



## *2019 Annual Report*

# EL CENTRO HISPANO, INC.

## **45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**1974 - 2019**

The mission of El Centro Hispano is to assist, support, and strengthen the Hispanic community; to help them become self-sufficient; and to ease their transition into their new culture while maintaining and enriching their own.

El Centro Hispano has accomplished this from 1974 - 2019 by offering a variety of programs and by presenting bilingual and cross-cultural activities throughout the year.

***Celebrating 45 years of supporting and strengthening the Hispanic community***

# HISTORY OF EL CENTRO HISPANO

---

## Supporting and strengthening the Hispanic community for over 45 years

Since its inception in 1974, the guiding light behind El Centro Hispano has been **Isabel Villar**.



When asked to join members of the Community Action Program in founding an organization designed to assist newly arrived Hispanic immigrants, there was no way Isabel could refuse. Only eight years before, she and her mother and sister had come to the U.S. as political refugees seeking the freedom and opportunities denied them in their native Cuba. As Isabel loves to say, she arrived “with the clothes on her back and a suitcase full of dreams.”

Forced to leave behind her father and brother, Isabel’s early years in this country were not easy. Lonely, disoriented, and with limited English, she felt lost in a big American high school. Convinced, however, that education was the key to her future, she worked hard and eventually won a full scholarship to Manhattanville College. There she blossomed and upon graduation was offered a job as a bilingual teacher in Norwalk, CT. After earning three graduate degrees, Isabel spent many years as a guidance counselor in the Norwalk Public Schools inspiring young people to reach beyond their limits.

Filled with gratitude for all she had been able to achieve in her new life in the U.S., Isabel was eager to help others who found themselves in similar circumstances and so she created El Centro Hispano. Working evenings and weekends, she had to start from scratch. Her youth, inexperience and even her gender presented obstacles she had to overcome.

But, overcome them she did. Starting small with ESL classes and a Girl Scout troop, Isabel learned the importance of developing partnerships with other organizations and institutions, and El Centro Hispano began to offer more and more programs to serve the community.

---

The addition of **Judith Aúcar**, a fellow Cuban-American with a very similar background, as Deputy Director in 1978 was a major milestone in El Centro’s early history. Enthusiastic and deeply committed, Judith’s gifts and expertise both complemented and reinforced those of Isabel. Together they accomplished so much more than either could have done alone, and in 2001 El Centro Hispano became an independent non-profit organization with its own Board of Directors.



El Centro Hispano is what it is today because two young Hispanic women wanted to give back to the community that had welcomed and nourished them. Their undying commitment has turned their dream and the dreams of thousands whom they serve into reality.

# About Us

*1974 – 2019*

The most successful organizations, those that thrive and grow, are the ones that remain true to their initial vision while at the same time adapting to the ever-changing needs of the community they serve.

Under the sponsorship of the White Plains Community Action Program, El Centro Hispano first opened its doors at the Chapel Hall at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church on a cold January day in 1974. This fledgling organization was created by a group of compassionate citizens who realized that the growing Hispanic community of White Plains was in urgent need of a variety of social services that no one was offering.

Those citizens were wise enough to understand that their first job, their most important job, was to listen. They undertook a needs assessment and asked the members of the community to tell them what they perceived their needs to be. Very early on El Centro established an Advisory Council drawn from members of the community. The Council was an invaluable guide in planning and implementing programs and services offered by El Centro.

Forty five years later El Centro Hispano is one of the most active social service agencies devoted to supporting and strengthening the Hispanic community in White Plains and Westchester County. We have grown and expanded along with the Hispanic population of the area.

In four and a half decades El Centro Hispano has undergone many changes, eliminating programs that were no longer needed or appropriate, instituting new ones, and expanding others. But we have never lost sight of our mission to strengthen and support Hispanics as they adapt to their new life in the United States. Right from the beginning our work has focused on six crucial areas of concern: housing, employment, health, education empowerment, community outreach and legal services.

We hope long-time supporters of El Centro will find some wonderful old memories stirring and that those who have become involved more recently will gain a deeper appreciation of the path we have taken to get to where we are today.

## **The Early Years (1974 – 1985)**

Determination and enthusiasm made up for limited resources and a small staff as El Centro Hispano first reached out to the Hispanic Community of White Plains. In addition to the housing and jobs center, clients of El Centro could take advantage of translation services for medical appointments and assistance filling out official forms and dealing with public and private agencies, a new mother's program, classes in English as a Second Language, a bilingual Girl Scout Troop, a Senior Center, and instruction in sewing and embroidery - complete with a fashion show. Interns from Pace University began working with us and in 1980 El Centro Hispano's Scholarship Program was established.

## **The Second Decade (1986-1997)**

Our experiences during those first ten years convinced us that we were truly making a difference in the lives of our clients and the community as a whole. And we were aware that new needs were arising all the time. In collaboration with other organizations we began co-sponsoring an Annual Health Fair and we also established an Emergency Food Bank for those in crisis. The Pace University/El Centro Hispano Outreach Program was organized to encourage Hispanic high school students to further their education. We served as a vital link for those applying for citizenship or permanent residency by assisting them with the preparation of their documents before they were forwarded to the Diocesan Immigration Center. We began offering conferences to help Hispanic parents better understand their children's public schools. It was during this time that the Director and Assistant Director began hosting El Centro Hispano Informa – a TV program on Channel 14 designed to bring topics of immediate concern to the larger Hispanic community.

## **Spreading Our Wings (1998-2007)**

These were exciting years at El Centro Hispano. After 26 years under the auspices of the Community Action Program, we became an independent, self-governing entity. The Advisory Board was replaced by our own Board of Directors. It was also a time of important changes. As it became apparent that in order to succeed in the modern world, more and more job-seekers would need to demonstrate familiarity with computers, El Centro took up the challenge: we began offering computer classes for adults at the Mercy College Annex in White Plains. In conjunction with the YMCA we also initiated a Culture through Technology Program for high school students. To support families as they struggle to adapt to their new lives we offered workshops in Parenting Development Strategies. The Family Excel Program provided structure and guidance for Hispanic middle school children and their parents in an after-school setting. The Pace Women's Justice Center assisted clients of El Centro who had been victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

## **Leading The Way (2008-2019)**

So great was the demand for our computer classes that in 2008 El Centro Hispano built a state-of-the-art Technology Center in our facilities at St. Bernard's Church. In addition to 3 levels of computer classes we also offer Introduction to Accounting and QuickBooks. Classes are always full. We are convinced that education is the key that will enable our clients to fulfill their potential and become productive members of the community. El Centro Hispano sponsored SAT/ACT preparation classes. We started a Summer Literacy Program for second and third graders who need extra help to get a good start in school and we also run an Early Literacy Program for kindergartners and first-graders. We sponsor three mentoring and tutorial programs for middle and high school students (The Lanza My Older Sister/Brother Programs, and the Lanza Saturday Academy). Clients of El Centro have been able to get assistance in applying for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act as well as legal assistance with a variety of issues. Almost 100 families take advantage of our free food distribution program on Thursday afternoons. Thanks to our partnership with BOCES we offer two daytime ESL classes for adults and a combined beginning and intermediate class on Thursday evenings. In 2019, 529 students were enrolled in these classes, but we desperately needed more space. We began to offer new ESL classes in donated space at the First Baptist Church in White Plains. On September 30 El Centro Hispano opened its first Extension Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Elmsford, NY, beginning a new era for El Centro Hispano's future, looking forward to many new opportunities to serve.

## **Looking Ahead (2020-...)**

Demand for the kinds of services El Centro Hispano offers continues to grow. We have been offering English classes for adults for over 45 years. Thanks to our partnership with BOCES, we were able to meet the demands of more English classes by providing an additional course Friday mornings with our Citizenship class. Our educational programs are being expanded to better meet the needs of the parents, helping them to better navigate the technology enhanced school system. Currently, El Centro Hispano is incorporating new technology to better expand its services outside of White Plains. With the use of social media, and other online based platforms, El Centro seeks to aid new clientele with readily available resources.

## **What does the future hold?**

In many ways, that depends on the support we receive from all our donors. El Centro Hispano has always operated on a very tight budget and we stretch our resources through partnerships with many public and private agencies and organizations. We have also been blessed to receive financial support in the form of grants from local, county and state governments, foundations and charitable institutions. However, it is the generous financial support of all our donors who share in our commitment that enables us to carry out our mission to serve those in need of our services.

The 32 programs currently offered by El Centro Hispano are changing the lives of our clients through ... Education, Technology, Support Services, Cultural Events, Outreach, Counseling and Empowerment, and through Special Activities. They include English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency Prep, and computer classes; tutorial and mentoring programs; scholarships to graduating high school

seniors; literacy support for our youngest clients; Girl and Boy Scouts troops; educational and informational workshops; bi-monthly food distribution; legal assistance and a Westchester County Affordable Care Program; sponsorship of cultural events; as well as translation services and assistance in finding housing and employment.

## Changing Lives Through... Education

### Scholarship Program

Since 1980, El Centro has awarded **\$477,550** in scholarship money to **541** deserving high school seniors. In 2019, **17** students benefited from the Scholarship Program. We are extremely proud of our unique program, which helps recipients with their post-secondary education. Students who are considered for scholarships must have both a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher and involvement in El Centro Hispano. They must complete an application form and write an essay. The essay and the student's involvement at El Centro play an important role in determining how much money the Scholarship Committee allocates to each recipient.

In addition to the above scholarships, El Centro Hispano has also awarded scholarships to the **15** college students who volunteer in the Lanza My Older Sister/My Older Brother (*Mi Hermana Mayor/Mi Hermano Mayor*) Mentoring Tutorial Program and Saturday Academy during the 2018-2019 school year. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year that the college mentors/tutors have benefitted from these scholarships. El Centro has awarded **\$247,000** in scholarship money to **160** mentors/tutors.

Previous scholarship recipients have "paid back" their scholarship to El Centro Hispano in many ways – by successfully completing their post-secondary education, by contributing to El Centro Hispano when they begin work after college, and by serving on our Board of Directors (two of our current Board members are former recipients).

### Classes in English as Second Language & High School Equivalency Prep

El Centro has offered English classes for adults for the last 45 years. Presently, thanks to a partnership with BOCES, we offer at El Centro Hispano's Technology Center a daytime BOCES class for adults from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon; two combined evening classes every Thursday and Saturday evening from 6:00-10:00 p.m., a morning class on Sundays from 8:00 a.m.-12 p.m. and a Citizenship class on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. An Advanced daytime class is also being offered at the First Baptist Church of White Plains, Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

We also offer an HSE (High School Equivalency) class in Spanish, Monday – Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year. Last year a total of **529** students were enrolled in the day and evening English, HSE, and Citizenship classes.

### Manhattanville College/El Centro Hispano Tutorial Program

Last year Hispanic students at White Plains High School received academic support during the school year through this tutorial program, which was inaugurated in 1989. The program, which helps students successfully complete their studies at the high school, is in place this year also. The students are provided with tutoring, information on career opportunities, and with direct assistance regarding post-secondary educational options, college choices, application procedures, and financial aid. From January through June we had an enrollment of **128** students. From September through December and continuing this year, **90** students are currently enrolled. That number will increase as the school year progresses. In 2019 the program was funded by the White Plains Public Schools, Manhattanville College and the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

## **The Lanza My Older Sister - Mi Hermana Mayor Mentoring/Tutorial Program**

This mentoring/tutorial program, which was inaugurated in the fall of 2010, pairs **20** sixth grade female Hispanic students at the White Plains Middle School – Eastview Campus with Hispanic “sisters” attending Manhattanville College, Lehman College, Mercy College, Iona College, Manhattan College, Brooklyn College, City College and Westchester Community College as well as White Plains and Scarsdale High Schools. These young women and volunteers encourage the academic success of their “sisters” and support their college aspirations as they tutor them in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, English Language Arts, French and Spanish. Program participants are regularly exposed to community/corporate role models in the form of guest speakers. At least once a month, a special female guest speaker is invited into the classroom setting, providing students with firsthand accounts of what it means to be academically and professionally successful. The program was designed around an environment that values the students’ Latino heritage, culture, and language and demands full parent participation and commitment. It operates three times a week (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. during the school year.

It is a collaborative program between El Centro Hispano and the White Plains Public Schools. In 2019 it was funded by the Lanza Family Foundation, the Patrino Foundation, Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, and the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

## **The Lanza My Older Brother - Mi Hermano Mayor Tutorial Program**

Because of the success of The Lanza My Older Sister Program, a similar program was designed to support Hispanic sixth grade boys attending the White Plains Middle School. The program was inaugurated in September 2013 at the Middle School’s Eastview Campus. The program is offered three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) during the school year from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Like the girls in the program, the boys have their own set of special male guest speakers that provide them with insights about how to navigate the future to be academically and professionally successful. In 2019 the program was funded by the Lanza Family Foundation, the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church and the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

The program pairs **15** sixth grade male Hispanic students with tutors from surrounding colleges, and White Plains High School. The older tutors encourage the success of their “brothers” and tutor them in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, English Language Arts, French and Spanish.

## **The Perkins My Older Sister/Brother – Mi Hermana (o) Mayor Saturday Academy**

The Academy, inaugurated in 2012 and redesigned in 2013, is an intensive Saturday tutorial program for middle and high school students from the White Plains Public Schools. It includes focused one-on-one tutoring in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Spanish, and French.

In **2019**, **50** Hispanic seventh through twelfth grade students participated in the tutorial program from January - June. A total of **50** students were enrolled in the program from September – December. In **2019** the program was funded by the Perkins Family.

## **Summer Literacy Academy**

El Centro Hispano inaugurated a Summer Literacy Academy for Hispanic children in July of 2010. The program offers reading comprehension support and enrichment activities to second and third graders four days a week for two months during the summer. The Academy is divided into two sessions of two hours each: one session for **25** second graders Mondays and Wednesdays and another session for **25** third graders Tuesdays and Thursdays. Since 2014 this program has been housed at Post Road Elementary School, thanks to the generosity of the Post Road staff and the White Plains School System.

The children in the program were selected because their performance in school and on standardized tests demonstrated a need for support in reading. They came from families where the parents were not able to help them because of their own unfamiliarity with English, because they were working several jobs and did not have time to help their children, or because of lapses in their own education. In 2019 the Academy was funded by the Westchester County Youth Bureau and St. Faith's House Foundation.

### **The Marcia and Richard Cohen Early Literacy Program**

This afterschool program began in January 2013 thanks to the generosity of Sr. St. John Delany, Associate Professor at Pace University's School of Education and Director of the Center for Literacy Enrichment. It serves **10** kindergarteners and **15** first grade Hispanic students from September through May. The program offers pre-literacy and literacy support two days a week during the school year from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to kindergarten children and two days a week to first graders at Post Road Elementary School. All of the components of the curriculum aid students to thrive in the program and in school. The goals of the program are to help students with weaker literacy skills, build confidence in tackling difficult assignments, create a fun learning environment that keeps the interest of every student, encourage strong writing ability, and have every student reach reading level by the end of the program. Several volunteers from El Centro Hispano help with the tutoring. The program was funded by St. Faith's Foundation in 2019.

### **Bilingual Girl Scouts Troop**

This troop, founded in 1974, is the oldest continually running program of El Centro Hispano. In 2019, our Girl Scouts troop was composed of **66** actively participating girls: **15** Daisies, **7** Brownies, **12** Juniors, **23** Cadettes, and **9** Seniors /Ambassadors. The girls met twice a month for one hour and a half on Fridays for a total of 29 meetings throughout the year. The Girl Scouts participated in scouting activities and performed countless hours of community service while learning to become better citizens.

### **Bilingual Scouts Pack and Troop**

This past year (2019), El Centro Hispano's Pack and El Centro Hispano's Scouts Troop were composed of the following numbers reflecting the integration of actively participating boys: **8** Lions, **4** Tigers, **7** Wolves, **6** Bears, **7** Webelos, **13** Arrow of Light, **7** Boy Scouts, and **1** Eagle Scout for a total of **52** children. The pack met every other Tuesday for one hour and a half for the first half of 2019 and every other Thursday for one hour and a half for the second half of the year. The Scouts Troop meets every Friday for the same length of time. They participated in scouting activities, cultural events, and educational programs. Like the Girl Scouts troop, they also performed countless hours of community service while learning to become better citizens.

For the first time in El Centro Hispano's history, Henry Valencia, former Boy Scout, achieved the greatest honor any Scout can obtain by becoming El Centro Hispano's **first** Eagle Scout. In order to receive such a high honor, Henry chose the North Street Family Services Day Care as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout's Project. This project required a fundraiser to purchase \$3,000 worth of materials and was completed with the help of 44 volunteers and 493 hours of labor.

Henry's perseverance, discipline, and leadership allowed him to demonstrate his true capabilities as a Scout. El Centro Hispano congratulates Henry for his incredible feat, and for not only making history, but for paving the way for future Scout generations. Congrats, Henry!

### **Educational Workshops**

Since the early 80's, educational workshops have been offered to parents of children in the White Plains Public Schools. Planned together with staff from the White Plains Public Schools, the workshops were held on weekday evenings at the Chapel Hall at St. Bernard's Church. This year parents attended sessions on college planning and post-secondary school options, and how to apply for financial aid. The workshops were led by school district staff.

In addition to these workshops, parents of all students in all our educational programs are required to attend an orientation training meeting during the year on what steps to take to ensure their children's academic success.

In 2019, El Centro began a collaborative workshop with the guidance department of Eastview Middle School. For the parents of the students in the Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor programs, a special presentation has been programmed to take place after each quarter. The purpose of these presentations is to aid parents with their concerns about navigating the new school technology and finding ways to optimize their children's academic well-being from home.

## Workshops on Other Issues

Since the 1980's, El Centro has offered workshops on nutrition, major illnesses affecting Hispanics, domestic violence, rights of immigrants, abuse of women, the stock market, housing trends, safe communities, investments, and safe banking practices. These workshops have drawn hundreds of community members eager to learn.

Representatives of the White Plains Department of Public Safety occasionally visit El Centro Hispano's Computer Class graduations or come to our bi-monthly food distribution to explain the different services and programs available in Westchester for the victims of domestic violence. Also, representatives from White Plains Hospital, County Executive George Latimer, Hon. David Buchwald, Hon. Andrea Stewart Cousins, The Cornell Cooperative Extension, Formé Urgent Care, and several other community partners made presentations about their services to the food recipients.

## Internship Program for High School and College Students

The Internship Program, which began in 1985, has included college students majoring in Spanish from Pace University, Purchase College, Manhattanville College, and Berkeley College and High school students from White Plains High School and Scarsdale High School. In 2019, the program was revised to be a paid internship, primarily for high school students. The new Internship Program will not only expose our interns to the Spanish language and culture of our clients, but will allow them to accumulate working experience. Already, El Centro has hired its first intern right before the Holiday Season.

# Changing Lives Through... Technology

## Technology Center

**Our state-of-the-art Technology Center has been in constant demand since the first class began there in May 2009. This has been made possible thanks to the support of our County Executive George Latimer and many other individuals and agencies.**

The Technology Center is open for instruction seven days a week and serves adults, seniors and school-age children. It is equipped with:

- Seventeen computer stations
- One laptop
- One teacher work station
- Interactive whiteboard
- High speed internet access
- Connectivity to the White Plains Public Schools

## Computer Classes for Adults and Seniors

Last year El Centro offered **12** computer classes: **3** Beginner, **4** Intermediate, **3** Advanced, **1** Accounting and **1** Review. The **154** students who completed the classes received a certificate at the end of each 64-hour long class that they took and were honored at a special “graduation” ceremony.

## Culture through Technology Program

The Culture through Technology Program which began in 2001 met last year on Saturdays at the Technology Center and **20** fourth and fifth graders participated in the program from January - June. **20** students were enrolled in the program from September – December.

Half of the class time is devoted to developing students’ reading ability and to tutoring them and thus strengthening their academic skills. During the rest of the class time, students discuss topics such as: the importance of nutrition, responsibility, bullying, school environment, relationship with parents, manners and etiquette, and global warming. After each discussion, the students talk about how these themes differ across cultures. Every student develops a project as a culmination of their time in the program. The project demonstrates the students’ technological, academic, and cultural knowledge as a result of taking the class.

In September 2014, to continue helping the students who had participated in the program as 4<sup>th</sup> graders and were no longer eligible for the program, we added a new component with the purpose of improving their study skills. The **17** 5th grade students meet every Saturday from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at El Centro Hispano’s Technology Center throughout the school year. In this program, students are taught different study strategies and techniques that they can use to improve their academic progress. Some of the topics that are discussed include: how to be organized, the importance of setting short-term and long-term goals, how to improve reading comprehension, test-taking strategies, and many others. In 2019 the program was funded by the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

## El Centro Hispano Homework Center

After meeting with the Superintendent of the White Plains School System to discuss the digital divide among the students in the school system, El Centro Hispano’s administrators decided to begin a new program where children from the school district can come and complete their homework with the help of college and high school tutors from 3:30 to 5:30 Monday – Thursday. On a daily basis, an average of **9-12** students take advantage of this program, coming regularly to use the computer and receive one-on-one tutoring from students from the White Plains High School.

# Changing Lives through... Services

## Community Service Program

Every year since 2001, White Plains High School students give back to their community and earn community service hours through the Community Service Program at El Centro. They serve as tutors and translators, distribute flyers for special events, and help distribute food, recruit other students and parents to attend events at El Centro, and set up and organize various other activities throughout the year. **220** students registered to perform community service in 2019.

## Weekly Bulletin

Since 1974 El Centro Hispano has published a bilingual page in St. Bernard Church’s weekly bulletin to inform the **700** to **850** Hispanic parishioners who attend Mass each Sunday about all the programs, events, and matters of concern relating to El Centro and the Hispanic community in general.

## Affordable Care Program Assistance

Since October 2014, a bilingual representative of the Westchester County Department of Health has been on site at El Centro one full day a week to offer our clients free assistance in completing the application paperwork for the Affordable Care Program. **113** clients were assisted from January to December 2019. The representative answered clients' questions, helped them to complete application forms, and screened them under the New York State Department of Health Marketplace.

## Legal Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of some of our donors and the initiative of our Board of Directors, an attorney came to El Centro Hispano every Friday for 4 hours from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. to help our clients with issues relating to house repair problems, rent overcharge harassment, general lease questions, and legal advice about immigration issues..

As of December 5, 2019, El Centro Hispano welcomed Robin Bikkal to its Legal Assistance program, where she has been providing legal advice on immigration issues every Thursday at 2:00pm. **223** clients were assisted in 2019.

We want to express our most sincere gratitude to Yani Vilca for working with us for a little over 2 years and for providing our community with this much needed service. We wish her all the best in all of her future endeavors!

## Food Distribution

Last year El Centro distributed **1,500** pounds of bread and bakery products to its clients every Thursday afternoon. This program has been offered since 2011 thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

Since 2013, twice a month, El Centro has also been distributing fresh bread, fruits, dairy products, meat, frozen foods, and vegetables to an average of **88** families each time (averaging **338** individuals). Through a grant from the Giving Circle of Lower Westchester El Centro purchases food from the Food Bank for Westchester for our clients. Last year the Food Bank truck delivered a total of **124,803** pounds of food.

## Dissemination Services

Because of its closeness to and knowledge of the Hispanic community, El Centro Hispano has been called upon since its inception in 1974 by many agencies and organizations in the City of White Plains, including the local school system, the White Plains Public Library, White Plains Hospital and all the Spanish language newspapers, to communicate and disseminate important information or publications to the local Hispanic population.

## Cancer Support

Since 2008, El Centro has supported **57** White Plains residents diagnosed with cancer with a range of services including referrals to cancer specialists, assistance in communicating with doctors and hospitals, and/or with modest monetary help.

## OLMC – El Centro Hispano Initiative

Complying with the request of Pastor Robert Norris from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Elmsford, El Centro Hispano has been operating at this new location since October 2018. El Centro provides employment and housing listings, translations of documents, and registration to all El Centro Hispano's programs every third Saturday of the month from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and every first Sunday of the month for two hours after the church service. The Office is supervised by a staff member from El Centro Hispano and two volunteers from the church. A total of **245** individuals have been assisted through this program.

## Changing Lives through... Cultural Events

El Centro Hispano's mission statement specifically calls for our agency to help our families maintain and enrich their own culture. This is accomplished every year through events that bring families together around food, typical music and traditional clothing from their countries. The events help keep alive our families' ties to their heritage. We participated in the following events that celebrated our clients' Hispanic heritage: the Westchester County Hispanic Heritage Day at the Kensico Dam; the Three Wise Men celebration and El Día del Niño at Post Road Elementary School.

## Changing Lives Through... Outreach, Counseling and Empowerment

Thousands of individuals and families come to the center each year seeking assistance in finding **housing**, looking for a **job**, completing **applications**, composing **letters**, notarizing **documents**, or having a **document translated**. We are very grateful for the support we have received from White Plains Mayor Thomas M. Roach, the White Plains Common Council and the White Plains Planning Department, Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin, New York State Assembly Amy Paulin, New York State Assembly David Buchwald, New York Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, and the New York State Hispanic Initiative for El Centro Hispano's Core Programs.

### In 2019:

- **2,282 new clients** came to El Centro Hispano seeking some type of assistance.\*
- **6,014 unduplicated clients** were served.\*
- **4,295 job referrals** were made for jobs in White Plains and nearby communities. **952** to new clients and **3,343** to repeat clients.\*
- **5,142 housing referrals** were made for available rooms, apartments, and studios in Westchester. **1043** to new clients and **4,099** to repeat clients.\*
- **851 additional services** were provided by our staff. Staff translated or notarized documents; filled out job/school applications; composed letters; and made phone calls on behalf of our clients to doctors, clinics, lawyers, schools, hospitals, employers, landlords, and social service agencies.\*

***In 2019, El Centro Hispano provided a total of  
16,118 services in the office or at other  
locations. \*\****

***2,282 clients received information and  
outreach about our services and programs.***

\*These numbers were calculated by counting individual client intake records which were completed by staff each time a service was provided. They include some clients who sought El Centro's assistance on more than one occasion.

\*\*This number was calculated by adding the individual clients for whom client intake records were completed, and the clients served at special activities at which individual client intake records were not completed.





# Changing Lives through... Special Activities

## January

**Presentation at the Central Westchester Community Network:** El Centro Hispano was invited by Evelyn Gonzalez, Social Worker in the White Plains School District to make a presentation about the services and programs offered by El Centro Hispano to the White Plains and surrounding towns' residents. The presentation took place on January 14 during the White Plains/Greenburgh Child and Family Network.

**Celebration of El Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** This event was celebrated on January 31 with a cocktail party at Aquario Restaurant. It was our special way of thanking our donors, Board of Directors and all the honorees of our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. All attendees enjoyed delicious Portuguese tapas, wine and the delightful background music from Mambo Blue. The highlight of the night were the testimonials made by 5 very successful youngsters: Talita Acciari, Cesar Castro, Keyla Garcia, Chelsea Mosquera and Christopher Torres who have benefited from El Centro Hispano's services, and are now giving back to the community.

**Distribution of Gift Cards to Children in Our Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor Tutorial/Mentoring Program.** Thanks to the generosity of WME Morell Insurance Company, some of the children in our programs had the opportunity to celebrate El Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Rick Morell not only for this wonderful gift to the children, but also for taking the time to share with them his experiences as a student in the White Plains school system.

## February

**2019 Westchester County Community Health Survey.** Thanks to the participation of **181** of our clients in completing the survey during the month of February, we were able to help the Westchester County improve health programs in the community.

**Informative Meetings for Parents of Children in the Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor and the Perkins Saturday Academy Mentoring/ Tutorial Programs.** From February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Director of Children's Educational Programs and the coordinators of these programs met with the parents of those students who had not worked up to their academic potential that given quarter.

## March

**Special Presentation by Members of the White Plains Rotary Club to White Plains High School Hispanic Students.** **20** students benefitted from the presentation made by two members of the White Plains Rotary Club on **"Everything You Need To Know About How To Interview For A Scholarship, College Admission Or A Job"** After the presentation, students had the opportunity to meet individually with the presenters and ask questions.

**Computer Class/Quick Books Graduation.** **57** adult students who attended computer skill classes at the Technology Center from October 2018 – March 2019 received diplomas and were congratulated for completing their course work by elected officials and guest dignitaries on March 8. The ceremony was followed by a delicious international dinner.

**Celebration of El Centro Hispano's Girl Scouts Troop 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** The celebration took place on March 10 and was attended by more than **45** girls, **40** parents, Mayor Roach, administrative staff from the Girl Scouts and all the leaders. The highlight of the program was the awarding of patches to the girls for participating in this celebration and for being part of the Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video.

**A Well-Deserved Honor for Isabel E. Villar and H. Judith Aúcar.** The Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated Women's History Month on Monday March 25 by acknowledging 4 women, two of them being Isabel and Judith for their exemplary service to their community. The event was attended by more than 200 people.

**College Planning Night.** Hispanic parents and their children in eleventh grade participated in this special presentation by the White Plains High School Guidance Department on March 7 at El Centro Hispano. The 35 Hispanic families who attended the meeting learned about the opportunities available for their children to attend college or other post-secondary institutions.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade in White Plains.** On March 9th, El Centro Hispano's Boy Scouts Pack, Boy Scout's Troop, and Girl Scout Troop participated in the parade. Accompanied by their leaders and parents, the boys and girls, dressed in beautiful and colorful uniforms, marched through the streets of White Plains.

## April

**Our Gratitude to The Play Group Theatre.** Thanks to the generosity of the Play Group Theatre, **166** children and parents from our Girl Scouts Troop, Scouts Pack and My Older Sister Tutorial Program enjoyed from April 4 – April 14 the great production of "Miss You like Hell" featuring El Centro Hispano students Diana Lopez and Tanya Magaña as well as many other students from the White Plains Hispanic community.

**Informative Meetings for Parents of Children in the Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor and the Perkins Saturday Academy Mentoring/ Tutorial Programs.** From April 23 to April 27, the Director of Children's Educational Programs and the coordinators of these programs met with the parents of those students who had not worked up to their academic potential this quarter.

**El Centro Hispano's Marcia and Richard Cohen Early Literacy Program Graduation.** On April 24 and 26 all participating students and their parents attended this special celebration during which students were presented with Achievement Certificates. Parents were delighted with their child's academic progress, and at the end of the presentation, everyone enjoyed a variety of appetizers provided by the families.

**Special Recognition at the Woman's Club of White Plains.** This year the theme of the Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Woman's Club of White Plains was "**Women Who Inspire Us**" Isabel E. Villar was selected to receive the main award of the evening for making a difference in the lives of so many people for the last 45 years. Judith Aúcar was also identified by two of the Club's Board members as a person who inspired them for her hard work and commitment to the community. The celebration took place on Saturday, April 27 and was attended by more than 250 people.

**Annual Health Fair.** White Plains Hospital, in collaboration with El Centro Hispano, Slater Center, and Calvary Church, sponsors this health fair every year in order to provide members of the community with a complete check-up at no cost. Informational materials were available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. **226** Hispanics, African American and other nationalities **registered** to benefit from the medical exams offered at the fair which took place this year at the Calvary Baptist Church on Saturday, April 27: Blood Pressure Screening – 102, HIV Screening -23; Dental Exams -44; Podiatry – 22; Mental Health Consultation-3; Breast Exam – 67; PAP – 49 BMI Screening – 15; Cholesterol test-119; Diabetes/Glucose's Test – 80; PSA Test: 25. 12 people participated in Chair Yoga and 304 benefitted from the Fresh Market food pickup.

The impact of the Fair this year was the following:

- **31** free mammograms performed for those identified in high need
- **9** attendees identified with high cholesterol
- **10** attendees identified with high glucose levels
- **1** attendee was identified with high PSA levels

## May

**Informative Meetings for Parents of Children in the Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor and the Perkins Saturday Academy Mentoring/ Tutorial Programs.** The purpose of the meetings, which took place on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, was to discuss individually the academic progress of their child with each of the parents in attendance.

**Special Meeting with the Parents of the Students in The Lanza Mi Hermano Mayor Mentoring/Tutorial Program At El Centro Hispano.** **15** Hispanic families met with the Executive Director, the Director of the Educational Programs and the Deputy Director to discuss the need to improve the students' behavior in the classroom and at dismissal time if they wanted to continue in the program until the end of the school year, and be allowed to register next year in the Perkins My Older Sister/Brother – Mi Hermana (o) Mayor Saturday Academy.

## June

**Presentation of El Centro Hispano's Scholarships at the White Plains High School Awards Ceremony** This ceremony took place on June 3 at the White Plains High School. **17** Hispanic seniors received a total of **\$32,000** in El Centro Hispano scholarships in recognition of their academic achievement and involvement with El Centro Hispano.

**Closing Ceremony of The Lanza Mi Hermana Mayor/Hermano Mayor** On June 8, El Centro recognized with certificates the students who participated in The Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor Tutorial/Mentoring Programs. Tutors and volunteers were recognized for their service, dedication, and commitment. After the ceremony **95** people enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by all the parents in appreciation for the academic help their children received during the school year.

**Cities RISE Civic Engagement Forum with the City of White Plains** On June 12, El Centro Hispano hosted an open forum for the City of White Plains where **13** individuals, as representatives of their communities, were given the opportunity to express their neighborhood concerns. The forum was designed to engage participants with various activities which would help the City of White Plains become more active in the maintenance of our communities.

**El Centro Hispano's Scholarship Presentation** On Thursday, June 20, Cabanillas & Associates, P.C. and El Centro Hispano honored **thirty-two** students and graduates from the White Plains area for high academic achievement and strong community leadership. **Seventeen** of the recipients were graduates from White Plains High School and **fifteen** were college students who have served as tutors/mentors in El Centro's Lanza Mi Hermana Mayor/Mi Hermano Mayor (My Older Sister/Older Brother) Tutorial Mentoring Program and the Perkins Saturday Academy. The awardees received a total of **\$52,000** in scholarships.

In addition to the outstanding students and their families, attendees of the event included El Centro Hispano Board members, staff, volunteers and supporters, and the White Plains School District Director of the World Language and ELL Programs Lisa Panaro. In total, the event was attended by **131** individuals.

All the attendees enjoyed an unforgettable evening at St. Bernard's Chapel Hall, hosted in conjunction with Cabanillas & Associates, P.C. This is the sixth year that Cabanillas & Associates, P.C. have generously donated to El Centro Hispano's Scholarship fund and hosted this magnificent event.

**Closing Ceremony of Perkins Saturday Academy** On June 22, El Centro recognized with certificates the students who participated in the Perkins Saturday Academy Tutorial/Mentoring Programs. Tutors and volunteers were recognized for their service, dedication, and commitment. After the ceremony **127** people enjoyed a delicious international luncheon prepared by all the parents in appreciation for the academic help their children received during the school year.

## July

**Computer Class Graduation.** 61 adult students who attended computer classes at the Technology Center from March 2019 – June 2019 received diplomas from elected officials and guest dignitaries on July 12 and were congratulated for completing their course work. The ceremony was followed by a delicious international dinner.

**Hispanic Heritage Day at the Kensico Dam.** El Centro Hispano co-sponsored this event on July 14 with Neighbors Link of Mt. Kisco, the United Community Center of New Rochelle and the Community Resource Center of Mamaroneck and Larchmont. This festival gives non-profit organizations an opportunity to make themselves and their services known to the large number of Hispanics who come to enjoy a day of typical music, food, and international crafts. Police estimated that approximately 4,000 individuals were in attendance.

**Fifth Annual Celebration of El Día del Niño.** This event, held on Saturday, July 27 was sponsored by El Centro Hispano and MVP Health Care with the collaboration of Danny's Cycles, Girl Scouts, Heart of the Hudson, Boy Scouts of America Westchester – Putnam Council, and the White Plains Department of Public Safety. The 236 participants of whom 138 were children enjoyed 10 brand new bicycle raffles, a bicycle obstacle course, and demonstrations from the White Plains Department of Public Safety. The participants were entertained by two folkloric dance groups, one from Mexico and another from Peru. As in years past, the highlights of the event for the children were the Clown ChéChé and the bouncing house.

## August

**Bronx Zoo Trip.** On August 3, 32 children and 4 adults visited the Bronx Zoo. The children enjoyed a day full of excitement and unforgettable educational experiences. The trip was made possible by funds received from St. Faith's Foundation and by the generosity of the Zoo, which gave the children a substantial discount.

**Shoe Distribution for Children in El Centro Hispano's Educational Programs on behalf of the City of White Plains and Soles4Souls.** On August 23, the City of White Plains, in collaboration with Soles4Souls, distributed to the children of El Centro Hispano 125 pairs of brand new shoes. Soles4Souls is a non for profit social enterprise, dedicated to creating sustainable jobs and relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world. In attendance to the shoe distributions were Mayor Thomas Roach, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, and the Chief of Police from the city of White Plains.

## September

**Training and Introductory Meeting for the Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor and the Perkins Saturday Academy Mentoring/ Tutorial Programs.** On Saturday September 14, mentors, tutors, and volunteers in these programs received a half day of training. That same day, students and parents were informed about the regulations of the program along with the required commitment and responsibilities.

**Immigration Forum at Our Lady of Mount Carmel** On Sunday September 15, Our Lady of Mount Carmel hosted El Centro Hispano's Immigration Forum where 70 individuals benefitted from the presentations. Three distinguished Immigration lawyers, Cecilia Bikkal, Larry Delgado, and Yani Vilca, gave talks about the participants' legal rights, citizenship rights, debunked myths about the new immigration policies and gave legal consultations to those present.

**Training and Introductory Meeting for the Culture through Technology and Study Skills Program.** On Saturday, September 22 all students of the Culture through Technology and Study Skills Program and their parents attended a special meeting in which they were trained and informed about the objectives and expectations of the programs.

**The Marcia and Richard Cohen Early Literacy Program at Post Road Elementary School and The Lanza Mi Hermana/Mi Hermano Mayor Mentoring/Tutorial Programs at Eastview Middle School Opening.** The official opening of these programs for Kindergarten, first and sixth grade students took place on Monday, September 16. All parents and students were informed about the rules and regulations of the program.

## October

**White Plains High School Financial Aid Workshop.** On October 8, The White Plains High School Guidance Department sponsored this event in cooperation with El Centro Hispano. A total of **41** parents and students benefitted from this presentation. Students and parents received first hand information and help on how to fill out FASFA applications for their upcoming college semesters.

**El Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.** In celebration of its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary El Centro Hispano hosted a gala evening on Saturday, October 26, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. That evening honored various individuals, families, and organizations chosen for their commitment to furthering El Centro Hispano's mission and programs dedicated to meeting the needs of Westchester's ever-growing Hispanic community.

More than 400 distinguished guests including civic leaders and supporters of the non -profit attended the elegant black-tie event honoring:

Apple Bank  
Aguedo Camacho  
Heriberto Contreras  
Evelyn & Herbert Hadad  
The Hersch Family  
Key Bank  
Alice & the Late Fred Perkins  
Southern Westchester BOCES  
White Plains City School District:  
Joseph Ricca, E.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Michele Schoenfeld, Clerk of the Board  
Suzanne Lasser, Assistant Principal, Post Road Elementary School  
Jesimae Ossorio, Principal, Post Road Elementary School  
Lisa Panaro, Director of LOTE and ELL Programs, K-12  
White Plains Department of Public Safety  
White Plains Hospital

Former Telemundo News Anchor Jorge Ramos served as Master of Ceremonies. The evening began with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner and recognition of honorees. Westchester County Executive George Latimer served as auctioneer for a live auction to raise funds in support of El Centro Hispano's 25 programs. Guests finished out the evening dancing until midnight to music by DJ Woody.

**Ms. Villar**, the Founding Executive Director of the agency, said: "We are very pleased by how much we have been able to achieve in these past 45 years. Serving our Hispanic community for so many years has been, and continues to be, an unbelievably gratifying experience. El Centro Hispano's goal is to continue broadening the avenue of opportunities for adults and youth alike, empowering them to flourish with the help of our programs. We will continue to leave what we know is a powerful and positive legacy in our community for many more years to come."

## November

**City of White Plains Consolidated Plan Presentation** On November 3 members of the community came together in El Centro Hispano's Chapel Hall to participate in an open discussion about the City of White Plain's plans with future residential development. During the presentation, members of the community learned about the current housing and demographic trends in White Plains and how the Consolidated Plan would help

low/moderate-income residents and how their input would affect the City's housing, economic and community development priorities and direct the way federal funds are spent in the community.

A total of **240** participants benefitted from this presentation, and were given the opportunity to voice their concerns about rising rent prices and landlord problems directly to representatives of the City of White Plains.

**Coat Distribution for Children in El Centro Hispano's Educational Programs on behalf of MVP Health Care.** On November 15, El Centro Hispano distributed a total of **150** coats that were generously donated by MVP. Approximately **230** parents and children attended the event. MVP has been a continuous supporter of El Centro Hispano and its mission. Their funding has helped maintain El Centro's annual Day of the Child event. Our community is grateful for all MVP has done to keep alive El Centro's mission. Thank you, MVP!

**Computer Class Graduation** **36** adult students who attended computer classes at the Technology Center from July 2019 – November 2019 received diplomas from elected officials and guest dignitaries on November 22 and were congratulated for completing their course work. The ceremony was followed by a delicious international dinner.

**The Lanza Mi Hermana/Hermano Mayor and the Perkins Saturday Academy Programs' Student Progress Meeting.** From November 25<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Director of Children's Educational Programs and the coordinators of these programs met with the parents of those students who had not worked up to their academic potential this quarter. Together, they discussed new methods to engage the students to do their best for the rest of the school year.

**Eagle Scout Ceremony** On November 26, Henry Valencia achieved the greatest honor any Scout can obtain by becoming El Centro Hispano's first Eagle Scout. In order to receive such a high honor, Henry chose the North Street Family Services Day Care as the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout's Project. The purpose of the project was to teach the Scout the experience of developing, documenting, planning, and leading an idea to completion. This project in particular required a fundraiser to purchase \$3,000 worth of materials and involved 44 volunteers and 493 hours of labor.

Henry's perseverance, discipline, and leadership allowed him to demonstrate his true capabilities as a Scout. El Centro Hispano congratulates Henry for his incredible feat, and for not only making history, but for paving the way for future Scout generations.

## December

**El Centro Hispano and Eastview Middle School Parent Meeting** On December 7, El Centro Hispano hosted Guidance Counselor Jessica Rivera, who gave a presentation to parents of the Mi Hermana/o Mayor 6<sup>th</sup> grade Tutorial Program for the first time since the inauguration of the program. After the presentation, parents were encouraged to engage in an open discussion, and express their concerns and work towards a solution to optimize their child's academic well being from home. Because of its incredible success, the parent – counselor meetings will be integrated as an essential part of the program.

**Distribution of Intimate Wear for Women** On December 19, **150** women received intimate wear thanks to the generosity of The Sharing Shelf, a program run by Family Services of Westchester whose objective is to combat poverty in Westchester County by providing access to basic clothing needs. The Sharing Shelf's benevolent gift was given out during El Centro Hispano's food distribution to women from the community, as well as to the mothers of students in El Centro Hispano's program. Thank you, Sharing Shelf!

**Distribution of 25 Food Vouchers Thanks to the Generosity of Fidelis Care.** **25** needy families benefitted from a \$15 voucher distributed on December 7 to help them with their holiday food expenses. The vouchers were raffled to families participating in our Educational Programs and also to senior citizens who participate in El Centro Hispano's food distribution.

\* \* \*

## Board of Directors

Cecilia G. Bikkal, Esq., President  
Nicholas Wolff, Vice President  
Dr. Scott MacDonald, Treasurer  
Martha Duval, DDS - Secretary

Luz H. Barrera  
Chris Cabanillas, Esq.  
Hon. Larry Delgado  
Lucille Fontana, Esq.,  
Lourdes Lopez Valle  
Ingrid Ordoñez-Street  
Dr. Annette Rotter  
Jhuriko Then  
Dr. Norberto Torres Otero  
Leslie Zane  
Robin A. Bikkal, Esq., President Emeritus

\* \* \*

## Administrative Staff

**Isabel E. Villar**, Founding Executive Director  
**H. Judith Aucar**, Deputy Director  
**Claudia Málaga**- Chief of Operations  
**Jennifer Abreu**- Director of Children's Educational Programs  
**Daisy Flores** – Assistant to the Deputy Director/Grant Writer  
**Keyla García** – Director of Marketing/Branding and Adult Educational Programs  
**Chelsea Mosquera** – Assistant to the Director of Marketing/Branding and Adult Educational Programs  
**Henry Avendaño** – Coordinator of El Centro Hispano Technology Center/ Lead Instructor  
**Giselle Robles**- Outreach Worker/Data Entry Operator  
**Naydelin Garcia** – Outreach Worker



# Above and Beyond in 2019

This year we give special recognition to several groups and individuals that in 2019 have especially helped us ensure the sustainability of our programs for years to come and the continuance of our mission to serve the Hispanic community.

## We are grateful to these donors in 2019:

- To Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Elmsford and Father Robert Norris for inviting El Centro Hispano to provide services at their site on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.
- To Marcia and Richard Cohen for their wonderful 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Pitch-book” gift and for their unwavering support in helping us carry out El Centro Hispano’s mission
- To MVP Health Care for donating brand-new coats to the children in our educational programs during the winter season
- To Soles4Souls for their generosity in gifting brand-new shoes to the children in our educational programs
- To the Sharing Shelf for providing our female clientele with new intimate wear

## El Centro Hispano’s Family Circle

Our most sincere gratitude to the following members of El Centro Hispano Family Circle. Their special contributions of \$500 or more in 2019 have helped us tremendously to carry out our mission:

**H. Judith Aucar**  
**Matthew D. Brenner**  
**Ana Bolivar**  
**Betsy and Steven Bush**  
**Christopher Cabanillas, Esq.**  
**Marcia and Richard Cohen**  
**Millie and Elizardi Castro**  
**Leo J. Corbett**  
**Anita and Larry Delgado, Esq.**  
**Martha and Brendan Duval**  
**Linda A. Ellis**  
**Lucille and Richard Fontana,**  
**Esq.**  
**Rachel and George Gumina**

**Evelyn and Herbert Hadad**  
**Jeffrey and Ronny Hersch**  
**Thomas and Elizabeth Hollahan**  
**Mary Ellen Jordan**  
**Nola Jordan**  
**Stephen and Joan Kass**  
**Judy and David Katz**  
**Anthony Lanza**  
**Louie Lanza**  
**Joel Laitman**  
**Scott B. MacDonald, PHD**  
**David and Rosemary Mace**  
**Katherine Moore**  
**Anita Nordal**  
**Alice Perkins**

**Yvonne Pollack**  
**Jean Pollak**  
**Joyce and Paul Rheingold**  
**Ann Rockefeller Roberts**  
**Annette Rotter PhD**  
**Joan and Ed Saslow**  
**Aaron J. Steinberg**  
**Norberto Torres-Otero, MD**  
**Dorothy and Jonathan Schere**  
**Yani Vilca**  
**Isabel E. Villar**  
**Elaine Yellen**

## El Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Distinguished Donors

Our most sincere gratitude to the following attendees and/or donors of El Centro Hispano's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Their special contributions of \$500 or more to our Fund-A-Need auction or to our sponsorships will help us tremendously to carry out our mission:

### DIAMOND BENEFACTORS Over \$75,000

The Lanza Family Foundation  
Alice & the Late Fred Perkins

### SAPPHIRE BENEFACTORS \$15,000

Apple Bank for Savings  
Isabel E. Villar

### RUBY BENEFACTORS \$10,000

H. Judith Aúcar  
MVP Health Care  
Marcia & Richard Cohen

### JADE BENEFACTORS \$7,500

White Plains Hospital

### PEARL BENEFACTORS \$5,000

Linda A. Ellis  
Fidelis Care  
Formé Medical Center and  
Urgent Care  
Rachel & George Gumina  
Evelyn & Herbert Hadad  
Nelly & Anthony Lanza  
Paul & Lourdes Lopez Paglia  
Anne Roberts Rockefeller

### SILVER BENEFACTORS \$5,000

Cohen & Siegel, LLP  
Leo Corbett  
Morgan Stanley  
Anita Nordal & Kevin Conroy  
Annette Rotter & Joel Laitman

Shelter Rock Wealth  
Management  
Aaron & Stephanie Steinberg  
Elaine Yellen

### BRONZE BENEFACTORS \$1,000

Anita & Joseph Cloherty  
Emblem Health  
The Hersch Family  
Joan & Stephen Kass  
The Rosalie Katz Family  
Foundation  
Laurance Martinaud  
McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett  
Funeral Home  
New York Presbyterian Hospital  
Jean & Henry Pollak  
Fund, Inc.  
Joan Saslow & Edward  
Klagsbrun  
The Young Family

### CRYSTAL BENEFACTORS \$500

Aquario Restaurant  
Carlos Bernard  
Robin Bikkal, Esq.  
Peter Braverman  
BSL Holdings/Century 21  
Business of Your Business, LLC  
Cancún Delights  
Chuza Foundation  
Antonia & Jared Cohen  
Deborah Dorman  
Judy & David Katz Family Fund  
The Levy Family Fund  
Paul & Joyce Rheingold  
Family Foundation  
Hon. Nita Lowey  
Kateri & Scott MacDonald

Luis Mariño  
Manuela & Luis Paz  
Lorenzo Quintana  
Retamozo Family  
Marc & Mariana Sharff  
Norberto Torres-Otero, M.D.  
Yani Vilca, Esq.  
Samuel R. Walters, M.D.  
Nicholas Wolff

### FUND-A-NEED \$500 or more

Dr. Cecilia Acosta-Lake  
North Salem Audio, Inc.  
Steven & Betsy Bush  
Chris Cabanillas  
Anita Nordal & Kevin Conroy  
Lorenzo Delgado  
Brenden Duval  
Dawn & Richard French  
Rhodee Gine  
George & Rachel Gumina  
Avelino Gutierrez  
Jose F. Guzman  
Anthony Lanza  
Lizardo Ordoñez  
Jeffrey Herbert & Yadira  
Ramos-Herbert  
Sheryl Sachs  
Leslie & Andrew Zane

### SPECIAL DONATIONS \$500 or more

Raul Brizuela  
Claire Pierson & Peter  
Humphrey  
Dorian S. Goldman  
Marvin Israelow  
Yvonne & Leslie Pollack  
Foundation, Inc.  
Tania Rosales

# Acknowledgements

We give thanks to our wonderful volunteers and to all those who have helped us in the past 45 years to accomplish our mission to assist, support, and strengthen the Hispanic community.

Our sincere appreciation also goes out to the following special benefactors and collaborators - private, corporate, and governmental - for their help this past year.

**Alloy Printing**  
**Cablevision**  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
**Center for Vein Restoration**  
**Feeding America**  
**Formé Medical Center and Urgent Care**  
**Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson**  
**Giving Circle of Westchester**  
**Hitchcock Presbyterian Church**  
**Honorable Ben Boykin, Chair of**  
**Westchester County Board of Legislators**  
**Honorable Amy R. Paulin**  
**Honorable David Buchwald**  
**Honorable George Latimer, Westchester**  
**County Executive**  
**Honorable Thomas Roach, Mayor of the**  
**City of White Plains**  
**Katherine and David Moore Foundation**  
**Key Bank Foundation**  
**LPL Financial**  
**Lanza Family Foundation**  
**Manhattanville College**  
**MVP Health Care**

**Our Lady of Sorrows' Gladhatters**  
**Patrina Foundation**  
**People's United Community Foundation**  
**Play Group Theatre**  
**Post Road Elementary School**  
**Rye Presbyterian Church**  
**Scarsdale High School Spanish Club**  
**Scouts of Westchester and Putnam**  
**St. Bernard's Catholic Church, White Plains**  
**St. Faith's House Foundation**  
**Thomas H. Slater Community Center**  
**The Lorraine O'Brien Foundation**  
**Wells Fargo Community Campaign**  
**Westchester Community Foundation**  
**Westchester County Office for Women**  
**Westchester County Youth Bureau**  
**White Plains Planning Department**  
**White Plains Rotary Club**  
**White Plains School System**  
**White Plains Middle School – Eastview Campus**  
**White Plains High School**  
**White Plains Hospital**

**We sincerely apologize to any individual or group of individuals whom we have inadvertently omitted from this list.**

**OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE TO:**

**ALLOY PRINTING FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT,  
GENEROSITY AND FRIENDSHIP.**



## **El Centro Hispano, Inc.**

**346 South Lexington Avenue  
Isabel Elsa Villar Boulevard  
White Plains, New York 10606  
914.289.0500**

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 12 noon-7 p.m.**

### **OLMC EL CENTRO HISPANO INITIATIVE**

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church  
59 E. Main Street  
Elmsford, NY 10523**

**Office Hours: Third Saturday of the Month 9:00 – 11:00am  
First Sunday of the Month 1:30 – 3:00pm**

### **Educational Programs at the Technology Center**

**Mondays and Wednesdays -- 6:30 -8:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Saturdays – 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Sundays – 8:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
[elcentrohispano1@gmail.com](mailto:elcentrohispano1@gmail.com)**

**[www.elcentrohispano.org](http://www.elcentrohispano.org)**

**and at**

**The First Baptist Church of White Plains  
Mondays -Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**



***@elcentrohispanoinc***



***@centrohispanowp***

**El Centro Hispano, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.**