers provided hands-on tutoring and support to adult learners through the Community Literacy program.
- 673 community residents received affordable housing information, resources and support from the Buen HOGAR program.
- Citizenship & Immigration earned recognition from the Board of Immigration Appeals for its clinic in Little Village.

What we do

At the core of our organization are the people and families within Erie Neighborhood House and in those communities we serve. We advance our members in three key areas:

EMPOWER

our members, no matter their background, race or income status.

PROMOTE

wellbeing—mental, physical and emotional—with award-winning educational programs.

STRENGTHEN

families by providing access to critical resources and paving a pathway to success.



Patricia Gayton Perez (left) and Kirstin Chernawsky

Dear Friends,

This past year reminded us that the work we do to educate and empower individuals to achieve a better life can come with its share of adversity.

The long list of challenges seems to grow each day: lack of economic opportunity and pervasive violence in our neighborhoods; statewide funding shortfalls for programs that support and transform lives; and policies and politics that are hostile toward immigrants all stand as threats to the community we serve.

But this is not a time for despair. Now more than ever, we must continually find hope as we adhere to our mission of working toward a more just, inclusive society.

In the spirit of hope, we're very pleased to share that in spite of the many obstacles 2016 presented, Erie Neighborhood House strengthened the lives of 5,500 participants last year — creating opportunities to excel in school, develop valuable life skills, prepare for success in the workplace and become leaders both at home and in the community.

We invite you in this report to hear the voices of Erie House community members — from participants who have overcome enormous adversity, to board members, staff, and volunteers who help facilitate change every day through their passion and dedication. These voices of hope inspire us, and we're confident they will inspire you as well.

And of course, none of this could happen without you: our diverse network of funders, community partners and individual donors whose support and collaborative action make our work possible. We feel so grateful for the critical role you have played to further our mission, and we're eager to continue partnering with you as we build stronger, more vibrant communities together.

Kirstin Chernawsky
Executive Director

Patricia Gayton Perez
President, Board of Directors



VOICES of HOPE

A **RESOURCEFUL STUDENT** discovers her voice, growing as both a leader and change-maker. **AN AMBITIOUS LATINA** leaves her low-wage job behind in pursuit of a successful, fulfilling career.

A **DETERMINED IMMIGRANT** prepares to take the oath to become a U.S. citizen — and helps others who are on the same path.

These Erie House participants are living up to their potential as citizens and leaders in their community. Their inspiring stories represent our impact on the people we serve. Their voices reflect hope for better education, greater employment opportunities, safer communities — and an unwavering belief in their capacity to help create a better, more just and inclusive society.

Meet them and listen to their voices . . .

ESL STUDENT RAMIRO REYES ARRIVES EARLY TO PLAY GUITAR BEFORE CLASS BEGINS IN LITTLE VILLAGE. IN 2016, 94% OF ESL STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR TEST SCORES IN ENGLISH.

387

students participated in a weekly restorative justice class in Little Village through Proyecto Cuidate

PROYECTO CUIDATE

promoting peace at home and in the community

ASHLEY LARACUENTE was searching for a positive after-school activity, so she joined her school's youth leadership program. The Proyecto Cuidate initiative empowers fifth- through eighth-graders with tools and resources for successful, healthy lives. Ashley is one of 387 Little Village students who participated in a peace circle last year, where they developed communication skills for conflict resolution at school, at home and in the community.

"I joined the program because I wanted to become a better person. I've learned more about listening to others, and I feel like I communicate better."


ASHLEY LARACUENTE
Proyecto Cuidate participant

"We want to promote restorative practices both in the classroom and at home. By building these relationships, we're supporting stronger, healthier individuals, families and communities in Little Village."

ROSA SANCHEZ
Proyecto Cuidate Program Manager



LITTLE VILLAGE STUDENT ASHLEY LARACUENTE PARTICIPATES IN A PEACE CIRCLE DURING AN AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY ERIE HOUSE.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
GRADUATE VERONICA FLORES
DIAZ NOW WORKS AS A
MEDICAL ASSISTANT AND IS
STUDYING TO BECOME A
NURSE.

\$13.01

average wage of Workforce
Development graduates
placed in healthcare jobs

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

acquiring skills to succeed in the workplace

WHEN VERONICA FLORES DIAZ learned about the Workforce Development program, she discovered her path from a factory job to a fulfilling career. The program provides students with job skills and training in one of three industries: healthcare, technology or manufacturing. Veronica completed the Erie House healthcare bridge curriculum, transitioned into a certification program and is now making a difference as a certified medical assistant for Esperanza Health Centers.

“The healthcare bridge program helped me gain the confidence I needed to succeed. Now, I feel like I’m helping people—especially those who don’t speak English—and I’m continuing my education to become a nurse.”

VERONICA FLORES DIAZ
Certified Medical Assistant and Workplace Development Program Graduate

“Completing a bridge program at Erie House is a life-changing event for our students. It lets them know that the journey toward a new, more fulfilling career is attainable.”

JUDY LAI
Director of Workforce Development

726

immigrants completed applications for citizenship at Erie House workshops and consultations

CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION

preparing to become engaged citizens


DEYRO BANGUERO, an immigrant from Colombia, is on his way to becoming a U.S. citizen. He completed the Erie House citizenship class, a 13-week course covering U.S. history, civics, reading, writing and preparation for the naturalization exam and interview. Today Deyro looks forward to the final steps before taking his citizenship oath with great anticipation; in the meantime, he volunteers as a tutor at Erie House and as an advocate for adult education.

“Becoming a citizen is an achievement you need to earn – you have to meet certain requirements, study, schedule your interview, pass the test – but once it’s completed, you’re 100% American and you can participate more fully in the life of this country.”

DEYRO BANGUERO
Participant, Citizenship & Immigration Program

“We work with immigrant individuals and families, making sure everyone who walks through our doors for a consultation can access their rights and benefits.”

JANE LOMBARDI
Director of Citizenship & Immigration Services



DEYRO BANGUERO TUTORING A STUDENT IN PREPARATION FOR THE EXAM TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN.

our programs



Erie House programs educate and empower, equipping participants with a voice to advocate for their needs and build stronger, more vibrant communities across the city of Chicago.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Early Childhood Education

Building kindergarten readiness through NAEYC-accredited care and instruction

AGES 2–5

Expanded Learning Programs for Children & Youth

Integrated approach supports academic success and socio-emotional wellbeing

AGES 5–18

ADULTS

English as a Second Language

Empowering adults with language and literacy skills

Community Literacy

Hands-on tutoring and support for adult learners

Workforce Development

Training for careers in technology, healthcare and manufacturing

FAMILIES

Health & Leadership

Resources for stronger, healthier families and communities

Proyecto Cuidate

Violence prevention, counseling and family services

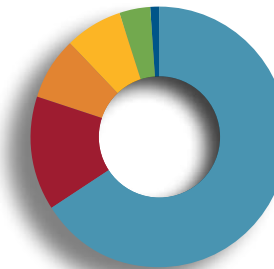
Buen Hogar

Affordable housing resources for Spanish-speaking residents

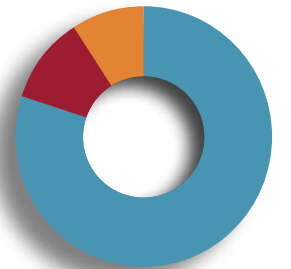
Citizenship & Immigration

Classes, workshops and consultations to support the immigrant community

financial statements



WHERE FUNDS COME FROM
66% GOVERNMENT
14% PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS
8% SPECIAL EVENTS
7% PROGRAM SERVICE FEES
4% OTHER SOURCES
1% UNITED WAY



HOW FUNDS ARE USED
80% PROGRAM
11% FUNDRAISING
9% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	As of June 30,	
	2016	2015
Revenue		
Private sources		
Foundations, corporations and trusts	\$ 869,631	\$ 857,104
Individuals and board	136,770	1,664,235
Congregations	26,377	39,980
Special events	592,893	461,145
Donated goods and services	348,543	336,872
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	94,000	100,000
Government fees/grants	4,909,225	5,143,801
Other income and program fees	516,886	460,090
Interest and dividends	93,828	95,602
Unrealized and realized gains (losses) on investments	(123,144)	(111,993)
Miscellaneous income	2,449	2,877
Total revenue	\$7,467,458	\$9,049,713

Expenses

Program services		
Child care	\$ 3,214,015	\$ 3,087,055
After school	693,556	781,043
Youth	422,532	448,859
Adult	966,856	1,089,406
Workforce	443,097	533,277
Health, leadership and advocacy	176,447	185,727
Total program cost	\$5,916,503	\$6,125,367

Supporting services		
Management and general	653,181	790,504
Fundraising	795,914	932,614
Total expenses	\$7,365,598	\$7,848,485

Change in net assets

Net assets—beginning of year	\$ 6,247,595	\$ 5,046,367
Net assets—end of year	6,349,455	6,247,595
Total change in net assets	\$ 101,860	\$1,201,228

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	As of June 30,	
	2016	2015
Assets		
Cash/cash equivalents	\$ 936,552	\$ 817,368
Investments	2,542,589	2,652,453
Accounts and pledges receivable	1,462,754	1,669,776
Due from government agencies	665,813	777,690
Prepaid expenses	19,134	33,936
Property and equipment, net	1,305,352	1,117,423
Total assets	\$6,932,194	\$7,068,646
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 169,673	\$ 151,532
Accrued expenses	142,577	189,149
Deferred revenue	270,489	276,275
Fiscal agent liabilities	—	5,095
Line of credit	—	199,000
Total liabilities	\$ 582,739	\$ 821,051
Net assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 4,244,112	\$ 4,061,634
Temporarily restricted	1,605,343	1,685,961
Permanently restricted	500,000	500,000
Total net assets	\$6,349,455	\$6,247,595
Total liabilities and net assets	\$6,932,194	\$7,068,646

“Through its programs and services, Erie House makes it possible for children and youth to keep working towards their dreams for the future.”

MARÍA MANCHADO DE RUITENBERG
TEAM Mentor
Erie Associate Board Member



thank you to our donors

We are deeply grateful to friends and partners that support our work to provide better education, greater employment opportunities and more productive lives for thousands of people. Your generous gifts are crucial in strengthening the fabric of families, communities and our society—one person at a time.

\$100,000 & ABOVE

The Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Tribune Charities
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Teamsters Local 705
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

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\$1,000 TO \$2,499

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Samuel Stalker

“I went to Erie House as a kid. It’s a wonderful agency that does so much work—their ambition and drive to work with the Latino community is unmatched.”

JOHN DE CARRIER
Principal, MYD Holdings

“The outstanding work Erie House does to walk alongside families is an investment in stronger, healthier communities across our city.”

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Treasurer, City of Chicago



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\$250 TO \$499

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William G. Cordes

\$100 TO \$249

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GIFTS IN HONOR

In Honor of Mark Bassett
John & Ellen Bassett

In Honor of Kirstin Chernawsky
Frank Oddo

In Honor of John & Cassie Colgan
Marcus Grosch

Steve & Jean Weber
Victor Hsue

In Honor of Ardis & Dave Gacek
Daniel & Katherine Figatner

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Our mission

To promote a just and inclusive society by strengthening low-income, primarily Latino families, through skill building, access to critical resources, advocacy and collaborative action.

Our core values

- AFFIRM
the dignity and capacity of all persons to reach their fullest potential.
- STRENGTHEN
the voice of the disenfranchised.
- EMBODY
a spirit of service and respect.
- PROMOTE
social change by forging creative solutions.



Luis Favela started coming to Erie House when he was in preschool. Today his son, Nicholas, is enrolled in the NAEYC-accredited program.

Erie Neighborhood House

1347 W. Erie St., Chicago IL 60642
312.666.3430 tel / 312.666.3955 fax

Erie Community Center

1701 W. Superior St., Chicago IL 60622
312.563.5800 tel / 312.563.5810 fax

Little Village

4225 W. 25th St., Chicago IL 60623
773.542.7617 tel / 312.563.5810 fax

Erie Elementary Charter School*

1405 N. Washtenaw St., Chicago IL 60622
773.486.7161 tel / 773.486.7234 fax

**School-Age Program only;
Open to qualifying EECS families*

