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# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



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Creating a community of  
**compasión** and **comunicación**.

# OUR MISSION:

*Building a community of dignity for families  
to realize their own success.*



Dear Todos Juntos Amigos,

Thank you for making 2017-18 another remarkable year for our *escuelita*!

This August marks the beginning of a decade of service. As you can imagine, we are over the moon with pride over the strides we have made as an organization, and for the accomplishments of the more than 1,200 students we have served throughout the years.

As we begin our 10th year, we cannot help but reflect on the incredible work of our community. Our dedicated staff has done a magnificent job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services. Our committed Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to strengthen our long-term vision and goals. And our partners, donors, and friends have helped create a holistic approach to our dual-generation work (2 Gen), breaking down isolation and barriers, and creating a community of support for our families.

When I started the Center ten years ago, I could not have known just how meaningful and relevant this work would be today - especially to our immigrant and refugee families. And although we've accomplished so much, there is still more work to be done.

The path to poverty begins at an early age when children from low-income families do not have access to the same opportunities as their more advantaged peers. It continues when parents themselves struggle to access social and economic opportunities. This is especially true for immigrants who have to learn how to navigate new communities and fragmented social services, all while struggling to understand the language of their new home. Since the beginning, Todos Juntos has understood that providing services and support to both children and parents can lead to better economic and educational outcomes for the whole family.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. As we look ahead to the next year, we ask that you continue helping put our mission into action, maybe by giving mock-citizenship tests to adult students; or by reading to our littlest learners, or simply by telling others about the little school in East Austin working to change the future of our city. Thank you wholeheartedly for being part of our dual-generation community. Together we accomplish so much more!

Mil gracias,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Collazo".

Christina Collazo  
Founder & Executive Director

# WHY WE WORK WITH FAMILIES

**Why Todos Juntos Exists:** Todos Juntos was created as a way to reach parents and their children earlier in life when brain development and family bonds are most critical. We exist to connect the disconnected and to create a community where the whole family is supported and engaged.

**How Todos Juntos Reaches Families:** The Center provides three core programs: English as a Second Language instruction for adults, Early Childhood Education, and a "Mami & Me" program where parents learn about child development and interact with their children in a variety of educational activities.

**Why Todos Juntos' Dual Generation Work Matters:** There is a growing consensus that children cannot thrive in homes where parents struggle to make ends meet, and low-income parents cannot succeed without meaningful support for their children. Todos Juntos is the first (*intensive*) step on a family's path to new opportunities.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### CHILDREN

Our Early Childhood Education program offers classes that teach children, ages 18 months to 4 years, the skills they need to be Pre-K ready while fostering a love of reading and learning. And on average, children gained 11 months of vocabulary skills in 8 months.

### ADULTS

Our Adult English as a Second Language Program offers multi-level English classes to local adults and also helps them become Austin Community College students. Classes are taught by professional instructors, provided by Austin Community College. On average, 85% of students advance to the next level on the first try.

### FAMILIES

Our Mami & Me program utilizes the "Abriendo Puertas" parenting curriculum, and empowers parents to transform their strengths into tools that will help them support their children. Through this culturally relevant program, parents and children engage in meaningful learning opportunities to foster a richer bond.

## STRONGER FAMILIES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Studies show that **\$1 invested** in quality early childhood education **saves taxpayers \$9** in future costs.



**Lack of English language skills is a barrier to employment.** The Texas Workforce Commission estimates the need for adult ESL will double by 2040.

**Parental confidence predicts long-term success.** The children of parents who are confident in their ability to support and provide for the family are less likely to exhibit behavioral problems even as teens.



**In Travis County, 42 percent of all children under six years of age are living in low-income families.** By building up families' language skills, preparing kids for school, and parents to actively participate in their community, we help stop childhood adversity before it begins.

# OUR 2017-2018 IMPACT



152 Austinites  
Served



31 program  
partners



85 volunteers



22,982 hours of instruction  
and 2,219 volunteer hours



Our staff is 100% bilingual and averages 6 years of service  
at Todos Juntos



## Retention Rates:

**Adults** - 74%

**Children** - 86%

**Families** - 86%



## 2017-2018 Student Achievements:

**82%** of adult students passed their end of course exam, advancing to the next level of ESL

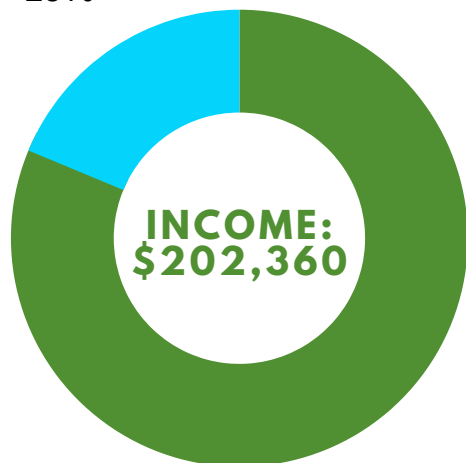
**100%** children overcame separation anxiety and on average children gained 11 months of vocabulary skills in 8 months

**98%** of parents reported that their relationship with their child had improved since enrolling at Todos Juntos and families logged 22,000 home reading minutes

# 2017-2018 IN NUMBERS

Individuals

19%



Foundations

81%

Together, we raised **\$202,360** which allowed **52 children** to attend high-quality early childhood programming; while **100 adults** learned English; and **47 parents** built stronger family relationships.

*"I love it here because motivated mothers can learn English while their children are learning in bilingual classrooms next door. My students feel safe and comfortable here." Elena, ESL instructor*



# SUCCESS FOR TODOS JUNTOS IS

## CHILDREN

who are bilingual and bicultural,  
who are prepared socially and  
emotionally, who love reading, and  
who are school-ready.

## ADULTS

who have the confidence,  
workforce skills, language skills,  
and social connections to  
successfully navigate the  
communities they live in.

## FAMILIES

who are stronger; parents who  
know how to advocate for their  
children and support them in  
school and in life; and families  
who value education for  
generation after generation.

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE SAYING

*"Attending class at Todos Juntos is important for me because I am learning to read and write in English and to communicate with my peers. I also learn about other organizations and resources that invite us to participate in their services." Soraya, adult ESL student*

*"I have learned that Todos Juntos is more than just a physical space where learning happens. It is also a place where we all feel supported socially and emotionally, as well as academically." Janet, ESL instructor*

*"At Todos Juntos I learn every day. I feel more comfortable attending appointments, and understand almost everything!" Anonymous, Adult ESL student*



## OUR FRIENDS

- AARP
- Betsy Abell
- Elisabeth Adams
- Amazon Smile
- Anonymous
- Megan Arnold
- Daniel Arredondo
- ASK Foundation
- Ensy Atarod
- Austin University Area Rotary Club
- Austin Rotary Foundation
- Mary Bell
- Benge-Hury Family Foundation
- Sally Blue
- Blue Owl Brewing

- Barbra Boeta
- Anonymous
- Laura Brown
- Luke Browning
- Helen Bryan
- Janet & Burnie Burner
- Robert Caldwell
- Vivian Caldwell
- Olga Campos Benz
- Rosa Cerda
- Charles Clay
- Keith Cohan
- Brooke Coleman
- Anonymous
- Ashley Cooper

- Jenny Corbin
- Glenn Corser
- Ann Daly
- Aaron Davidson
- Rebekah Davis
- Marce Del Toro
- Amelia Delgado
- Ellen Dorsey
- Roger Edmondson
- Erica Ekwurzel
- Phil Ellett
- Barbara Ellis
- Lisa and Ken Ellis
- Emmanuel United Methodist Church
- Michelle Evans

# OUR FRIENDS (cont.)

Soledad Fernandez-Whitechurch

Juan Flores

Frank Freeman

Frost Bank

Suzanne Fulton

Michael Gamez

Elda Garcia

Gary Gilmer

Robert Greenfield

Diana Greenfield

Anonymous

Stephanie Guth

Jean Haggerty

Mike Haggerty

Anonymous

Patsy Harris

Alma Hernandez

Marisela Herrera

Hispanic Impact Fund

Anonymous

Tanya House

Jennie Huerta

Joyce Hurwitz

Mary Ellen Isaacs

Robert Jackson

Mary Alice Jackson

Elizabeth Jimenez

Jode Johnson

JR Johnson

Chris Jordan

The JR Family Trust

Juan in a Million

Robert Kay

Dan Keelan

Anonymous

Kassidy Knight

Terri Koen

Clifton Ladd

Ronald Laforce

Leticia Landa

Laurel Landes

Las Palomas

Hongjoo Lee

Candy Lochridge

David Lofye

Lola Wright Foundation

Kathryn Long

Elena Loria

Ella Luna

Nancy Lyter

Jenifer Marin

Erin Martinson

Jayne Mathias

Mark McCrimmon

Holly and John McDaniel

Linda McDavitt

Raney McKool

McKool Family Giving Fund

Suanne McLellan

Desiree Mejia

Mark Miller

Ivan Milman

Ora Moore

Elizabeth Moore

Gloria Moreno

Janice Newell

Anonymous

Cynthia Nieto

NXP Heat

Oak Hill United Methodist Women

George Olshavsky

Anonymous

Jonathon Olshavsky

Crystal Palomino

Clare Pardue

Amanda Patel

Mary Jude and Ken Peterson

Mary Ellen Pietruszynski

Pat Popovich

Pamela Powell

Claudia Ramirez

Corey Rhoden

Sofia Roberts

Brenda Robillard

Aja Salazar

Gregory Salinas

Amber Scarborough

Dan Sharphorn

Christina Shih

Cynthia Smith

Sooch Foundation

Craig Snook

Ingrid Sprangle

St. David's Foundation

Larkin Takett

The Long Foundation

The Patrick and Beatrice

Haggerty Foundation

The Tapestry Foundation

Anonymous

Todos Juntos Students

Thundercloud Subs

Art Trevino

Elliott Turnbull

United Way for Greater Austin

Veronica Uriegas

Frances Valderas

Anonymous

Kristen Vassallo

Roland Villarreal

Sarah Warner

Rayma Wenger

Noah Wheeler

Jules Williams

Victoria Wilson

Barbara Wilson Clay

Todd Withers

Megan Woodburn

Sang Yoo

Tim C York

Margarita Zavala

Charles Zeller

*"Thank you to all who support this  
program that lets us have better  
opportunities in this country.  
Your donation is not money  
spent, it's an investment."  
Ruth, adult ESL student*



# OUR COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

Ascension  
Austin Community College  
Armstrong Community Music School  
American Gateways  
AmeriCorps  
Austin Fire Department  
Austin Police Department  
Austin Public Library  
BookSpring  
Deloitte Austin  
Economic Growth Business Incubator  
Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
Frost Bank  
Integral Care  
Kendra Scott

Kids in Cars  
KLRU  
Leap of Joy  
Literacy Coalition of Central Texas  
Mama Lingua  
St. Edward's University  
St. Edward's University S.E.R.V.E.  
St. David's Foundation's Dental Program  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
United Way of Greater Austin  
University of Texas' Steve Hicks School of Social Work  
YWCA Austin  
Zoofari

# OUR VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIPS

Dora Ancira  
Deloitte Austin  
Jason Cerillo  
Christ Church  
Emily Fernandez  
Elda Garcia  
Esther Garcia  
Diana Greenfield  
Robert Greenfield  
Joel Guerrero  
Brandon Hervert

Johnson & Sekin  
Kathy Long  
Ella Luna & Family  
Ellie Marin  
Yessica Marroquin  
Kerry McGillicuddy  
Cynthia Nieto  
Rocio Ramirez  
Marizza Rodriguez  
Rotary District 5870  
St. Edward's SERVE  
Ingrid Sprangle

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carmel Borders  
Charley Clay  
Yolanda Correa  
Roger Edmondson  
Erica V. Ekwurzel  
Dr. Pritesh Gandhi

Jean Haggerty  
Toni Holder  
J.R. Johnson  
Dr. Megan Olshavsky  
Paula Salinas  
Dan Sharporn

# OUR TEAM

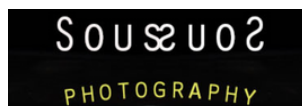
Christina Collazo  
Carol Consla  
Janet Couvillion  
Marce del Toro  
Elaine Eidelberg  
Soledad Fernandez-  
Whitechurch  
Ivett Garcia  
Lupita Garcia

Raney McKool  
Amber Miller  
Ana Morales  
Leah Pierce  
Marizza Rodriguez  
Donna Shepperd  
Elena Vallejo  
Ronnie Varela

*"Todos Juntos provides me with a community of friends and colleagues, and I get to feel like I am really making a real difference." Raney McKool, Partner and Volunteer Coordinator*



# IN-KIND DONORS



## CLOSING REMARKS

Because of YOU, Todos Juntos has been able to do this work for **10 years**! Your investment in Todos Juntos makes it possible to offer families their own path to upward mobility and brighter futures. **Thank you for helping us connect families to their community and for being an important part of this amazing journey!**

We hope to see you at our  
10 Year Anniversary party to celebrate  
**The Power of Language on February 7, 2019!**

Save the date:  
February 7,  
2019