Dear Friends,

Throughout 2016, La Plaza had the opportunity to reflect on the successes of providing educational and social services to Indianapolis Latino families during the past twelve years. We have continued to make enhancements to all programs to ensure a greater impact and a stronger presence in the community.

Data indicates a 48% increase in the number of Hispanics in Indiana, increasing from 214,536 to 443,518 in the last 15 years and nearly 18% of Hispanics in Central Indiana live at or below the federal poverty line (U.S. Census, 2015).

La Plaza is recognized in the Indianapolis community as a trusted organization that provides education programs, focuses on serving Latino students and serves as the point of entry into the health and social services systems for Latinos who have most recently immigrated to the area.

Highlights from 2016 include:

- A generous $5 million Social Services Sustainability grant from Lilly Endowment was awarded. La Plaza was one of fifteen recipients and the only agency solely serving the Indianapolis Latino community to receive this grant. A majority of the grant was used to invest in an endowment that will provide long-term sustainability for years to come. The remaining funds were used to upgrade La Plaza’s office and provide competitive benefits and salaries to members of La Plaza’s dedicated staff.

- A Victims of Crime Act grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute was received. This grant award enables La Plaza to provide case management services for members of the Latino community who have experienced domestic violence.

- A program evaluation of La Plaza’s premiere education program, Tu Futuro (Your Future) was conducted. The evaluation involved focus groups and online surveys with schools, students, and parents to obtain qualitative feedback on the existing Tu Futuro framework and recommendations for future program adjustments.

- La Plaza provided educational services to nearly 1,400 Latino students and served more than 3,000 individuals through referrals and access to health and social services.

- La Plaza staff and Board of Directors created the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and began identifying the organization’s vision for 2020.

La Plaza continues to strengthen the Latino community with the goal of making a stronger impact and increasing our presence in Indianapolis. Thank you for your support in 2016 and for many years ahead.

Sincerely,

Miriam Acevedo
President and CEO

MISSION

La Plaza’s mission is to strengthen Central Indiana by advocating and preparing Latino students for educational success and by connecting Latino families to health and social services.
**PROFILE OF A TU FUTURO STUDENT**

“*I am a son of immigrants; I am Peruvian-American, the oldest of 3, and am the seed my parents have planted here in America. I am beyond privileged, and therefore I am a voice for those who cannot have one. I am tired, and I am frustrated with the hate spreading around my community. I am unapologetically proud to be Latino, and most importantly I am here to stay.*”

~ Fabio Yataco

Fabio Yataco is a 22-year-old student at IUPUI. He is majoring in Psychology and hopes to go on to get a Masters in Higher Education, Student Affairs, or Public Health so that he is equipped to make a contribution to the Latino community. His decision to pursue this stems from his belief that there are very limited resources and few positive influences for Latino youth who need mentors and support. La Plaza was one of the only organizations that provided Fabio and his family the resources and guidance needed to begin their journey.

Fabio’s desire to give back and get involved began at a young age. In high school, he was involved in the Latino community through organizations such as La Plaza. As a Tu Futuro student, he was able to learn more about postsecondary education opportunities and, in turn, was able to inform other students and their families. He participated in youth group, where he encountered countless students aspiring to be successful and provided them with the information and resources he had become aware of, including Tu Futuro. He continued working with Tu Futuro throughout high school and eventually assisted by going to other schools and speaking to students and their families about academic opportunities and resources available for the Latino community. From his experiences, he was able to help these students with college and scholarship applications.

“*Nothing gives me more fulfillment then helping someone academically. Growing up Latino, first generation, and undocumented allowed me to see and experience a world not many understand. Persevering through the hardships and learning from the sacrifices my parents made is what has allowed me to be here today and continues to fuel my passion to help.*”

~ Fabio Yataco

Upon high school graduation, Fabio became involved at IUPUI by becoming President of the Latino Student Association. In this position, he took action and pushed for the campus to meet requests in increasing the numbers of Latino faculty and staff, along with adding academic Leadership positions, and providing further resources for its Latino students. He also joined organizations such as the Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance and helped organize events and participate in many areas to help empower and provide resources to the community. While at IUPUI, Fabio was also called to be part of the Latino Student Recruitment and Retention task force where he assisted in formalizing recommendations for Chancellor Paydar on how IUPUI can better assist its Latino student population.

Throughout this time, Fabio continued to give back to his community by staying connected with La Plaza. He continued to work with the Tu Futuro program to ensure that other students received the same resources and opportunity at a higher education as he had received as a Tu Futuro student. During the Night of the Americas dinner this year, Fabio was presented with the La Plaza Leadership award for his dedication to the community and leadership in ensuring that other Latino students also have the resources necessary to pursue a higher education.

**BOARD MEMBERS: IN SERVICE TO OTHERS**

“I serve on the board because I believe in La Plaza’s mission and I think it has a significant impact in the community because its programs and services truly respond to the community’s needs. La Plaza stays connected to the community, has an understanding of what is needed, and develops programs to meet those needs.”

~ E. Angeles Martinez Meir

“I serve on the board because I have a desire to help out the community and use my skills and knowledge to help La Plaza serve our community.”

~ Carlos De Leon

“I am a board member of La Plaza because of the solid reputation the organization has for alleviating barriers for members of the Indianapolis Latino Community. With the current threat to immigration, La Plaza is in the best position to assist.”

~ Kay Whitaker

“It’s been an honor to serve on the La Plaza Board for the past year and half. Serving La Plaza is in some small way, an opportunity to give back. Through the Tu Futuro program, the Scholarship Fund, the dedicated staff and now with the Lilly Endowment, La Plaza is well positioned to serve the Indianapolis Latino Community. I’m excited to see La Plaza continue to grow and expand its much need services.”

~ Patrick Clarey

“A lifelong Hoosier I value the historic significance of La Plaza. My father, Jesus Quintana was one of the founding members of its oldest legacy institutions, El Centro Hispano. The organization’s roots can be traced back 60 years beginning as a social networking organization. Today, La Plaza provides high quality services that sustain, support and enhance the Latino Community’s ability to thrive. La Plaza leads the way in providing underserved youth with the opportunity to be academically prepared to graduate high school and attend postsecondary education.”

~ Maria Quintana

“I serve on the La Plaza Board of Directors because it allows me to give back to the Latino community. As a child of Mexican immigrants, I was fortunate to have their love and support to attend excellent schools which prepared me for college and law school. I had to pay for some of that on my own, but their help gave me the ability to do that. I’m well aware that many children don’t have these advantages and I’m honored to help La Plaza shape programs and provide a base for students so that they can succeed in life. La Plaza makes a huge impact in the community by giving children and their parents resources to adapt to their new life in the United States.”

~ Rosa Ochoa-Martinez
2016 PROGRAM IMPACT

TU FUTURO (Your Future)
In 2016, La Plaza conducted a program evaluation on Tu Futuro to identify the needs of Latino high school students as they prepare for high school graduation and postsecondary education opportunities.

In 2016, Tu Futuro:
- Served 1,289 unduplicated students from 10 different Indianapolis high schools
- Students attended 4 college visits to Indiana colleges including: Butler University, DePauw University, Ivy Tech Community College, and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) School of Science
- Parents and students attended 20 college readiness, financial, and writing essay workshops
- Students completed 4 community service projects at the Peace Learning Center, Indianapolis Public Schools, IUPUI, and Fletcher Community Center

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR LATINO YOUTH (LILY)
“LILY” is a five-week academic and leadership summer program where middle and high school students gain the necessary skills to succeed in high school, college, career, and in life.

In 2016:
- 43 High school Latino students were enrolled.
- 95% Increased knowledge about college readiness and career preparation.
- 100% Identified a career path and academic plan.

SUMMER DISCOVERY
Summer Discovery is a five-week academic and enrichment summer program for elementary school students focused on reading, math, technology, leadership, and physical activity.

In 2016:
- 119 Elementary Latino students were enrolled
- 88% Gained knowledge and identified career interests and 83% went on a college visit

ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
To ensure that Latino students are able to focus on academics, La Plaza works with their families to provide referrals, resources, and services for basic needs, health care, and social services.

In 2016:
- 3,021 Unduplicated families were served
- 2,763 of those families received more than 10,649 duplicated services

LA PLAZA SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In 2016, four students were awarded renewable $2,000 scholarships to pursue educational attainment at IUPUI, Franklin College, Indiana University and IUPUI.

ARTS & CULTURE
In 2016, more than 12,000 community members were engaged in La Plaza’s two annual events: FIESTA Indianapolis and Night of the Americas to celebrate and enhance Latino culture in Central Indiana.
2016 FINANCIALS

INCOME: $5,688,722
- Grants 9%
- United Way 3%
- Rental Income 1%
- Special Events 3%
- In-Kind Support 1%
- Endowment 82%
- Other 1%

EXPENSES: $872,389
- Administrative 22%
- Programs 63%
- Fundraising 15%

$5,419,960
Grant Money Received in 2016
2016 LA PLAZA DONORS

$10,000+
- Children's Bureau of Indianapolis
- City of Indianapolis Community Development Block Grants
- Eli Lilly & Company Foundation
- Eskenazi Health
- Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Honda Manufacturing of Indiana
- McDonald’s
- United Way of Greater Indianapolis
- USA Funds

$5,000-$9,999
- Jose Antonio Alas
- Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP
- Best Buy Children’s Foundation
- Indianapolis Foundation a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Eskenazi Health
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
- Fifth Third Bank
- HealthNet, Inc.
- Huntington Bank
- Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
- Indianapolis Power & Light
- Kroger
- MDwise
- Mary Riggs Neighborhood Center
- Moorehead Family Foundation
- Nicholas H. Noyes Jr. Memorial Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana
- Vincennes University
- Women’s Fund

$1,000-$4,999
- AT&T
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Consulado de Mexico
- Christel DeHaan Family Foundation
- Diane Cruz-Burke
- Diversity Roundtable of Central Indiana
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- ECU Staffing
- Lori Efroyan-Aguilera and Sergio Aguiera
- Elwood Staffing
- Fidelity Charitable
- Financial Center Credit Union
- Finish Line
- Liliana N. Gehring

$500-$999
- Keyla Alessio
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Benevse LLC Marketing
- Cynthia Noemi Cardona
- El Pilar Restaurant
- Farm Bureau Insurance
- Financial Center
- Claudia Fuentes for Treasurer
- Thomas Patrick Gannon
- Antojitos & Marco Guzman
- Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
- Job Corps
- Lee & Fairman LLP
- Scott K Jkragness
- E. Angeles Martinez Mier
- James & Sharon McCarthy
- Patricia Morita Mullaney
- Munoz Legal
- Manuel Lopez
- Synergy

$100-$499
- ACLU Indiana
- Timothy Adams

LEADERSHIP
- Miriam Acevedo Davis, President & CEO
- Dulce Vega, Director of Programs

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
- Rose Ohiami, Community Resource Specialist (Americorps)
- Breanna Rodriguez, Community Resource Specialist
- Elizabeth Morales, Receptionist

EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Carmen Rodriguez, Education Specialist
- Alyssa Luna, Education Specialist
- Ali Campbell, Education Specialist

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IN-KIND
- Indianapolis Public Schools

La Plaza
Strengthening Youth, Families, and Community
8902 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
P: 317.890.3292
www.LaPlazaIndy.org

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