

A *home* with
no borders
2018 Annual Report





Vision

A home with no borders, impacting lives to create powerful communities

Mission

To empower our community—Latinx immigrants alongside individuals and families of all backgrounds—through education, access to critical services and advocacy, working together to create a just and inclusive society.



History

We are a human services agency rooted in the settlement house tradition, strengthening Chicago’s immigrant communities with wraparound services since 1870.

ON THE COVER: Legal receptionist Veronica Robles looks across the US/Mexico border during a Citizenship & Immigration department visit to El Paso, TX. See page 8 for more about the visit.

Dear Friends,

Next year we will celebrate 150 years of impact in Chicago, and it is impossible to look ahead without reflecting on the work that has already been done.

Erie Neighborhood House has served as a home with no borders for a century and a half, supporting people with the tools and resources they need to build a foundation for greater well-being.

We adhered to this blueprint for creating proud, powerful communities in 2018, reaching nearly 18,000 people all across our city.

We provided legal consultations and represented folks in immigration court and asylum cases.

We mentored young people and helped them thrive, expanding college and career possibilities in the process.

We created greater access to trauma-informed therapy and mental health resources in Chicago’s black and brown communities.

We led cooking workshops and facilitated nutrition education to promote health and wellness in our communities.

We delivered high-quality instruction to children and youth and helped adult learners excel in the classroom and in the workplace.

Transformative work like this doesn’t happen alone or in isolation. It takes an entire community, united around a shared vision. We are grateful to everyone—staff, community partners, volunteers, donors and advocates alike—who helped people achieve their potential, both here at Erie House and in the communities in which we work.

Thank you for the important role you play in our work toward a more just, inclusive society. We can’t wait to celebrate our 150th Anniversary with you in 2020.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Chernawsky
Kirstin Chernawsky
Executive Director

Patricia Perez
Patricia Perez
President, Board of Directors



Programs

Early Childhood Education

Building kindergarten readiness through NAEYC-accredited care and instruction

School-Age

Fostering social, emotional, and academic growth for children ages 5-12

READS

Tutoring and activities to develop stronger readers in grades 1-3

Youth Options Unlimited (YOU)

Academic support, mentoring and leadership development for youth ages 12-18

Community Literacy and Tutoring

Hands-on tutoring and support for adult learners

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Empowering adults with language and literacy skills

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

A project-based curriculum to expand learning potential

Workforce Development

Training for careers in manufacturing, healthcare and supply chain logistics

Health and Leadership

Workshops and education for stronger, healthier families and communities

Proyecto Cuidate

Violence prevention, counseling and family services through a restorative justice lens

Citizenship and Immigration

Classes, workshops and consultations to support the immigrant community

Buen HOGAR

Culturally responsive resources for residents seeking affordable housing





Clockwise from top left: YOU alum Alex Román, now an engineer, speaks at the Future of Promise awards dinner; Rose Room students celebrate at a ceremony for kindergarten-bound preschool children; volunteers work alongside school-age students to develop their personal narrative through a My Story Matters scrapbook project; READS students from Little Village visit the Cernan Earth and Space Center; a group of ESL students volunteer at the Marillac St. Vincent food pantry in Garfield Park.



Clockwise from top left: Rosa Sanchez (speaking) and Proyecto Cuidate staff advocate for increased mental health access through the Collaborative for Community Wellness; Health & Leadership hosts a Día de los Niños event for 120 kids and families; citizenship class students attend an ICIRR summit on immigration; three TEAM students who entered Erie House as preschoolers graduate with the Class of 2018; 500 children and families attend the annual Holidays with Heart celebration.

Highlights from 2018

A border that defines home

Four Citizenship and Immigration team members and an Erie House board member flew to El Paso, TX, in October to volunteer with Las Americas, a local agency working in three immigrant detention centers.

Upon arrival, we saw border patrol next to TSA checking passengers' immigration documents and it hit us: We were in a completely different environment than Chicago. Facing the realities of life on the border and working in the detention centers was a first for most of us, so before we got to work Las Americas staff gave us basic training on how to conduct intakes and prepare detainees for their asylum interviews.

Only one or two of the 40+ individuals we met with would ultimately obtain legal representation. I asked our colleagues in El Paso how they continue to do this work given these odds. "There is value in walking with people and giving them information," they responded, "even if they don't end up winning in the end." It was emotionally and mentally draining working in the detention centers, but we tried to keep this sentiment front of mind as the days passed.

I am so incredibly grateful to Las Americas for hosting us and to Teamsters Local 705 and CLINIC for funding this trip. We not only got a first-hand look into detention work—including struggles and constraints due to the complex nature of these cases—but we now have new tools as we implement and expand Erie's own removal defense initiative.

-Jane Lombardi
Director of Citizenship & Immigration

From a scenic overlook above El Paso, TX, people look out over the US/Mexico border and the sprawling lights of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Established in 1987, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center is one of only a handful of non-profits in the El Paso area dedicated to serving the legal needs of low-income immigrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, victims of crime, and families seeking reunification.

In the three El Paso area detention centers Las Americas does intakes with immigrants from all over the world. Many have journeyed thousands of miles, often in very dangerous conditions, to exercise their legal right to seek asylum in the United States. Some will be in the detention center for a few months, others for more than a year. Conditions in detention are stark, and access, even for attorneys, is highly restricted. In the rare instance when a bond is granted, it is often set at levels of \$10,000-\$20,000—virtually impossible for the average asylum seeker to post.

The El Paso jurisdiction, which serves West Texas and much of New Mexico, is one of the most difficult jurisdictions to get asylum in the whole country. Judges there deny more than 90% of asylum petitions, meaning that someone denied in El Paso could win somewhere else with the exact same case.

LAS AMERICAS



Seeing those people who are lining up [at the border] to get their chance to seek asylum, and knowing what's waiting for them—that they're just going to get ripped away from each other and put in different detention centers and held...Just knowing that that's what's ahead is heartbreaking.

- Megan Davis, Erie House Immigration Attorney



From left, Erie House immigration attorney Megan Davis, legal receptionist Veronica Robles, and legal representative Megan Helbling in front of Las Americas

Legal representation is the single most important factor in determining if someone will win or lose their case, but nationally only 37% of those in removal cases secure legal representation.

Additionally, detention exacerbates the challenges immigrants face:

- Detained individuals in removal proceedings are nearly five times less likely to secure legal counsel than those not detained
- Detained immigrants with representation were twice as likely to obtain immigration relief than their unrepresented counterparts
- Represented immigrants who were never detained were nearly 5 times more likely than their unrepresented counterparts to obtain relief

The numbers bring home the importance of the legal work organizations like Erie House and Las Americas are doing, and the incredible need that exists for these services. They can be daunting, but add to the sense of joy when:

- We screen DACA applicants and 22% of them are eligible for permanent relief
- We win a deportation case (Erie's first!)
- We provide 1251 legal consultations
- We take on 13 asylum and deportation cases
- We work with clients like (from left) Maria, Sheila, Martin, Gloria and Caro and they finally receive their U-Visa or naturalization



As of March 2019:

33,116

pending removal cases in the Chicago court

869,013

pending removal cases nationwide

736 days

average wait time for removal cases

It's important to listen to an asylum seeker as a human being, as opposed to a number, and to understand that what they would have to go back to is so much worse than walking 1,500 miles in a caravan. To be able to bring [this experience] back and tell people is fantastic for me.

- Carlos Ramirez, Erie House Board member



143 affordable housing and CHA workshops conducted in **5** community areas

100% of seniors graduated high school and gained college acceptance

Erie House served people from over **60** different countries

306 citizenship students and clients became US citizens



258 DACA renewals were submitted

3 gold ratings:

- Gold Circle of Quality - Childcare (Illinois ExceleRate)
- Gold Circle of Quality - School-Age (Illinois ExceleRate)
- Gold Star - YOU TEAM Program (MENTOR Illinois)



96



Know Your Rights presentations reached

9940 community members

153 adult learners were paired with



123 volunteer community literacy tutors

85 Proyecto Cuidate clients received individual therapy, with care ranging from 12 weeks to a year.

92% of Pre-K students were identified as "kindergarten ready" by the time they graduated from the program

85% of Adult Basic Education students improved their TABE reading score



49 healthy cooking demos reached **565** adults in the community

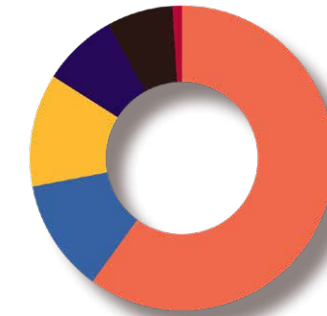
Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE	As of June 30,	
	2018	2017
Private Sources		
Foundation, Corporations and Trusts	965,192	1,529,540
Individuals & Board	96,017	158,593
Congregations	15,294	34,923
Special Events	694,158	519,701
Donated Goods & Services	838,862	235,303
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	120,000	94,000
Government Fees/Grants	5,514,921	5,050,212
Other Income and Program Fees	632,997	591,447
Interest and Dividends	107,059	87,656
Unrealized and Realized Gains (Losses) on Investments	153,745	287,239
Miscellaneous Income	935	1,008
TOTAL REVENUE	9,139,180	8,589,622

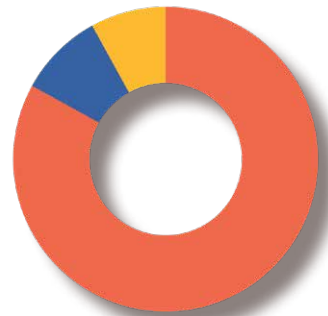
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Child Care	3,405,395	3,283,134
After School	989,394	837,777
Youth	464,683	403,846
Adult	1,285,756	1,054,500
Citizenship & Immigration	727,826	516,351
Workforce	418,858	404,679
Health, Leadership & Advocacy	255,974	206,087
Total Program Cost	7,547,886	6,706,374
Supporting Services		
Management & General	415,521	454,090
Management & General		
Donated Legal Services	421,252	-
Fundraising	735,320	666,753
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,119,979	7,827,217

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Net assets - beginning of year	7,111,860	6,349,455
Net assets - end of year	7,131,061	7,111,860
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	19,201	762,405



Where Funds Come From

- 60% Government
- 12% Other Sources
- 12% Private Contributions
- 8% Special Events
- 7% Program Service Fees
- 1% United Way



How Funds Are Used

- 83% Program
- 9% Management & General
- 8% Fundraising

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

ASSETS	As of June 30,	
	2018	2017
Cash/ Cash Equivalents	1,413,625	1,575,701
Investments	3,018,772	2,835,681
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	1,531,143	1,494,073
Due from Government Agencies	839,187	479,884
Prepaid Expenses	48,675	22,548
Property and Equipment, Net	1,462,239	1,399,738
TOTAL ASSETS	8,313,641	7,807,625

LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	136,153	121,372
Accrued Expenses	191,747	180,092
Advances Refundable	301,180	336,301
Line of Credit	553,500	58,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,182,580	695,765

NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	5,031,774	5,040,573
Temporarily Restricted	1,599,287	1,571,287
Permanently Restricted	500,000	500,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	7,131,061	7,111,860
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	8,313,641	7,807,625

Donors

We are deeply grateful for the generous gifts from our friends and partners. Thanks to your collaboration, kids, adults and families across the city received support to reach their potential and move towards financial, physical and socio-emotional well-being.

\$100,000 & ABOVE

The Chicago Community Trust
IMC Charitable Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
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Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund
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 Oscar & Guadalupe Zepeda
 Larissa Ziemba
 Holly & Daniel Zivin

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In honor of Kathleen Kilbane & Larra Clark
 TJ & Kate Denley

In honor of Randy DeCoursey
 Orchid Strategy Group

In honor of the Erie House Basketball Team
 Ulisses Gutierrez

In honor of Louis Falk
 Melissa Frazin

In honor of Lauren Gersten
 Michael Gersten

In honor of Dan & Barb Hartnett
 Suzan Campbell
 Robert Dirth
 Barry Graham & Adrienne Colvert

In honor of Vanessa Hernandez
 Erika Espinosa

In honor of Theresa Horan
 Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
 Theresa Whalen

In honor of Fritz Jacobs
 Thomas Haskins Jacobs

In honor of Clark Kegley
 Anonymous

In honor of Michael McGlenn
 David Charney

In honor of their team at the Northern Trust
 R. Ernest Mahaffey & Sheila A. Penrose

In honor of Ken Perkins
 Geary Rimmer Vincent Wolf Foundation

In honor of Sandy Pundmann
 The Virginia Seggerman Charitable Fund

In honor of Rafael Ravelo
 Maureen Hellwig

GIFTS IN MEMORY

In memory of Charles & Phyllis Armstrong
 John M. Jacus

In memory of Jean-Pierre Borja
 Ramiro & Geraldine Borja

In memory of Robert A. Gielow
 Alan M. Gunn & Maria V. Pfister

In memory of Elizabeth Isensee
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In memory of Jim & Lynn McClure

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