



Edu-Futuro

Empowering Students
Engaging Parents
Transforming Communities

2020-2021 Annual Report

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The past year has been exceedingly difficult for the Latino and immigrant families served by Edu-Futuro. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a major loss of income for our parents, who faced the challenges of the crisis by working harder than ever to pay bills and keep their families as safe as possible. One of the most underreported stories of the coronavirus pandemic has been the bravery and courage of immigrant parents who have been disproportionately represented in the “essential workforce” that maintained our hospitals, grocery stores, pharmacies, and many other critical institutions.

On behalf of the Edu-Futuro Board of Directors, I am very proud to report that our organization responded to the extraordinary stress in our community by serving 3,268 children, youth, and parents -- breaking our previous record number of beneficiaries by a remarkable 61.7%. Much of our service this past year was focused on the COVID-19 crisis, and Edu-Futuro mobilized to become one of the largest providers of direct financial aid to immigrant families in Northern Virginia, as well as the entire Washington region. Our bilingual staff members have now stabilized more than 1,200 households and disbursed close to \$900,000 from our Emergency Assistance Fund for rent, food, utilities, and other basic necessities. Our efforts to provide rental assistance are especially noteworthy because our Case Management Services (CSM) team has spent thousands of hours working closely with parents to identify, obtain, translate, upload, and submit the complicated documentation required for rental assistance applications.

This past year, Edu-Futuro also served a record number of immigrant and Latino students, adding an extremely popular virtual STEM program and working with our staff, AmeriCorps members, and volunteer mentors to keep youth participants engaged and motivated. We are extremely proud to report that graduates of our 2020-2021 Emerging Leaders Program are now following their dreams at such institutions as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke, George Mason, Virginia Tech, and Marymount.

As always, the work of funding our life-changing youth and parent programs remains a major challenge, but Edu-Futuro’s response to the COVID-19 crisis clearly demonstrates the considerable impact of our services in the daily lives of immigrant families. We are more committed than ever to expanding our reach and growing as an organization. To our partners, donors, and volunteers, we thank you for helping us to achieve and exceed our goals. Without your support, the work of Edu-Futuro would not be possible.



JEANNE BALCOM

Board President



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MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Figures published by local health departments reveal that the Latino community has experienced the most disproportionate number of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations of any racial or ethnic group in Northern Virginia, and throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Unfortunately, this unprecedented emergency has not yet received the attention or funding required to meet the needs of immigrant families, who have not only shouldered the most significant economic and public health burdens of the pandemic, but whose children have suffered critical academic setbacks due to distance learning and a lack of access to technology. Just imagine the daily challenges for an immigrant family in which three children were trying to connect to different online classrooms simultaneously.

The barriers to success for Edu-Futuro students were considerable this past year. Still, day after day, the nearly 600 participants of our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) demonstrated their unshakable commitment to education by defying the odds and working to make their dreams come true. As a result, we are proud to report that in FY2020-2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021), we achieved two of the most significant accomplishments in the history of Edu-Futuro.

1) Edu-Futuro became one of only 12 AmeriCorps lead agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia, allowing us to triple the number of AmeriCorps members in our staff, from five to 15. More importantly, the additional organizational capacity enabled Edu-Futuro to nearly double the number of students participating in our flagship program, ELP II, from approximately 45 youth in past years, to 85 in FY21.

2) As a result of this significant expansion, the 83 graduates of ELP II were all accepted into postsecondary institutions, and these outstanding high school seniors were offered \$5,557,892 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and \$21,468,490 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid. These extraordinary outcomes broke our previous first-year and four-year financial aid records by 124% and 287%, respectively. This is a prime example of how Edu-Futuro is meeting our goal of breaking the cycle of poverty in one generation.

The accomplishments of our students are a direct result of their determination to succeed despite the pandemic. Still, their triumphs are also a testament to the efforts of our bilingual staff and AmeriCorps members, who spent more than 9,000 hours working directly with our 83 ELP II students this past year -- helping to complete admission forms, providing academic support, identifying scholarship opportunities, and talking about the career and life paths our students wanted to follow.

None of this work could have been accomplished without the hard work and sacrifice of our outstanding staff, and the enormous contributions of our mentors, volunteers, Associate Council, Board of Directors, and funders. We understand that the road ahead will not be easy for our community, but we look forward to better days for our students and parents.

Thank you for your continued support.

JORGE E. FIGUEROA

Executive Director

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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JULY 2020

By the end of July 2020, Edu-Futuro had already distributed approximately \$112,000 in essential COVID-19 support for rent, food, and utilities. Here is one story of the families helped by our Parent Empowerment Services (PES) staff -- Laid off from her job at a local restaurant, Roxana was concerned for her three children because her boyfriend had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Luckily, neither Roxana nor her children tested positive for the virus, but when she contacted case management specialist Pablo Barrios, Roxana was three months behind on her rent. Due to the urgency of Roxana's case, Edu-Futuro utilized resources from the organization's Emergency Assistance Fund to pay her landlord for the April, May, and June rent -- a total of \$3,733. Roxana began working 30 hours per week in June. Although her financial situation was still not ideal, the help she received from Edu-Futuro allowed her to stabilize her household, avoid eviction, and take care of her family.

AUGUST 2020

On August 11, Edu-Futuro Executive Director, Jorge E. Figueredo, was featured on the 11:00 p.m. Univision newscast. The Spanish-language station's report, which focused on the work Edu-Futuro had been conducting to help immigrant students during the COVID-19 pandemic, was reported by Rosbelis Quiñonez, who stated, "For many Hispanic families, distance learning has become a major challenge, but an organization in Northern Virginia has been dedicated to helping students and parents to reach their academic goals. For 22 years, Edu-Futuro has served the immigrant community of Arlington, Fairfax, Alexandria, and other Northern Virginia jurisdictions. The organization has not only supported workers who lost their jobs due to the pandemic by offering resources to pay for necessities like rent and food, Edu-Futuro has also worked to make certain that the children and adolescents in those families continue their studies."

(Note: From the beginning of the pandemic, Edu-Futuro has been one of the few organizations in the national capital area that has tracked coronavirus figures published by local health departments and consistently reported on the impact of the crisis among immigrant families.)

Although Census figures show that the Latino community constitutes approximately 18% of the total population throughout Northern Virginia, August 12 figures from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) demonstrated the alarming fact that Latino patients accounted for 57.7% of the confirmed coronavirus cases and 49.1% of the hospitalizations in Fairfax County, 62.1% of the cases and 61% of the hospitalizations in Prince William County, 49.6% of the cases and 49.2% of the hospitalizations in Arlington County, and 54% of the cases and 45.1% of the hospitalizations in the City of Alexandria.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Edu-Futuro was chosen as one of only 12 lead agencies in Virginia for the national AmeriCorps community service program. This significant accomplishment represented a landmark moment in the development of Edu-Futuro, which had been an AmeriCorps sub-grantee since 2010. The three-year agreement with the AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission allowed Edu-Futuro to increase the number of AmeriCorps members on our staff from 5 to 15. In addition to helping our families through the COVID-19 crisis, the most important responsibility for our new AmeriCorps members was to nearly double the number of students who participated in our most successful service for youth, the Emerging Leaders Program, Part II. The year-long educational curriculum provides one-on-one mentorship and workshops designed to help high school seniors prepare for postsecondary education, enroll in college, and complete the often-complicated applications for scholarships and financial aid.

OCTOBER 2020

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, all youth activities for our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) were transitioned to online delivery in April 2020. Due to the unfortunate fact that our Robotics Clubs could not be replicated online, in October, Edu-Futuro successfully launched virtual ELP STEM Programs for grades 4-8 and 9-11 that kept students engaged in science-based learning by utilizing digital platforms in place of robotics kits. Led by AmeriCorps members Julia Goetz and Natalie Arandia, the virtual 4-8th grade and 9-11th grade ELP STEM Programs guided youth through various topics such as biology, coding, chemistry, physics, engineering, and technology. Our ELP STEM students participated in a total of 12 workshops and utilized SeeSaw, an online platform that allowed youth to interact and make new friends outside of the virtual classroom.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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NOVEMBER 2020

On the evening of November 6, Edu-Futuro proudly celebrated the organization's 22nd anniversary by hosting Against All Odds! -- an online Gala that served to highlight the academic accomplishments of the students in our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), and to raise critical funding needed to continue supporting immigrant families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The event brought together some 200 stakeholders from the academic, governmental, and corporate world, including Virginia Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, who both recognized Edu-Futuro's contributions to the immigrant community of Northern Virginia.

During his remarks, Senator Warner stated, "We all know that COVID-19 has particularly been hard-hitting to Black and Brown communities. I want to thank Edu-Futuro for your over \$100,000 of assistance to families with rental assistance, getting food on the table, and just helping them get through the challenges around COVID." Focusing on Edu-Futuro's Emerging Leaders Program for youth, Senator Kaine added, "Immigrant students and English Language Learners throughout the Commonwealth face difficult academic challenges during this time of COVID-19...The coronavirus epidemic has made the work of Edu-Futuro, which is always important, more important than ever."

DECEMBER 2020

Despite the severe academic challenges posed by distance learning and the COVID-19 pandemic, on December 19, 2020, Edu-Futuro gathered nearly 150 students, parents, and guests for a virtual ceremony celebrating the graduation of 94 outstanding youth who participated in three virtual programs: Emerging Leaders Program - Part I, Edu-Futuro Leadership Camp, and ELP STEM Fall 2020. Each of the three programs was designed to help immigrant students improve their academic and leadership skills, building a solid path to postsecondary education and a professional career. During the graduation ceremony, Edu-Futuro's Youth Programs Coordinator, Victoria Mejía, congratulated both parents and students: "Your children have displayed perseverance, immense courage, and resilience, despite the current challenges we are all facing during these unprecedented and trying times. Student leaders, we celebrate all you have achieved in the different programs and admire the fact that you have taken the initiative to build your leadership skills. We recognize that you did not give up when giving up is the easiest thing to do. You are strong and brave. Congratulations!"

The Edu-Futuro graduation ceremony featured keynote speaker Ms. Tannia Talento, who had recently completed four years as a member of the Arlington County School Board, and an inspiring message from Ms. Clemencia Cueva Clarke, Vice President of Americas Software Client Success at IBM Corporation.

JANUARY 2021

As of January 31, 2021, Edu-Futuro Case Management Services (CSM) had opened 849 cases through our Emergency Assistance Fund, and had disbursed more than \$450,000 in direct payments to affected families for rent, food, utilities, and other basic necessities. The effort led by Director of Programs, Natalia Montelongo, depended on vital support from local foundations and our government partners in Northern Virginia, principally Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William Counties, as well as the City of Alexandria. At the time, however, the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus infection among immigrant and Latino families in the Washington region was increasing by approximately 4,000 cases each week.

Constituting approximately 18% of the total population in Northern Virginia, January 3, 2021 figures from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) demonstrated that Latino patients accounted for 43% of the confirmed coronavirus cases and 43.5% of the hospitalizations in Fairfax County, 47.9% of the cases and 57.1% of the hospitalizations in Prince William County, 39.5% of the cases and 45% of the hospitalizations in Arlington County, and 43% of the cases and 39.8% of the hospitalizations in the City of Alexandria.

FEBRUARY 2021

Edu-Futuro announced the nomination of our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) as a "2021 Example of Excelencia!" by Excelencia in Education -- the only national initiative to recognize programs with evidence of effectiveness in accelerating Latino student success. In 2020, ELP had been recognized by the organization as a "Program to Watch for 2020," and was included in Excelencia's 2020 What Works for Latino Students in Higher Education Compendium.

Our Case Management Services (CMS) continued providing critical assistance to immigrant families during the pandemic. Here is another story of the parents we were able to assist -- As a single father with two daughters, José faced a grave situation when the Parent Liaison from his local high school referred his case to Edu-Futuro's Carmen Correa. Unemployed since the beginning of the pandemic, José had not been able to pay rent for three months. Despite the Virginia moratorium on evictions, his landlord threatened him with legal action for the missing payments. Most importantly, one of José's daughters was eight months pregnant, diagnosed with COVID-19, and in a coma at a local hospital. Tragically, the child did not survive the virus, but Jose's daughter awakened from her coma and made a nearly miraculous recovery from the illness. Working with our case management specialist, José found that he was eligible for Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) assistance. We immediately began gathering the documentation necessary for the application process. Recognizing the case's urgency, CSP expedited the request for help and covered José's outstanding rent. At the time, José was still seeking employment, but we were able to stabilize the household during a difficult and emotional time for the family.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

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MARCH 2021

On March 12, 2021, parents, students, and immigrant advocates across Virginia celebrated as Governor Ralph Northam signed historic legislation that required institutions of higher education to provide all youth who qualified for in-state tuition the opportunity to apply for financial aid and other educational benefits, regardless of immigration status. The new law will take effect on August 1, 2022, and will open the doors to postsecondary education for thousands of students in Virginia by making them eligible for need-based financial aid, including the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, which is worth nearly \$4,000 per year.

Although the process for 2021 college admissions and scholarships was still ongoing, Edu-Futuro shared the good news about two ELP students who had already received a response to their applications. Thanks to the vital work of our Youth Programs Coordinator, Victoria Mejía, and our excellent team of AmeriCorps members, Abel Geleta, a senior at Washington Liberty High School in Arlington, had been accepted to Yale University, and Kadija Ismail, a senior at John R. Lewis High School in Fairfax, had been admitted to Stanford University. Abel and Kadija provide examples of what so many of our immigrant, Latino, and English Language Learner students can accomplish when they are given the kind of support and encouragement provided by Edu-Futuro.

APRIL 2021

On April 15, 2021, the Washington Post published an Op-Ed written by our Executive Director, Jorge E. Figueredo, that placed a much-needed spotlight on the fact that Latino families continued to bear the heaviest COVID-19 burden of any racial or ethnic community in the Washington metropolitan area.

In the OpEd, Mr. Figueredo stated -- "The coronavirus crisis has exposed large gaps in our local safety net along with serious funding inequities faced by grass-roots organizations working to provide emergency assistance to communities of color. Public authorities in Virginia, Maryland and D.C. have a moral responsibility to do everything in their power to guarantee equity in the pandemic response -- including distributing lifesaving vaccinations to the racial and ethnic groups with the highest number of confirmed cases."

MAY 2021

On May 22, Edu-Futuro celebrated the graduation of 83 outstanding high school seniors from our Emerging Leaders Program, Part II (ELP II), our life-changing college admission and financial aid program for immigrant and Latino students. Overcoming the enormous challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, Edu-Futuro was able to nearly double the number of 2020 ELP II graduates, from 47 to 83. In addition, those high school graduates were offered \$5,557,892 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and a remarkable \$21,468,490 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid -- new records for the students of Edu-Futuro.

JUNE 2021

Figures from the end of Edu-Futuro's 2020-2021 Fiscal Year demonstrated that we shattered our record for service to immigrant and Latino families in Northern Virginia. In total, we served 3,268 clients between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, breaking our previous record number of beneficiaries by 61.7%. Of those served, 844 participated in our children and youth programs, while 2,424 joined our parent programs, including 2,273 parents and 151 children. In FY 2020-2021 alone, Edu-Futuro provided economic assistance to 436 households, and dispersed a total of \$447,718 from our Emergency Assistance Fund for direct financial aid for rent, utilities, and other basic necessities.

According to June 25, 2021, numbers published by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Latino patients accounted for 36% of the confirmed coronavirus cases and 38.9% of the hospitalizations in Fairfax County, 41.3% of the cases and 51.2% of the hospitalizations in Prince William County, 32.6% of the cases and 40% of the hospitalizations in Arlington County, and 35.8% of the cases and 36.6% of the hospitalizations in the City of Alexandria. By June 25, VDH had reported that Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, and Alexandria had 50,370 confirmed coronavirus cases among Latino patients, compared to 42,560 cases in the White population, 17,669 cases in the African American community, and 14,936 among Asian American families.

MISSION & VISION

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MISSION

To empower immigrant and underserved youth and families through mentorship, education, leadership development, parent engagement, individual case management, and workforce development.

VISION

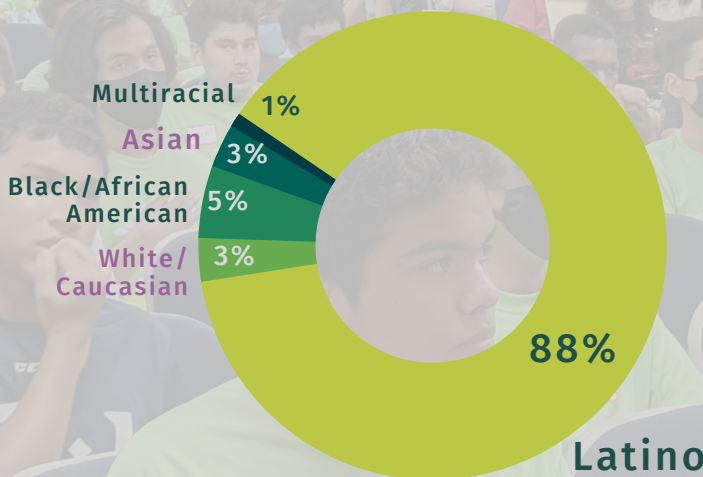
Realizing the potential of immigrant youth and their families.

This year, Edu-Futuro served **3,268** children, youth, and parents -- breaking our previous record number of beneficiaries by a remarkable **61.7%**. We are now one of the largest providers of direct financial aid to immigrant families in Northern Virginia and the entire Washington region. Our bilingual staff members have succeeded in stabilizing more than **1,200** households and disbursing close to **\$900,000** from our own Emergency Assistance Fund for rent, food, utilities, and other basic necessities.

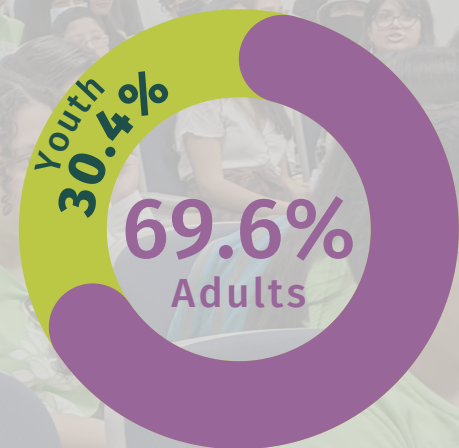


2020-2021 BENEFICIARY PROFILE

RACE/ETHNICITY



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



During FY20-21, Edu-Futuro provided **3,385** services to **3,268** unduplicated children, youth, and adults.

94%

of the youth we serve through our ELP program are immigrants or children of immigrants.

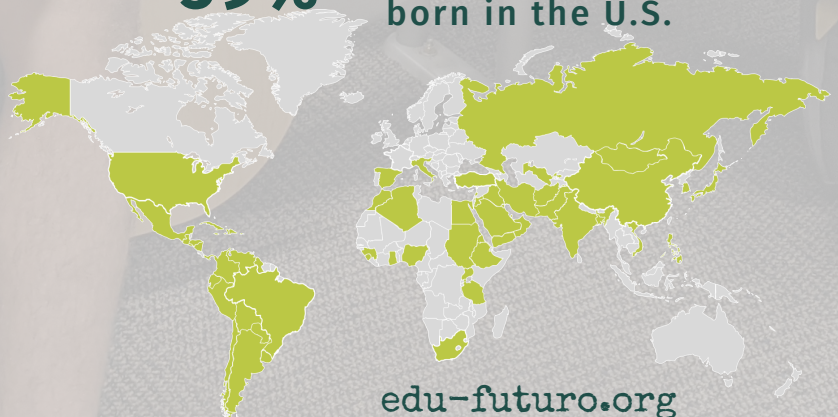
MORE THAN 71%

of the students enrolled in our Emerging Leaders Programs will be part of the first generation in their families to go to college in the U.S.

61 COUNTRIES

The students and parents served by Edu-Futuro in FY20-21 came from 61 countries all around the world, including the following: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

59% of the students were born in the U.S.



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OUR PROGRAMS: EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAMS

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) offers a series of interconnected services and training workshops to help immigrant and Latino youth in grades 5-12 develop the educational skills needed to reach high school graduation, college enrollment, and career success. During FY2020-2021, Edu-Futuro served 844 students, with the majority of youth participating in our four core Emerging Leaders Programs: ELP STEM, ELP I, ELP II, and ELP III.

ELP STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS)

Due to school closings and COVID restrictions, Edu-Futuro had to cancel all Robotics Club activities last year. Instead, our staff developed a flexible and innovative virtual ELP STEM program that proved extremely popular and served 242 elementary, middle, and high school students. The new STEM-based curriculum presented ELP participants with fun challenges that helped students connect science to their daily lives. In addition, we adapted the content of the minds-on and hands-on curriculum to fit the age-specific needs of youth attending upper elementary school into junior year of high school.

In FY2020-2021, Edu-Futuro delivered four different ELP STEM programs, with students participating in 12 virtual workshops over 6-week periods. The engaging sessions featured such titles as "Coding a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich," "Video Gaming, by Me," and "Designing Your Own 3D Soda Can." In addition, our ELP STEM programs conducted several competitions based on these workshops, in which students worked with their crew teammates and mentors to practice their new skills and win prizes. These group activities enabled students to create new friendships and helped to keep our youth engaged.

Of the ELP STEM students who completed the program during FY21:

- 95% developed strong critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- 98% improved their abilities to collaborate with others.
- 93% improved their STEM competencies and confidence.



Natalie Arandia is a former ELP student who joined Edu-Futuro last year as one of our new AmeriCorps members, focusing on the ELP STEM Program. Natalie is working to complete her computer studies at George Mason University.



AmeriCorps

"Before I entered High School, I was determined to get into college. I wasn't sure how the process worked or what I needed to do, since I was the first person in my family to go to college. Luckily, I was introduced to ELP I, which helped me develop my leadership skills and gave me the courage to take up leadership positions in some school clubs. Once I got into my senior year of high school, I was accepted into ELP II, which I felt got me closer to my dream of going to college...I am eternally grateful to my mentor and the Emerging Leaders Program for helping me get into college and not having to take out loans. Although I had to navigate college alone, being one of the only Latinas studying Computer Science, I joined the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers which became my support network. As I was approaching the summer of my sophomore year, I applied to over 100 technical internships, but was denied mainly because of COVID-19. I almost lost all hope in finding an internship until Edu-Futuro contacted me...Edu-Futuro gave me the opportunity to intern and help them transition their STEM curriculum to online delivery. With my experience in Computer Science, I tried to make the content engaging and fun for the kids. I really enjoyed seeing the students go through the lessons and to be able to pass on my knowledge. It was the best internship I could ask for because I got to give back to the organization that helped me so much, and helped kids get a head start in learning how to code. I'm excited to be joining Edu-Futuro for a year-long AmeriCorps position starting this fall. I hope I can inspire and help other students who are also going to be first-generation college students."

"When I found out I was awarded the Dr. Marjorie L. Myers Scholarship I was very shocked, but excited. It had been a nerve-racking day for my parents and me as we waited to get the phone call, but when I received it with good news, I cried with my mom and both of us were filled with absolute joy...The first person I let know about the scholarship was Mrs. Monica Lozano-Caldera. She has been a guiding force in my life since middle school. If it wasn't for her encouraging me to take every opportunity presented to me, I wouldn't be where I am today. She introduced me to the Edu-Futuro family by getting me started in Robotics at Gunston Middle School, and ever since, I have been grateful to the organization for all the support and resources they have provided me. They are the reasons behind my leadership skills, ability to speak in public, and interest in STEM. I appreciate all the trust and support I have been given throughout this journey. Thank you to Edu-Futuro, my family and mentors, and to anyone that I have had the chance of interacting with for impacting my life through the various programs I have been a part of these last 6 years."



Tania Guzman was named a winner of the 2020 Dr. Marjorie L. Myers Scholarship Award. She is currently studying Exercise Science at Old Dominion University.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM - PART I (ELP I)

For the 2020-2021 school year, our ELP I academic support and college readiness program served 390 high school students in grades 9-12. Delivered virtually, ELP I offered workshops on resume preparation, job interviews, networking, financial literacy, public speaking, and the college-application process. Despite the pandemic's challenges, our students participated in speech and scholarship competitions by recording and sharing their presentations online.

For the duration of the program, ELP I students are paired with mentors who work hand in hand with our young leaders, providing guidance, tutoring, and invaluable academic and personal support. Each mentor is assigned a small crew of four to six students so that sufficient time and attention can be offered to individual participants as they prepare resumes, write essays, and complete scholarship applications.

Of the ELP I students who completed the program during FY2020-2021:

- 95% exhibited the confidence, abilities, and skills needed to stay on the college track.
- 89% strongly agreed that they connected to at least one adult who is invested in their success.



Alejandro Erazo was named a winner of the 2020 Dr. Marjorie L. Myers Scholarship Award. Graduated from Annandale High School in Fairfax, he is currently studying Psychology at the University of Virginia.

"Honestly, I was very surprised and honored when I was notified that I had been selected to be the recipient of Edu-Futuro's Dr. Marjorie L. Myers Scholarship. I was very happy to see that my character and the hard work I have been putting into my education for the past three years have not gone unnoticed. This scholarship will help me pay for my books and some of my personal expenses when I prospectively attend Vanderbilt University, my dream school, in the fall of 2021. Yet, all of this would not have been possible without the continuous support of Edu-Futuro. In the spring of 2020, I had the opportunity to participate in the Emerging Leaders Program I at the Falls Church site. There, I had the pleasure to work with wonderful mentors, such as Gerson Osorio, who helped me greatly when I was developing my resume; Mark Epstein, who gave me detailed and meaningful feedback when I was drafting my personal essay and polishing my speech for the ELP I Competition; and Katie Ortiz, who as the facilitator of the Falls Church site continuously reached out to me to ensure that I was doing well and staying on task with the program. Thanks to their help, I was able to get a head-start on the college application process, and I was also able to develop my public speaking skills and learn more about the college financial aid packages in the multiple workshops that the program offered to me.

Despite all of this, my story with Edu-Futuro does not end there. A few months later, in the late summer of this year, I was unexpectedly diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, and I was told by my physicians that I needed to get heart surgery as soon as possible to fix the issue. This is because my condition, which had caused me to have an irregular heartbeat since birth, could make me undergo major heart problems in the future if left untreated. The news made me feel shocked and scared since I never expected to be surgically intervened during my lifetime -- much less having heart surgery at age 18. Luckily for me, Edu-Futuro was there to help me. Because of the timing of these events, I was unable to concentrate and give my best effort on my application for ELP II. However, upon reaching out to the ELP II admissions committee regarding my circumstances, they were not only understanding and gave me an extension to submit my supplemental documents and my application, but they also supported me with encouragement and good wishes. After undergoing heart surgery on September 8th and being accepted into the program, Edu-Futuro stayed in close contact with me to ensure that my recovery went well. As I regained my strength with every day that passed, Edu-Futuro presented me with multiple scholarship and mentoring opportunities to help me stay on track with the college admissions process as I dealt with the side-effects of my surgery. Ultimately, I would like to say that I am forever grateful to Edu-Futuro for their continuous support, and if anyone is ever in need, Edu-Futuro will be there to provide you with the same amount of support they gave me to ensure my wellbeing and my future success."





Abel Geleta graduated from Washington Liberty High School in Arlington County. He is currently attending Yale University.

"The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) has been vital and critical in my college application process, and in acclimating me to the college environment. My designated mentor has spent countless hours helping me to get into my dream college, preparing me for college and scholarship interviews, and planning for the future. I've been fortunate enough to gain guidance and assistance from the whole ELP crew to understand the sundry aspects of the college admission and college transition process. Through the workshops and one-on-one mentor meetings, I feel ready and prepared for my college journey, and I have the Emerging Leaders Program to thank for providing that assurance."

"Sitting by my desk for hours every week, I meticulously planned what I would write for my early action applications. As a first-generation college student, I wasn't necessarily anticipating my long night sessions spent studying, writing, and editing yielding me the results that it did, but luckily enough I had a decent support system to help me get there. Without Edu-Futuro and the resources provided to me by my mentor, Lauren, I'm not sure that I would've spent those hours with confidence, writing the essays and supplements that got me in! From learning about resume building in Edu-Futuro ELP I, to applying to scholarships in ELP II, I am now wholly confident that I will be able to succeed in my future, putting my best foot forward."



Kadija Ismail graduated from John Lewis High School in Fairfax County. She is currently attending Stanford University.

edu-fut

"I learned a lot from ELP. It helped me with my resume and I was able to meet students with similar backgrounds and make even more connections. I needed help with essays because I wanted to make sure they're good enough. Of course, as a first-gen, I also needed help with financial aid. Safeties were GMU and NOVA, but my target was UVA and my dream were MIT, Brown, Carlton, and Harvard. I have worked really hard the past 3 years: full IB program, 4.3 GPA, practicing for SAT, founded 2 clubs and been involved in 3, an MIT summer program... I'm really grateful to Edu-Futuro and ELP"



Mahia Rahman, graduated from Washington-Liberty High School. She is currently attending **Harvard University** where she's studying Computer Science and Social Justice.



Gisela Arnez graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke. She is currently attending **George Mason University**, where she is studying environmental science.

"ELP II is an amazing opportunity that anyone who has the chance should be part of. I've met such kind, understanding, and supportive people, both fellow mentees and also mentors. My mentor has really helped me throughout the college application process, answered questions I've had, and been a great friend, too. I think it's really nice to have mentors who are so approachable and easy to talk to and they are all incredibly friendly. The ELP program is really inspiring as a whole because it provides students a support system as we are getting ready to step into this new, and oftentimes frightening phase of our lives. Thanks to the support of ELP II, I've gotten accepted into every university I have applied to so far, and have acquired very helpful knowledge of other things related to life after high school. I've met amazing, intelligent and hardworking kids who accomplish their goals, and seeing each other doing this together is incredibly heartwarming."

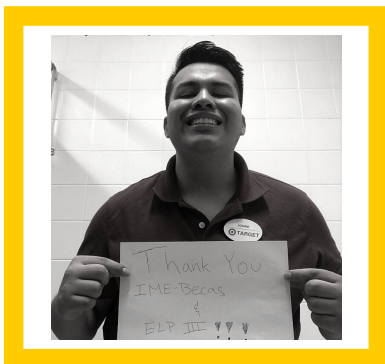
EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM - PART II (ELP II)

Without a doubt, the centerpiece of our youth programs is ELP II, which provides high school seniors who completed ELP I with educational workshops and year-round mentors who help students complete applications for college enrollment, scholarships, and financial aid. ELP II also offers sessions specifically focused on preparing students for college life. The training is designed to ensure that participants are aware of academic and mental health resources available in postsecondary institutions, and teach practical skills that can ease the difficult transition from high school to college.

We do not mind repeating that, in FY2020-2021, our 83 ELP II graduates were offered an Edu-Futuro record-breaking \$5,557,892 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and \$21,468,490 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid. As a result, these extraordinary students are now attending postsecondary institutions that include: Harvard University, Yale University, Stanford University, Brown University, Duke University, Bentley University, George Mason University, George Washington University, James Madison University, Juniata College, Marymount University, NOVA, Old Dominion University, Randolph-Macon College, Sweet Briar College, UC Irvine, University of Lynchburg, University of Mary Washington, University of Penn, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, and William and Mary University.

The scholarships won by Edu-Futuro students include:

- QuestBridge Scholarship - \$76,892
- Brown University Scholarship - \$57,000
- Presidential Scholarship Initiative - \$29,780
- Mason IDEA Scholarship - \$17,645
- National Student Scholarship - \$13,527
- George Mason University Merit Based Scholarship - \$17,895



Jovani Octaviano was named a winner of the 2020 IME Becas Award, which is made possible thanks to the generosity of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME for its acronym in Spanish). Jovani graduated from Justice High School in Fairfax, and is currently attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where he is studying Biology.



edu-futuro.org

"I was born in the United States, but then moved to Mexico. When I was 6 years old, I came back to the U.S. and went to Bailey's Elementary School in Fairfax. Two years later, my father went back to Mexico. I was raised by a single mother who worked 2 to 3 jobs, so that we could have shelter and food. I felt furious and heartbroken not being able to spend time with my mother. I felt as if I didn't fit in, and I didn't have anyone to talk to. During middle school, more of my family was coming from Mexico, which was incredible because it helped me become more social.

Having one parent made me question. It was difficult not having your parents drop you off at school, picking you up, or going to see your games. When the president of the U.S. stated that "Mexicans are drug dealers, rapists, and killers," and how he was going to deport every immigrant in the country, my family felt scared and afraid to go outside. Ever since, I wanted to help the Hispanic community as much as I could. I started to do volunteer work for my community. I love my country and express how beautiful it is, which is why I try to help the Hispanic community as much as I can.

Many people expect Hispanic students to drop out of school and fail. I want to be a role model to the younger kids, especially to the kids who were raised by a single mother...I want to become the first person in my family's history to graduate college. That is why I joined Edu-Futuro through ELP I, ELP II, and now ELP III. Although my mom was rarely around, she has always been motivating me to be a better person. She made me into a gentleman who is caring, hardworking, intelligent, and especially, a passionate person. I want to succeed for Guillermina Alvarez, my mother."

"Joining Edu-Futuro's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) was one of the best decisions I made sophomore year, because not only did it prepare me for many things I had to face throughout high school, but it also helped me personally. I was extremely shy and never joined any club when I joined ELP. Not only did the program help me to practice public speaking and my social skills, but it also taught me to write a resume, prepare emails, apply to scholarships, and practice interview skills that helped me get a part-time job. I learned countless lessons and tips from my mentors that allowed me to get accepted into colleges, conduct admission and job interviews, as well as talk to the counselors and staff for scholarships and financial aid. I was also able to contact people in the professional film business for internships and advice, which I wouldn't have been able to do without ELP. I made friends and created great relationships with my crew members, and learned professional skills that I will need as an immigrant and future first-generation college student. I work part-time, and got into five colleges so far, and received four scholarships. I believe I wouldn't have been able to do this without Edu-Futuro's help in empowering teens and students."



Ashri Dawoud graduated from Justice High School in Fairfax County. She is currently attending Hollins University where she is studying Film.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM - PART III (ELP III)

Still in its pilot phase due to a lack of stable financial support, ELP III extends Edu-Futuro's continuum of services to graduates of ELP II who are attending local colleges. Our mentors provide on-campus and virtual support that helps students navigate the challenges of college life and develop the professional skills required to obtain their first jobs. Our ELP III pilot program is currently serving 18 unduplicated students.



Kate Linares was named a winner of the 2020 IME Becas Award, which is made possible thanks to the generosity of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME for its acronym in Spanish). Jovani graduated from Annandale High School, and is currently attending Randolph-Macon College to be a Nurse.

"Being part of the Edu-Futuro ELP I program helped trigger a period of growth and a new understanding of myself. When I found out I was accepted into the program, I got excited and became very ready to learn more about how to go forward in my life. While I was at ELP, I got to know the other people in the program, and I thank ELP for helping me build these relationships. Before I got into the program, I was a very shy person. I wasn't very good at talking to adults, let alone people I'd never met. Throughout the program we learned networking, public speaking, leadership speech skills, and many other important skills. I use these new abilities all the time now. I couldn't be happier with the guidance and help I got through the program. I am very grateful for ELP, for letting me have the opportunity to become a better communicator and leader in general.

After attending the program, I am more outgoing, social, better in networking, and better at adapting to new environments. Now, I'm going to feel safer raising my hand to answer questions and I'm also going to ask questions about topics, if I have any doubts. It's been hard to deal with the change of being more open to the world, but I have to work hard. ELP helped me see that I was preventing myself from reaching my full potential and made me realize that I can accomplish bigger things if I try. ELP proved to be a program that helps people in many ways. For me, it was just what I needed to overcome my fear of talking to people I didn't know and being open-minded to new beginnings and challenges. ELP II helps all types of students prepare for life beyond high school. The cost of college is a very big factor in my life, and I needed all the help I could get so I could get enough money to pay for college and not accumulate tons of student loans. I need to be able to study with peace of mind and not feel like I'm drowning in debt. I really feel like I would benefit from getting all the help I can get from ELP III and actually using what I learned during the program."

PARENT EMPOWERMENT SERVICES

During FY2020-2021, Edu-Futuro delivered all parent programs virtually to families living throughout Northern Virginia. In total, we served 2,411 adults and their children, a brand-new record for Parent Empowerment Services (PES). Our training curricula for parents are varied, but generally focus on adapting to life in the U.S., improving family communication, and breaking the cycle of poverty through workforce development. As we mentioned earlier, our greatest PES success this past year was our expanded Case Management Services (CMS), which played a critical role in connecting struggling families with critical support for rental and other types of financial assistance.

Our work with each one of the families we serve is comprehensive and holistic. Our case management team is charged with making certain that households are stable and have access to all of the basic support services needed by both youth and parents. In situations where a family member has contracted the coronavirus, we coordinate appropriate housing for isolation and quarantine, and ensure that medical services are provided to each and every person residing in the household. We pay special attention to multigenerational, single parent, and linguistically isolated households, with the goal of keeping families safe throughout the crisis, and always letting them know that they are not alone in their moment of need.

In FY2020-2021 alone, Edu-Futuro provided financial assistance services to 436 households, and dispersed a total of \$447,718 in direct financial aid for rent, utilities, and other basic necessities. Our PES programs include:





TRAINING

Case Management Services (CMS): Now one of the most important programs at Edu-Futuro, our team of Parent Support Specialists work closely with parents to determine household needs, and create individualized support plans for assistance. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, Edu-Futuro has stabilized more than 1,200 households, and disbursed nearly \$900,000 in financial assistance for rent, food, and utilities.

Workforce Development Services (WDS): Through bilingual computer/smartphone instruction and individual job counseling, this program helps immigrant parents gain the skills necessary to find, apply for, and obtain employment.

PARTICIPA...en mi Educación: The curriculum teaches immigrant parents of elementary school-aged children how to navigate the U.S. school system in order to support and advocate more effectively for their children's education.

Families Reunite: This program helps rebuild relationships between parents and children who were separated during the immigration process and have recently been reunited.

Strengthening Families Program (10-14): Designed for parents and their children, ages 10 to 14, Strengthening Families helps parents and youth to develop strategies to resist peer pressure that leads to risky behaviors. Parents learn how to supervise their adolescents in a proactive way and stimulate healthy, positive family relationships.

Padres Comprometidos: The workshop training program teaches Latino parents how to navigate the United States public school system, develop goals for their children to ensure they attend college, understand the academic requirements for a postsecondary education, and model behaviors at home that encourage and promote learning.

One-Time Workshops: Throughout the year, individual sessions are organized when parents express the need for instruction on a specific subject. One-Time Workshops have focused on such topics as English for Childcare, Resume Building, Budgeting, and Financial Aid.

"With the beginning of 2021, I was determined to improve myself in many ways. One of which was expanding my professional opportunities by creating my resume and cover letter, enabling me to apply for new jobs and opportunities. I am very grateful to Edu-Futuro and the Workforce Development Specialist assigned to help me fulfill my goal. Their one-on-one counseling allowed me to improve my resume and write a professional cover letter. I not only drafted these documents, but improved my interview skills and received a job offer in Fairfax County Government! Thank you Edu-Futuro for empowering me to take charge of my own professional life!"

Patty, local Arlington mom.



"I had a wonderful experience taking the finance classes from Edu-Futuro. I would like to encourage other parents to participate in the sessions. I learned a lot about credit card interest rates and improving my credit. I also learned that when you ask for help, God places good people in your path. Thanks to the training, I was able to reduce the interest rate on my credit card from 25% to 14%. This was a great help! Blessings."

Ingrid Argueta, participated in Edu-Futuro's Financial Empowerment Network workshops.

COMMUNICATIONS

Connecting with Immigrant Families

edu-futuro.org

LINEA DIRECTA

A unique media partnership with NBC4 allows Edu-Futuro to broadcast our weekly public service television series, Línea Directa, throughout the Washington metropolitan area on the region's leading Spanish-language station, Telemundo 44. Each Saturday morning, at 11:00 a.m., the program reaches thousands of Latino households, providing important information on services available to Latino families from local government or nonprofit organizations. Hosted by six-time Emmy-winning journalist Andrea Sarraide, throughout the pandemic, Línea Directa has focused on giving medical and mental health experts, community leaders, and elected officials a timely platform for connecting with Latino families, providing accurate information on such topics as vaccine efficacy and distribution, COVID-19 dangers for Latino workers, and methods for protecting the health of grandparents living in multigenerational households.

On the air since January 1990, Línea Directa was the first local television series ever broadcast on Washington Spanish-language television, and after nearly 32 years on the air, the weekly program has helped to empower three generations of Latino workers, parents, and students.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

During the past two years, Edu-Futuro has built a thriving grassroots social media network that includes Línea Directa and Edu-Futuro Facebook pages with over 5,000 followers. In order to complement this effort, we constructed an active WhatsApp community of approximately 2,000 users who generate hundreds of monthly interactions with our staff. Our social media efforts are focused on the two most popular online means of communication for Latino families: Facebook and WhatsApp. By mobilizing our extensive bilingual outreach capability to inform youth and parents about upcoming programs and other important information, Edu-Futuro has been able to establish a critical line of communication with our families, and to maintain beneficiary participation at levels comparable to pre-pandemic numbers.

320 VOLUNTEERS

donated their time and resources to Edu-Futuro.

Total Non-Professional Volunteers: 310

Total Professional Volunteers: 10

Total Non-Professional Hours: 1,903

Value of Total Non-Professional Hours: \$51,627

Total Professional Hours: 159

Value of Total Professional Hours: \$10,355

Total Hours: 2,062

Total Value: \$61,982

ELP AND STEM GRADUATION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ELP I Summer 2020 Graduation

Mario Acosta-Velez, Director of State Government Affairs/External Affairs for Verizon Mid-Atlantic Region

ELP I & STEM Fall 2020 Graduation

Tannia Talento, former member of the Arlington County School Board
Cleo Clarke, Vice President, North America Z Software Client Success, IBM Corporation

ELP I & STEM Spring 2021 Graduation

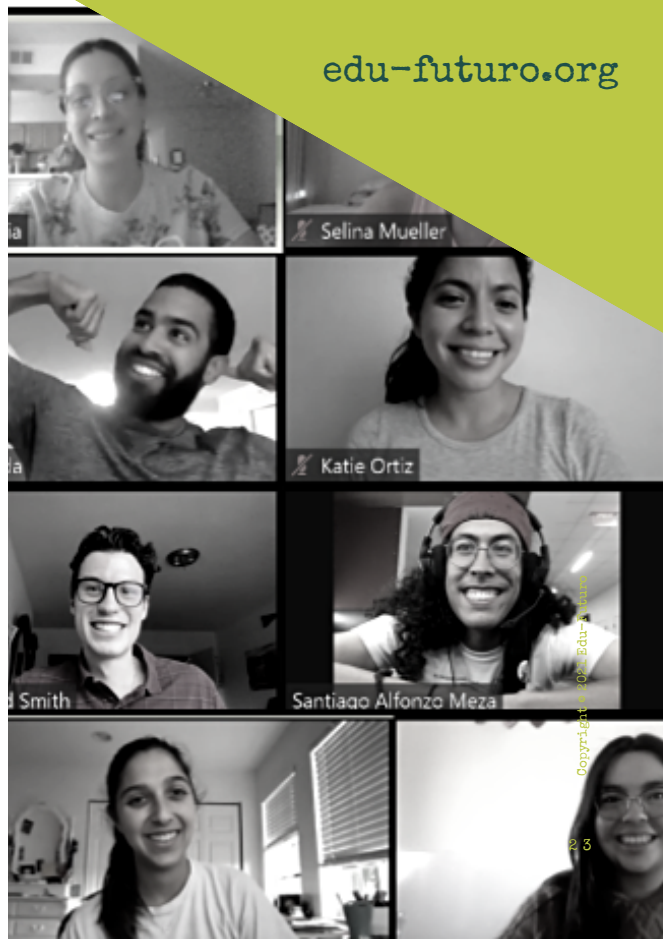
Elizabeth Guzmán, Virginia Delegate (District 31)

ELP I & STEM Winter 2021 Graduation

Cristina Díaz-Torres, member of the Arlington County School Board

MAKING AN IMPACT

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2020-2021 Financial Statement

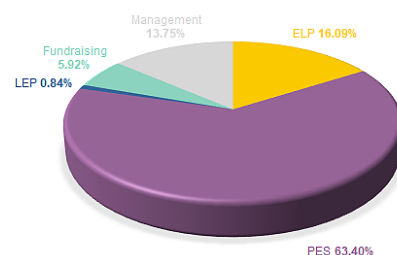
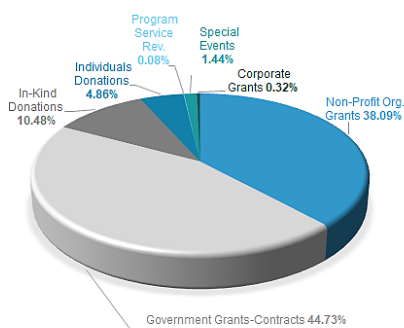
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REVENUE

FY20-21 Unaudited Financial Statements

	Revenue
Nonprofit Organization Grants (38.09%)	\$1,022,764
Corporate Grants (0.32%)	\$8,500
Government Grants and Contracts (44.73%)	\$1,200,861
In-Kind Donations (10.48%)	\$281,421
Individuals Donations (4.86%)	\$130,614
Program Service Revenue (0.08%)	\$2,280
Special Events (1.44%)	\$38,562
TOTAL (100%)	\$2,685,002*



EXPENSES

FY20-21 Unaudited Financial Statements

	Program Expenses
Emerging Leaders Programs (16.09%)	\$371,431
Parent Empowerment Programs (63.40%)	\$1,463,695
Language Enrichment Programs (0.84%)	\$19,460
Subtotal	\$1,854,586

	Supporting Services Expenses
Management (13.75%)	\$317,345
Fundraising (5.92%)	\$136,733
Subtotal	\$454,078

TOTAL (100%)	\$2,308,664
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*With the closing of non-essential services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of Edu-Futuro's beneficiaries lost their sources of income and were financially impacted. Edu-Futuro raised and disbursed \$517,159.23 in direct financial assistance for rent, utilities, and other necessities. Instead of remaining with the organization, these funds went directly to 436 unduplicated families in need. Therefore, when reviewing the total revenue and expenses, \$517,159.23 should be read as a "pass-through."

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Nora Lopez, *Adult Programs Coordinator*
Eduardo Lopez, *Communications & Programs Coordinator*
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Alexis Rivas, *WFD Specialist*
Anna Lujan, *Parent Support & WFD Specialist*
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Katherine Garcia, *Parent Support & CM Specialist*
Monica Valencia, *Parent Support & CM Specialist*
Pablo Barrios, *Parent Support & CM Specialist*
Beatriz Morales, *Parent Support & CM Specialist*
Eunah Ko, *Executive Operations Specialist*
Kripa Patwardhan, *Executive Operations Specialist*

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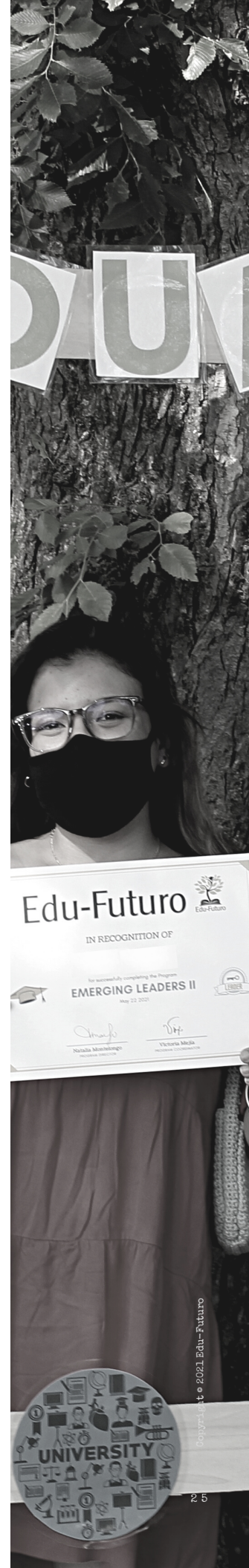
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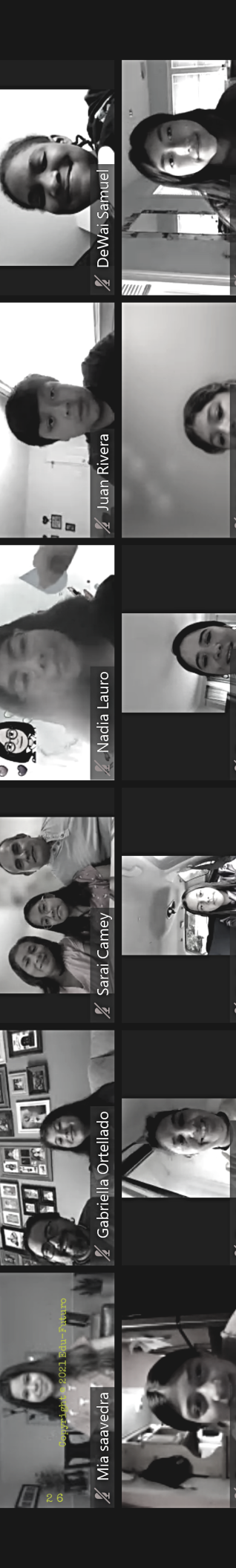
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Toni Castillo, *STEM Facilitator*
Crystal Worley, *STEM Facilitator*
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Katie Baca-Ortiz, *ELP I Facilitator*
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Harper Garcia, *ELP I Facilitator*
Maya Jaffe, *ELP I Facilitator*
Lauren Wilson, *Parent and Youth Facilitator*
Pilar Stoeppelwerth, *Parent and Youth Facilitator*

HOURLY EMPLOYEES

Luz Trujillo, *CM Specialist*
Johana Lopez, *Spanish School Coordinator and CM Specialist*
Edna Gabriela Marroquin, *Spanish Teacher*
Nikola Stamenkovic, *Spanish Teacher*
Romualda Alarcos, *Spanish Teacher*
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Marcel Ribera, *IT Support*
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Dulce Oliveros, *PES Facilitator*
Norma Cruz, *PES Facilitator*
Illeana Garcia, *PES Facilitator*
Rosa Catacho, *PES Facilitator*
Jose Flores, *PES Facilitator*
Lorena Salomon, *PES Facilitator*
Greta Chacon, *PES Facilitator*
Gabriela Aramayo, *PES Facilitator*
Lourdes Salas, *PES Facilitator*
Jaime Farjardo, *PES Facilitator*
Alba Quinones, *PES Facilitator*





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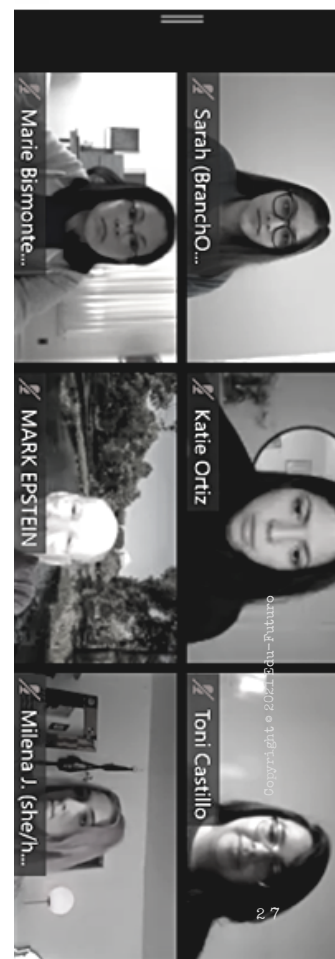
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We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who support us. Your generous contributions keep Edu-Futuro growing and serving more immigrant children, youth, and adults. Thank you all for making it possible!

If you were omitted from our recognition lists, or your name was misspelled, please accept our apologies, and call us at 703-228-2560 or send an email to info@edufuturo.org so we can correct our records. Thank you.





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