







Transformation & Impact 2020



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LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2020 changed us at Ser Familia, as people and as an organization. We saw a level of need and desperation that we had not experienced in our twenty years of service. We had children clapping at the sight of milk during our food distribution days and a 112% increase in the domestic violence cases we normally attend to in one year.



Our families were already in a very fragile state prior to the pandemic, and this emergency dug a deeper hole that will take years to recover from. A study completed throughout the year, showed us that only 10% of the children we serve were able to complete school work virtually. Some additional statistics show that our Latino children will fall behind in their education and be negatively impacted at a higher rate than other children.

I am surrounded by heroes in our staff, our board of directors, supporters and volunteers. Early on in the pandemic, we made the decision to remain open in all of our offices to provide the support our community needed. We quickly devised new sanitation protocols, mask mandates to keep everyone safe and pivoted our intake process to include mental health and domestic violence assessments for every person that walked through our doors. We also began a pilot tutoring program and held a two-week-long summer camp to help bridge the education gap for our students, all amidst the pandemic.

We have been absolutely floored by the support we have received from you, our community, corporations and foundations. We are so grateful for all that we were able to do for our families during the year, including providing over one million dollars in rental assistance.

As I look into the future, I am hopeful to see our families getting better and starting to thrive again. This includes lowering the levels of intrafamily violence we have seen and witnessing our children being raised in healthy and peaceful family environments. I hope that the information included in this report provides further insight into our organization and compels you to continue to support the mission we serve.

Sincerely,

Belisa Urbina

Beloa M. Urkina

ω ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Transformation & Impact 2 Milestones

2020 WAS BY FAR OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED AND VARIETY OF SERVICES OFFERED.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES: Ser Familia served 7,549 clients (not including food and diaper distribution events) through 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic. We were able to provide more than 300,000 diapers to parents in the community, \$100,000 worth of toys, home appliances, furniture and medical equipment during the Holiday season in addition to more than 800 coats to children and adults. In partnership with various health care providers, we administered 280 free COVID-19 tests in Cobb and Gwinnett crime through our immigration legal services program.



CARF ACCREDITATION: We earned the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) three-year accreditation, for the only accreditation of its kind currently held by a Hispanic-led and serving organization in Georgia and represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization.



C.A.F.E. LAUNCH: Ser Familia and the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) announced the opening of their joint initiative known as C.A.F.E., short for Centro de Ayuda Familiar y Emocional in Spanish or the Center for Family & Emotional Support in English. The C.A.F.E. serves as a hub for family, children and community services in Gwinnett County. The initiative is a \$500,000 investment and includes a 6,000 square foot facility with 8 offices, 2 conference rooms and a training room for counseling and family programs.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF: The COVID-19 pandemic created a state of emergency across the Latino community. Ser Familia provided 405,636 pounds of groceries to 18,438 people through several food distribution events held safely in 2020. We also paid a total of \$1,198,850 in rental assistance to 1,006 families.



COVID-19 IMPACT STUDY: Ser Familia conducted a study along with the Thrive Research Lab at Emory University that examined the impact of COVID-19 in our Latino community. Currently, this is the only study of its kind and can be found in the adjacent pages of this report.



EDUCATION: We piloted a successful tutoring program that is held once a week to bridge the education gap produced by the lack of access to technology in our Latino children's homes. In addition, we hosted at the C.A.F.E., the first-ever two-week Summer Camp with 24 middle school students focused on math, language arts and Latino history and literature. We provided school supplies to 175 children and secured computers for 62 children in our community. We also partnered with Thrivent to offer a new financial literacy workshop for adults.













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I learned many things

about math and lifes

















Ser Familia equips Latinos with tools, resources, and skills they need to move from crisis to thriving.





36 counties reached over the course of the year

Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Rockdale, Spalding, Walton and Whitfield.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Georgia Latin@s Against Domestic Violence strives to bridge the gap between community service providers and victims of domestic violence and other crimes in the Georgia Latino community. Through this program, we provide the education and resources necessary to raise awareness and promote advocacy against domestic violence, and we host support groups for men and women, to help them process and overcome the traumas caused by an episode of violence in their lives. The program also offers training and networking opportunities for other victims' services providers.





The number of domestic violence victims served increased by 112% in 2020. Ser Familia safely provided support groups, mental health counseling and additional services.



WHOLE FAMILY

Ser Familia has two key programs to serve families as a whole. The first one, Strengthening Families Program (SFP), is a nationally and internationally recognized, evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinguency, alcohol and drug abuse in children and improve social competencies and school performance. Child maltreatment also decreases as parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills.

Our second whole-family-focused program, consists of a one-day workshop designed to open new and better channels of communication between parents and their children. The workshop is aimed at parents and children from 13 to 18 years of age.



COUPLES

Our Couples' program offers each person the opportunity to improve their self-understanding, get to know their spouse or partner on a deeper level and strengthen the couple's love and commitment. The goal of our workshops and retreats is for couples to recover confidence in each other and regain mutual respect.

During our workshops, participants are able to openly discuss their feelings about situations and problems that affect their relationship. Our volunteer mentors are available to help them address their concerns. After every workshop, participants have the opportunity to participate in a support group for all couples, free of charge.



The number of youth participating in our monthly "Renovación Juvenil" meetings has increased by 20% over years prior. This program focuses on teaching our youth life and leadership skills as well as how to improve their communication with family and others.

YOUTH

Our youth program (Renovacion Juvenil® - RJ) is designed to provide practical tools to Latino teenagers, between the ages of 13 and 18, so they can better communicate not only with their parents, but also with other people in their family environment. The two-day workshop, offers the young participants ideas on how to resist peer pressure, steer clear of the use of drugs and alcohol, avoid falling into the pressures of gangs and prevent premature pregnancies. All while helping them adapt to living in a multicultural environment. A key distinction of this program is that it is entirely facilitated by other Latino teens, all of whom are program graduates. This helps the participants identify themselves with the presenters. RJ also offers monthly meetings in which participants continue to acquire and practice their life, communication and leadership skills.



PARENTS

Ser Familia has one key program for parents, Triple P – Positive Parenting Program®. Triple P is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world. It gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them confidently manage their children's behavior, prevent developing problems and build strong, healthy relationships. This program is facilitated on a group basis, based on recommendations from our Case Managers. Parents also get individual coaching calls to work on the specific parenting challenges they are facing.

LEGAL SERVICES

We offer immigration legal assistance to crime victims who might be undocumented so that they can obtain a U Visa, VAWA Visa or T Visa as well as advocacy for non-citizens who are victims of a crime in the United States.





During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ser Familia has seen an 86% increase in clients with major depression and psychotic symptoms. In addition, there has been a 52% increase in suicide risk cases.



MENTAL HEALTH

Ser Familia is pleased to offer counseling services for youth, couples, individuals and families. We offer a range of behavioral and mental health therapies at no cost, aimed at improving self-esteem and relationships with others, and dealing with life events. Our therapists take a client-centered approach taking into account the person as a whole: body, spirit and mind, and use therapeutic interventions tailored to the client's individual needs. We also offer Individual Play Therapy for children; these therapies help prevent or resolve emotional difficulties and promote optimal growth development. Our mental health services are an imperative need in our community, as there is a major gap in mental health services offered in Spanish.

Transformation & Impact 2020 Organizational Outcomes

SER FAMILIA'S AREAS OF STRENGTH ACCORDING TO CARE

- The members of the Board of Directors are clearly dedicated to the mission of the organization.
- The Executive Director and Programs Director are enthusiastic about the organization, having started it 20 years ago with a single purpose. They have carefully and purposefully grown the organization to its present configuration and express excitement to see the growth that is
- Funders and other community organizations speak highly of the way that services are delivered, recognizing that the organization delivers high-quality services in a culturally specific manner to
- The leadership and management are highly creative in addressing barriers that might impede access to their services.
- When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit, the organization carefully prepared its facilities so that clients could continue to be seen in person. These efforts continue, with proper screening, protective equipment, extensive cleaning and mask wearing being consistent at all locations. This has services.
- The organization has a clear and unwavering commitment to doing the right things for the persons served and enjoys a reputation as an organization that is truly committed to operational
- The organization's staff members are competent, caring and genuinely dedicated to the success and long-term viability of the organization and the accomplishment of its stated mission.
- Families served throughout the organization report a high level of satisfaction with the staff members and services provided.

SOME MEASURED OUTCOMES

- 98% of clients express satisfaction with services provided
- 97% of clients believe that their family situation is better as a result of the services provided by Ser Familia
- 100% of students participating from the educational support program at the C.A.F.E. have improved their grades as a result of their participation in the program
- Our clients report an improvement on their depression symptoms taking them from severe to mild from intake to discharge.
- 93% of parents who complete the Triple P Program reported reduced problem behavior in their children, better personal wellbeing and more effective parenting skills.

SER FAMILIA LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Co-Founder and Executive DirectorBelisa Urbina

Co-Founder and Programs DirectorMiguel Urbina

Clinical Coordinator Dr. Carla Santiago, PSyD

Case Managers Supervisor Marielis Garcia, MSW

Programs Supervisor Nurkys Brea, MA

Accountant Omar Almodovar

Grants Manager Elsa Sánchez

Development Officer Myriam Hysa Georgia Latinos Against Domestic Violence (GLADV) Program Coordinator

Outreach Coordinator Migdalia Rivera

Intake Specialist Mary Calvo

Mónica Martínez

Data & Administrative Specialist Brenda Barrera

Marketing and Compliance Miguel Urbina, Jr.

I.T. Specialist Jose Vanegas

Counselor Juan Marrero, MC Counselor

Marlen Adames, LAPC

Counselor

Rebecca Sheetz, LPC

Counselor Ana Pinto, MA, CADC-II

Counselor

Katie Portillo, LAPC

Domestic Violence Advocate Monica Payne

Case Manager Emergency Assistance Diana Román

Case Manager Kennesaw Office Myriam Rojas Neidlinger

Case Manager Norcross Office Jeannette Vargas Case Manager Smyrna Office Eliana Uribe

Case Manager Suwanee Office Yaritza Pérez

C.A.F.E. Family Navigator Ruth Colquitt

C.A.F.E. Programs Coordinator Sasha Fret

Administrative Assistant Kennesaw Office Mirna Jiménez

Administrative Assistant Norcross Office Maria Márquez

Administrative Assistant Suwanee Office Valerie Rivera

We have the **LARGEST** geographical **FOOTPRINT** of any Latino organization in **GEORGIA**, with offices in Kennesaw, Norcross, Smyrna and Suwanee



7,549 CLIENTS SERVED (not counting food distribution, diapers or COVID-19 testing)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

Tony Gonzalez, MBA - Scott Madden

Board Vice-Chair

Hanna Dafne Bauer, BA - Heartnomics Enterprises

Board Treasurer

Miles Crowe, BBA - Crowe Countertops

Board Secretary

Linda Pérez, MA - Morrison Healthcare

José O. Rodríguez, MD - Kennestone Pediatrics

Enrique Garza, BS - Clorox Company

Marta DeLoach, BA - Southern Company Gas

Jerry James, BS - Atlanta Gladiators

Ramón Reyes, MS - Omni Hotel at The Battery

Shelli Willis, Esq. - Troutman Pepper

Rose Walker, BA - Assurant

Transformation & Impact 2020



We are grateful for the incredible support provided by our local foundations, government entities and corporations. Your assistance has allowed us the opportunity to help our local community in ways beyond our imagination.

FOUNDATIONS

Atlanta Braves Foundation
Atlanta Gladiators Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation
Catholic Foundation of North Georgia
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc.
Cobb Community Foundation
Cobb EMC Community Foundation
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Community Foundation for Northeast
Georgia

Coweta-Fayette EMC Foundation
Dow Company Foundation

Georgia's Own Foundation
Gilbert Fund
Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response &
Recovery Fund
GreyStone Power Foundation
Healthcare Georgia Foundation
J.B Fuqua Foundation
Jackson EMC Foundation
Jesse Parker Williams Foundation
John and Polly Sparks Foundation
Jordan Family Fund
Koch Family Fund

Latino Community Fund

Crowe Custom Countertops

DeKalb County

Delaware North

Hasner Law

Los Vecinos de Buford Highway
North Georgia EMC Foundation
Sandy Springs Society
Snapping Shoals EMC Foundation
The Imlay Foundation
The Kirby Smart Family Foundation
The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
Thomas H. Pitts Trust
TR Joe E Johnston Foundation
Tull Charitable Foundation
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Walton Electric Trust Inc.

GOVERNMENT & CORPORATIONS

AllScripts Assurant Atlanta Braves Atlanta Gladiators Bank of America BB&T Bank Clorox Company

Cobb County CDBG Program
Cobb County CSBG Program
Cobb County Chamber of Commerce

Cobb County Chamber of Commerce
Cobb County Executive Women

Cobb & Douglas Public Health Cobb EMC

Colonial Pipeline Company

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program Emory University Gas South Georgia Association of Realtors Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Georgia Power Company Gwinnett County CDBG Program

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Latin American Chamber of Commerce
Omni Hotels & Resorts
Promoting Safe and Stable Families
Select Cobb
Southern Company Gas
Thrivent
Univision 34 Atlanta
UPS
Urbina Law Firm
Vireo Communities
Welcoming Atlanta
WellStar Health System
Zillow Group

Kimberly Clark

11



Thank you to our incredible supporters.

By supporting our mission you help us make a great difference in our community.

INDIVIDUALS

Aida Perez-Flam Aisha Yaqoob Alan Martin Alejandro Coss Allison Coffman Alma Pedrosa Amanda Alvarado Amy Rudolph Andrew Carr Angie Bucki Anonymous Barbara Snow Benny Vega Betsv Sunnv **Bradley Levenberg** Carlos Esteban Gomez Carmen Cruz Gonzalez Carmen Rosa Pedrosa Carolyn Westry Cat Gitonga Catalina Villareal Chris Smith Christiane Price Christina Lennon **Christy Conway** Cipriano & Jennifer Peinado Cristian Adasme David Felfoldi **David Mathews**

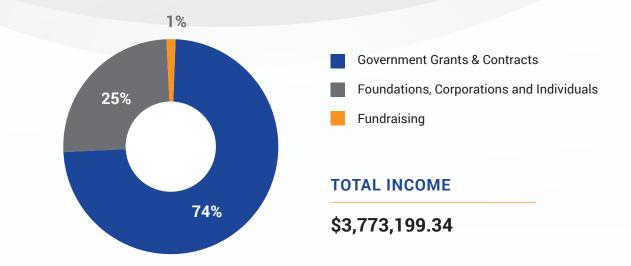
Deborah Goodman

Denise Reese **Donald Cirino Doris Quiros** Doug Todd **Dwight Minio** E Todd Chamberlain Eduardo Dos Santos Edward J Bloomer Efrain Morales Eileen Hernandez Eliana Lesser Elizabeth Magaña Elly Yampierre Elsa Sanchez Emilia Cruz **Emily Hulkower Emily Nybo** Enrique & Araceli Garza Enrique Millan Epifania Rodriguez Eric Rangel Fernando Cortes Gigi Pedraza Gordon Neville **Grant Hurless** Gretchen Class-Diaz Guiomar Obregón Hanna Bauer **Heather Corbin** Haseenah James Ida Aaron

Irene Barton Isabel Summe J Zachary Thurman Jack Womack Jaime Rangel Jami Buck-Vance Javan Gordon James Squires Jane Fishman Janita Green Jennifer Headrick Jenni Shover Jennifer Zenteno Jerry Gonzalez Jerry James Jill Morrison Jonathan Karron Jorge Granados José O. Rodriguez José Vanegas Joseph Hernandez Joseph Vella Karen Huban Kathleen Marran Kenneth Machovec Kerri Sauer Kevin Abel Kiara Alexis Williams Kimberley Burdette Lara Fain Leny Montaner

Leonardo Martinez Linda Pérez Linette Cleary Logan Toms Maria del Rosario Palacios Mario Nassar Guier Marisol Estrada Marissel Vázguez Marita Lecaros Mark Meltzer Mark Vincent Marta DeLoach Mary Keller Melanie Kagan Melissa Wiggins Michael Taylor Michael & Giselle Urbina Miguel & Belisa Urbina Miles & Monica Crowe Milka Medina Molly Malone Nancy Vicente Omar Almodovar Pegui Maridueña Peter Savitz R Tyler Nelson Rachel Babcock Ramón Reyes Rebecca Rice Regina M. Quick

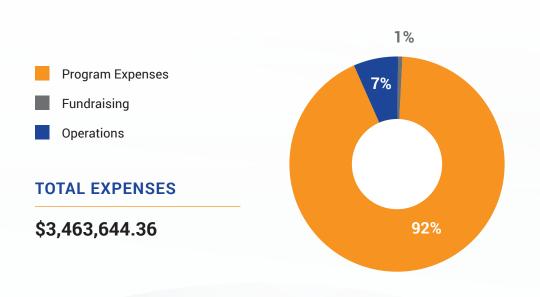
Rick Tapia Rizwan Aslam Rob Schreiner Robert Howard Ronald Peterson Rose Walker Russell Roberts Samantha Garcia Sara Mack Sarah Coulter Sarah Higinbotham Scott Jordan Scott Snyder Shannon McCov Sharon Thompson Shelli Willis Shirley Anne Smith Sivan and Jeff Hines Stacy Blake Stephanie Watson **Ted Schwartz** Temme Barkin-Leeds Tracie Klinke Tricia Croone Tricia Kinnev Tony & Liz Minnette Gonzalez Vanessa Emmenegger Viviana Domikian Vish Narendra Yolando DaSilva



PAID A TOTAL OF \$1,198,850 in rent to 1,006 families



\$100,000 GIVEN OUT in toys, home appliances, furniture & medical equipment in our Christmas project











THANK YOU

"Family is not an important thing. It's everything."

- Michael J. Fox

"La familia no es algo importante. Lo es todo."

- Michael J. Fox

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LATINX IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Preliminary Findings for the Latinx Summit 2020

According to CDC, Latinx communities across the U.S. are facing high levels of COVID-19 exposure, disease severity, and mortality. Nationwide, COVID-19 mortality is increasing among the Latinx population while decreasing in the non-Hispanic White population. Since January, the number of excess deaths among Latinxs increased by 54% as a result of COVID-19 while excess deaths due to COVID-19 increased by 12% in the non-Hispanic White population. In Georgia, an estimated 16% of COVID-19 cases are among Latinxs, even though they only represent 9% of the state population.

COVID-19 exacerbates many existing challenges faced by Latinx families, such as economic hardship, food insecurity and housing instability. A national survey of the economic impact of COVID-19 conducted in June 2020 found that 29% of Latinx families experienced someone losing their job due to COVID-19.⁴ This same study found that 41% of Latino parents had trouble paying their rent or mortgage and 42% ran out of savings to cover costs of living.⁴

The challenges posed to Latinx families during COVID-19 are multiplied in undocumented and mixed status families, as they are excluded from many social safety net programs. Mixed-status refers to families where at least one member is undocumented and others may have another status such as permanent residency or citizenship.

In our study, we looked at how Latinx undocumented and mixed status immigrant families who are clients of Ser Familia have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We focused on the mental health of parents, how parents are affected by immigration policy, and potential risks for family violence due to COVID-19-related stressors. The majority of participants in the sample were undocumented immigrants, primarily from Mexico or Central America, living in Cobb, Gwinnett, and DeKalb counties. All participants were parents, and most were women. On average, parents had 3 children, with the number of children ranging from 1 to 8. On average, participants have lived in the U.S. for 14 years.

COVID-19 RELATED STRESSORS

Participants in our study reported multiple COVID-19-related stressors, most often reporting general stress or frustration due to COVID-19. Many also reported economic insecurity, and food insecurity.

- 80% Stress and frustration due to COVID-19
- 60% Not enough money to pay rent
- 50% Not enough money to pay for gas
- 48% Are an essential worker

- 53% Not enough money to pay for food
- 38% Not enough access to transportation
- 24% COVID-19 in the family
- 29% Did not have a regular place to sleep or stay







This brief report is based on preliminary data from an ongoing community-based participatory research study led by Dr. Briana Woods-Jaeger (PI) and in partnership with Ser Familia to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the health of undocumented and mixed status families in Georgia. For more information about the study findings please visit the THRIVE lab website: https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/woods-jaegerthrive/

MENTAL HEALTH OF LATINX PARENTS IN GA

SYMPTOMS OF **DEPRESSION**

Participants in our study reported high levels of depressive symptoms.

65%

of parents had symptoms that could indicate depression diagnosis.

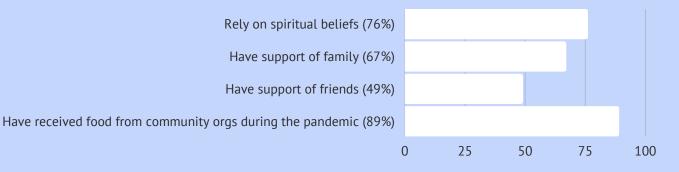
SYMPTOMS OF PTSD

Participants in our study reported high levels of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. 16%

of parents had symptoms that could indicate PTSD diagnosis.

STRENGTHS WITHIN LATINX FAMILIES

Latinx parents in Georgia have many strengths within their families, communities, and within themselves that can help them through the pandemic. Supporting Latinx families during this pandemic requires bolstering existing strengths and systems of support such as spirituality, social support, and community resources. Participants in our study reported the following strengths:



PROMOTING HEALTH EQUITY

As we strive to promote health equity among Latinx families, some recommended key actions include:

- Conduct a system-focused analysis regarding how systemic oppression contributes to health inequities combined with a community-focused and strengthbased approach to developing solutions
- Ensure COVID-19 disparities and the conditions that cause them are considered in policy development
- Center the experiences of Latinx families and build from community and cultural strengths and previous experiences of resiliency
- Foster community by supporting mutual aid organizations and initiatives and building collaboration and coalitions to promote health equity

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