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## Message from the

# President of the Board of Directors



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Before the outbreak of the COVID crisis in March 2020, nearly every single Edu-Futuro program was conducted at local schools, giving families the opportunity to participate in our educational workshops in a safe, convenient location that was already familiar to both students and parents. When the pandemic forced schools to close their facilities to nonprofit partners like Edu-Futuro, we quickly transitioned our programs to online delivery, but our staff was always eager to return to the kind of personal interaction and understanding that had always characterized our work with immigrant and Latino families.

Now that local school systems have fully re-opened their doors to partner organizations, we are proud to report that Edu-Futuro has made a successful return to in-person programming in classrooms throughout Northern Virginia. The response from our beneficiaries has been so positive that, during FY2022-2023, Edu-Futuro provided a record-breaking 5,111 services to more than 2,000 families, helping students graduate from high school and enroll in college, while empowering their parents how to navigate the school system, improve household communication, and obtain better jobs through our Workforce Development programs. We are particularly proud of our brand-new GED certification program, which launched in June 2023.

One excellent example of our in-person return to local schools is the Parent Academy concept that Edu-Futuro offers in partnership with Coates Elementary School in Fairfax County. The school's Parent Liaison invited our staff to offer Latino parents a series of Edu-Futuro and FCPS programs aimed at helping participants support the education of their children throughout the school year. Coates Elementary opens their doors for the evening programs and coordinates the scheduling of the sessions, while Edu-Futuro provides bilingual facilitators, as well as child care and snacks for participants. The project has been so successful that, in March 2023, NBC4-Washington and Telemundo 44 both broadcast reports on our partnership with Coates Elementary School during their evening newscasts. As parent Brian Galindo said on Telemundo 44, "I want to be the person who guides my son on his way to a better future, and this class has been very important in helping me to listen and to understand him better."

The Parent Academy is just one of the many creative and effective programs that Edu-Futuro offers free of charge to immigrant and Latino families in Northern Virginia. We are extremely grateful to our philanthropic and government partners, to our individual donors, and to our wonderful volunteers for their steadfast commitment and support. Without your generous contributions, the work of Edu-Futuro would not be possible.

Jeane M. Balcom

**Board President** 

## Message from the

# **Executive Director**

Immigrant and Latino families accounted for the largest number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Northern Virginia during the pandemic, and every day, our staff is witness to how hard parents and students are working to recuperate from the public health and economic impact of the crisis. Despite the determination and resilience of our families, Edu-Futuro must report that thousands of students across our region are struggling to face an alarming new challenge — chronic absenteeism. Defined as missing more than 10% of required class time during the school year, chronic absenteeism among Latino and English Learner (EL) students increased sharply during the pandemic, and now threatens to trigger a steep surge in dropout rates that are already unacceptably high for disadvantaged youth.

According to figures from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), approximately 98,230 Latino students and 87,831 EL students, are currently attending the school systems in Edu-Futuro's service area of Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, and Alexandria. These vulnerable student populations are facing dangerously high rates of chronic absenteeism while also experiencing the highest dropout rates for any racial or ethnic group in the region. The table below offers an overview of the number of Latino and EL students in local school systems, and demonstrates that chronic absenteeism is endangering the high school graduation, college enrollment, and future success of approximately one of every four Latino and students in our local schools.

	Student Population	Number of Latino Students	Latino Dropout Rate	Latino Rate of Chronic Absenteeism	Number of English Learner (EL) Students	EL Dropout Rate	EL Rate of Chronic Absenteeism
Fairfax County	180,130	50,617 (28.1%)	16.9%	26%	47,734 (26.5%)	27.8%	24%
Prince William County	91,180	33,372 (36.6%)	14.6%	26%	24,527 (26.9%)	28.7%	23%
Arlington County	27,582	8,192 (29.7%)	13.3%	23%	8,716 (31.6%)	10.7%	21%
City of Alexandria	16,089	6,049 (37.6%)	24.6%	21%	6,854 (42.6%)	29.2%	19%

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In response to this crisis in the education of our students, Edu-Futuro partnered with the Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS) in 2021 to create a three-person bilingual outreach team that could contact students who are missing school days and may be in danger of leaving school before graduation. We are incredibly proud to report that, thus far, Edu-Futuro's outreach team has succeeded in returning 248 students to the classroom and back to a solid path leading to high school graduation.

Through our many meetings with students and their parents, we have found incredible stories of challenge, determination, and resilience. Once we fully understand why a student has been chronically absent, our outreach team works closely with school officials to resolve the issues preventing youth from attending school. For example, in one case this year, we discovered that a young man was chronically absent because his mother had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy. Our case management staff assisted the mother and our outreach team worked with the school to enable his successful return to classes, while his mother received additional care. In another case, a student was missing school because he was helping to take care of a younger brother with autism who was not in school and was not receiving any treatment or therapy. After Edu-Futuro's intervention, not only has the older brother returned to school, but his younger brother has also begun attending that same school, where he attends classes equipped to serve students with special needs. In far too many other cases, we found that students were chronically absent because they were working nearly full-time to help their families recuperate from the considerable financial consequences of the pandemic. Using our signature Two-Generation Approach, we handle each student's situation on a case-by-case basis, working to find a solution until continuous progress replaces chronic absenteeism.

This critical, impactful work is being done every day by the staff of Edu-Futuro. In recognition of our efforts on behalf of immigrant families, we were recently named the 2023 Southeast Affiliate of the Year by UnidosUS, the largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. We are profoundly grateful for the support of our mentors, volunteers, Associate Council, Board of Directors, and funders. Thanks to your faith in our mission, Edu-Futuro begins its 26th year of public service more determined than ever to fulfill the dreams of our students and to break the cycle of poverty among the hard-working immigrant and Latino families of Northern Virginia.

Jorge E. Figueredo, MPP

**Executive Director** 

# **Program Year Highlights**





# Back-to-Back Student Graduations & Coverage from NPR

On December 16 and 17, 2022, Edu-Futuro held back-to-back graduations celebrating the accomplishments of students completing their work on two of the organization's most important youth initiatives — the Emerging Leaders Program and the Youth Public Health Ambassador Program. On the evening of Friday, December 16, approximately 150 students, parents, and guests gathered in the auditorium of Wakefield High School in Fairfax to honor the graduates of the Fall Session of the Emerging Leaders Program, Part I (ELP-I), which offers high school youth a series of in-person and virtual workshops that provide academic support, and help participants to develop the professional skills needed to build a path to college. The graduation featured an inspiring address by Keynote Speaker Captain José Quiroz, the first Latino Sheriff in the history of the Arlington County Sheriff's Office.

The following morning — Saturday, December 17 — some 60 parents and students joined Edu-Futuro to celebrate the first graduation of the organization's Youth Public Health Ambassador Program, a one-year educational initiative created in partnership with the Fairfax County Health Department. Formed in Fall 2022, the Health Ambassador Program provided training in health communication and promotion skills to 90 Hispanic, African American, and Black-African high school students. The program's first graduating class featured fourteen highly accomplished high school students, who among other course activities, designed public health awareness campaigns specifically geared to serve their communities. The inspiring event was covered by NPR's Weekend Edition, which broadcast the report on January 1, 2023

## Civic Engagement Program Brings Families to Washington & Richmond

In February 2023, Edu-Futuro helped students and parents gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. legislative process when they visited lawmakers in the nation's capital and the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. Part of our Civic Engagement Program, the two trips gave families a unique opportunity to not only see democracy in action but to also speak directly to elected officials about issues currently impacting their schools and neighborhoods. From February 12-15, 2023, some 15 Edu-Futuro students and staff participated in the annual three-day UnidosUS Changemakers Summit, culminating in a day-long visit to the Washington offices of U.S. Senators and members of the House of Representatives. During the Congressional Day, Edu-Futuro youth spoke with Northern Virginia Representative Don Beyer and staff for Virginia's U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, and Representative Gerry Connolly. The meeting with Congressman Beyer was particularly memorable for the students, as the youth had the opportunity to speak directly with the legislator for approximately 40 minutes.

On Presidents' Day, February 20, 2023, Edu-Futuro gathered nearly 60 parents and students for a bus trip to Richmond, Virginia, where the group participated in a day-long outing to meet with Northern Virginia legislators. Throughout the day, the families had the opportunity to speak with the staff members of several representatives and with Delegates Alfonso López, Kathy Tran, Michelle Maldonado, and Ghazala Hashmi. The students and parents received important information on how an idea proposed by legislators can become a law signed by the governor of the Commonwealth, and how the active participation of Virginia residents can impact the legislation moving through the General



#### Edu-Futuro Celebrates 25 Years of Public Service

On the evening of Friday, March 3, 2023, Edu-Futuro marked 25 years of public service in Northern Virginia with the best-attended and most successful annual Gala in the organization's history. More than 230 guests gathered at the Marriott Fairview Park in Falls Church, Va., to support the work of Edu-Futuro, and to celebrate our first in-person Gala since 2019. The theme of the event was — "Back to the Futuro!" — in order to highlight the organization's return to in-person student programming at local schools after almost three years of remote and hybrid delivery. Special guests at the Gala included Jeffrey McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Dr. Michelle Reid, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS); Margaret Angela Franklin, Prince William County Board of Supervisors; Ghazala Hashmi, Virginia State Senator; Canek Aguirre, City of Alexandria Council; and Cristina Díaz-Torres, Vice Chair of the Arlington County School Board. Telemundo 44 news anchor Alberto Pimienta hosted the event.

In addition to the many honored guests, the Gala featured emotional testimonies from Edu-Futuro students Nayla Bonilla, Rai Rocca, Marie Mendoza Barrón, and Mario Orellana, who all talked about the ways that our programs have helped them graduate from high school and build a path to college. The Gala audience was especially moved by the testimony of Mrs. Marcela Yanguas-Bonilla, an Edu-Futuro parent with four children, three of whom have already benefited from the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Her oldest son, Jonathan, graduated from Depauw University in 2020 and is completing a postgraduate degree at Rutgers University. Mrs. Yanguas-Bonilla's second son, Samuel, is a senior at Radford University, and her daughter, Isabel, is an ELP student at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County.

### **Preventing Evictions in Prince William County**

On February 28, 2023, Edu-Futuro signed an agreement with Margaret "Peggy" Kimmey, Executive Director of the Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William, to provide \$330,000 in additional rental assistance to vulnerable families living in the County. Edu-Futuro has been awarded \$830,000 by the Human Services Alliance, and our bilingual outreach team has already disbursed approximately \$470,000 to nearly 100 families who were in danger of losing their homes. "From the beginning of the pandemic, Edu-Futuro has worked tirelessly to help families affected by the COVID crisis to pay outstanding rents and prevent profoundly disruptive evictions," said Edu-Futuro Executive Director, Jorge Figueredo. "Throughout Northern Virginia, Edu-Futuro staff have stabilized more than 1,500 households and disbursed nearly \$2 million for rent, food, and other necessities. We are extremely grateful to the Human Services Alliance of Greater Prince William for the funding to protect struggling households in the second most populous county in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

## Edu-Futuro Featured on NBC4-Washington & Telemundo 44

Edu-Futuro's Parent Empowerment programs, delivered to Latino and immigrant families throughout Northern Virginia, were featured in two television news stories broadcast on March 17, 2023. The nightly newscasts of NBC4-Washington and Telemundo 44 both focused on the Parent Academy program being conducted in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) at Coates Elementary School in Herndon. At the time, the Parent Academy workshops were helping 29 parents and teens improve family communication and work together to ensure that youth learned how to resist peer pressure and prevent risky behaviors. As part of the public service partnership with FCPS, the school system provides the space for the weekly workshops. At the same time, Edu-Futuro covers the cost of the bilingual program facilitators, as well as child care and snacks for the participants.

The NBC4 segment included the following exchange between reporter Julie Carey, and Edu-Futuro parent Brian Galindo.

Julie Carey: "This dad says before he started coming to class, he focused mostly on work, on providing. He says his outlook has changed."

Brian Galindo: "This program is helping a lot of families and is guiding us through the right path. We just have to commit ourselves to give back to our kids so they can have a better future."

Both news reports can be viewed at the NBC4 website, www.nbcwashington.com.

# **Program Year Highlights**





## **Edu-Futuro Launches GED Certification Program**

Launched in June 2023, the newest component of our Workforce Development Services (WDS) provides bilingual training for both adults and youth to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. GED Certification Training requires participants to commit to a full year of in-person and virtual classes that meet on weeknights and weekends. "Our initial cohort began with 123 immigrant and Latino participants ready to take on the challenge of earning their GED certification," said Edu-Futuro Executive Director, Jorge Figueredo. "Throughout the pandemic, we saw the bravery and determination of parents who risked their health every day to go to work and earn a living for themselves and their families. Now, our GED program is allowing parents to improve their education and significantly increase household income."



## **Record Turnout for Edu-Futuro's Summer Boot Camp**

Working tirelessly throughout May and June, the staff of Edu-Futuro's student and parent programs succeeded in organizing the best-attended event in the 26-year history of the organization: the 2023 Summer Boot Camp. Held on Saturday, July 15, at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), the Boot Camp brought together nearly 500 students, parents, and volunteers for a full day of workshops and activities designed to show that a college education is within reach of every family in Northern Virginia. For most parents and students attending the Boot Camp, the event marked the first time they had ever visited a college campus. Students participated in a college fair, learning about the educational opportunities offered by five different local universities. Parents attended college admissions and financial aid workshops, and everyone had a chance to take a guided tour of the NOVA campus.

"The incredible turnout for our Summer Boot Camp is another reminder that immigrant and Latino parents care deeply about the education of their children here in the U.S.," said Edu-Futuro Executive Director, Jorge Figueredo. "In so many cases, immigrant parents have made enormous personal sacrifices to give their children the opportunities they were denied in their countries of origin. The Boot Camp allows our families to see, first-hand, that college is an achievable dream for their children, and that Edu-Futuro is ready to help them break the cycle of poverty through education."



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## **Our Vision and Mission**

## Vision

Realizing the potential of immigrant youth and their families.

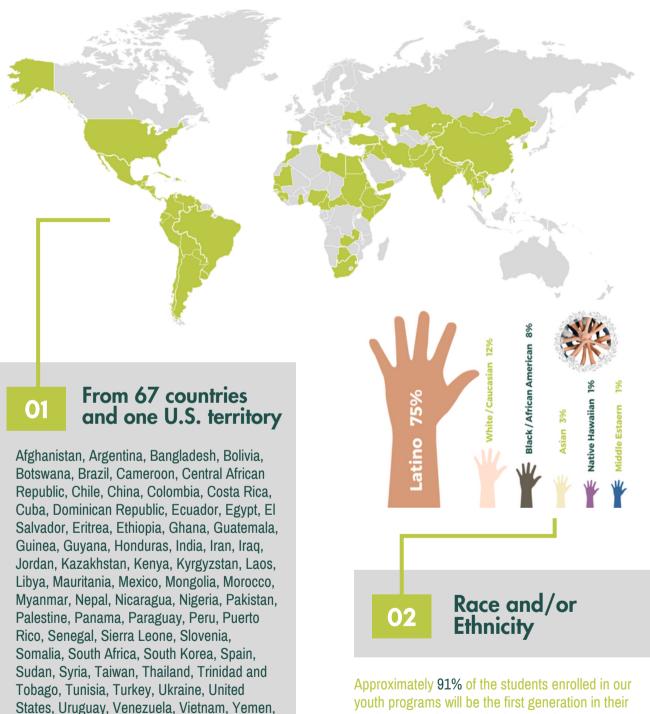


## **Mission**

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

- Despite the tremendous disruption caused by the COVID pandemic, the 175 outstanding high school seniors who graduated from our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) during the past three years were collectively offered \$7,528,737 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college and a remarkable \$26,256,444 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid.
- After being named an "Example of Excelencia" for two years, Edu-Futuro was selected as a finalist from 109 applicants by Excelencia in Education, the only national data-driven initiative to recognize programs accelerating Latino student success in higher education.

# **Beneficiary Profile 2022-2023**



youth programs will be the first generation in their family to attend college in the United States.

- 99% of the youth we serve through our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) are immigrants or children of immigrants.
- 75% were born in the United States.

and Zambia.

# **Our Programs**

# **Emerging Leaders Program**

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) offers a series of services and training workshops designed to fulfill Edu-Futuro's vision of a "Classroom-to-Career" continuum of support that helps immigrant and Latino youth graduate from high school, enroll in college, and achieve professional success. During FY2022-2023, Edu-Futuro served nearly 1,000 students who participated in our five core Emerging Leaders Programs: ELP STEM Robotics for youth in grades 4-8, Pre-ELP also for youth in grades 4-8, ELP-I for students in grades 9-11, ELP-II for high school seniors, and ELP-III for college students attending local institutions.

In FY2022-2023, the opening of school facilities to nonprofit partners like Edu-Futuro allowed our staff to transition from virtual to in-person programming. Thanks to generous donations from our funders, we were able to encourage in-person student participation in our ELP speech and essay competitions by disbursing \$44,000 in college scholarships to our youth. A total of \$26,500 was awarded through ELP-I, \$10,000 through ELP-II, and \$7,500 through ELP-III.

## **ELP STEM Robotics**

Edu-Futuro's ELP STEM Robotics program is designed for children in Middle School, providing students with their first exposure to such subject areas as basic programming, robot design, and engineering. Ultimately, the program aims to cultivate a passion for STEM fields by offering students a well-planned series of fun activities and challenges that connect science to their daily lives. Due to the interactive nature of the STEM Robotics program, the groups we convened in FY2022-2023, were the first to meet in person since the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020. Throughout the year, 54 youth participated in the robotics sessions held at three different schools: Gunston Middle School in Arlington, Forestdale Elementary School in Fairfax, and Kenmore Middle School, also in Fairfax.

Throughout the ELP STEM Robotics program, students learn how to construct their robots, and gain handson experience with the software used to program the machines. Youth participate in different in-house competitions, and learn how to make robots maneuver turns, move in a straight line, and operate mechanical arms, gyroscopes, and sound sensors.

Of the ELP STEM Robotics students who completed the program during FY2022-2023:

- 99% developed strong critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- 100% improved their mathematical, technical, and scientific competencies, and increased their confidence in STEM subject areas.
- 100% reported that the ELP STEM Robotics program strengthened their abilities to work in a team environment.
- · 100% connected with their mentors and facilitators.



# **Our Programs**

## **Pre-ELP**

Pre-ELP is a virtual Social Emotional Learning program specifically designed to help students in grades 5-8 develop their leadership skills as they transition to high school. Sessions for the four-week program are intended to cultivate vital emotional intelligence, self-awareness, self-management, and leadership skills in participating students. Throughout the program, students earn badges for demonstrating indicators of success, and each session concludes with a challenge of the week that enables students to apply the concepts of Social Emotional Learning in real-life situations.

Currently in its pilot phase, the Pre-ELP program served 28 students in FY2022-2023. Of the pre-ELP students who completed the program during the year:

- 100% expressed that they were more motivated to achieve their future goals.
- 100% recognized they had learned how to encourage and support fellow team members.

# **Emerging Leaders Program - Part I (ELP I)**

For the 2022-2023 school year, our ELP-I academic support and college readiness program served 494 high school students in grades 9-12. Delivered in-person for the first time since 2020, the ELP-I program was conducted at eight different high schools in Fairfax, Prince William, and Arlington, offering workshops on resume preparation, job interviews, networking, financial literacy, public speaking, community service and advocacy, team building, and the college-application process. This year also marked the return of in-person speech and essay competitions, allowing students to earn \$44,000 in college scholarships.

ELP-I students were paired with mentors who worked hand-in-hand with our young leaders, providing guidance, tutoring, and invaluable academic and personal support. Each mentor was assigned a small crew of four to six students to offer sufficient time and attention to individual participants as they prepared resumes, wrote essays, and completed scholarship applications.

Of the ELP-I students who completed the program during FY2022-2023:

- 97% exhibited the confidence, abilities, and skills needed to stay on the college track.
- 98% agreed or strongly agreed that they connected to at least one adult invested in their success.
- 97% reported that after taking ELP I, they understood the benefits of furthering their education beyond high school.

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# Emerging Leaders Program Part II (ELP II)

The centerpiece of our youth services is the life-changing ELP-II program, which provides high school seniors with educational workshops, and year-round mentors who work closely with students to complete applications for college enrollment, scholarships, and financial aid. As we reported last year, immigrant and Latino students suffered greatly during the pandemic, with many having to seek employment to provide much-needed income to help support their families. This unfortunate dynamic continued in FY2022-2023, significantly reducing the number of students who applied to the ELP-II program, from 93 in FY2021-2022, to 47 in FY2022-2023.

However, despite the enormous challenges presented by the COVID crisis, we are very proud to report that the 175 outstanding high school seniors who graduated from ELP during the past three years were collectively offered a total of \$7,528,737 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and a remarkable \$26,256,444 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid. This is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, who simply refused to let the pandemic steal their dreams of a college education.

In FY2022-2023, every one of the 47 outstanding youth who participated in ELP-II was accepted into college. They are currently attending institutions such as: American University, Bridgewater College, Catholic University of America, George Mason University, George Washington University, James Madison University, Marymount University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Old Dominion University, Penn State University, Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, Radford University, Rhode Island School of Design, School of Arts in Chicago, Virginia Commonwealth University, Northern Virginia Community College, Virginia Tech, and the College of William and Mary.

The scholarships won by our Edu-Futuro students in FY2022-2023 include:

- Mount St. Mary University \$108,000
- Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) \$164,000
- Hollins University Scholarship \$104,000
- Posse Scholar from the Catholic University of America -\$116,000







# **Our Programs**

# **Emerging Leaders Program - Part III (ELP III)**



Edu-Futuro's ELP-III program extends our "Classroom-to-Career" continuum of academic support and guidance to students attending local colleges who previously graduated from our ELP II program. Thanks to the support of the Avanzando Through College program created by the national organization, UnidosUS, Edu-Futuro provided in-person and virtual mentoring to 31 students in FY2022-2023. Through ELP-III, our mentors help immigrant youth navigate the challenges of college life, providing training sessions on such issues as time management, effective study skills, career exploration, and financial aid. We are also building a network of partner organizations eager to offer valuable work experience and paid internships to our students.

# Chronic Absenteeism Edu-Futuro Bilingual Outreach Team

In April 2021, Edu-Futuro approached Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to discuss the sharp increase in chronic absenteeism among Latino youth and English Learner students whose families had been seriously impacted by the pandemic. This discussion led to forming a three-person bilingual Parent and Youth Outreach Team tasked with contacting hard-to-reach students and their families, and working to return chronically absent youth to the classroom.

Edu-Futuro's efforts in the first two years of the program have been a great success. For example, of the 273 referrals received from FCPS during the FY2022-2023 school year, 169 students – or 62% – have been fully returned to the classroom. Currently, Edu-Futuro continues to work with 60 other youth whose cases were received more recently, with the goal of having the students return to class during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Through working directly with hundreds of families, our outreach team has found that students often don't want to abandon their studies. They need encouragement and concrete help to address the underlying challenges that led to their absenteeism, such as financial struggles, mental health issues, or family crises that require the support of government or nonprofit partners. Edu-Futuro's Two-Generation service model is based on our belief that students need a stable home environment in order to thrive at school. The bilingual outreach team has given Edu-Futuro an invaluable new tool to empower families, and give vulnerable students a new opportunity to return to class, graduate from high school, and enroll in college.

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# **Testimonies**

"My name is Marcel Yanguas-Bonilla. I am the mother of four children, and Edu-Futuro has helped to change the lives of my two oldest sons and my oldest daughter. Let me tell you a little bit about each one of them:

Jonathan is a first-generation college student who received his BA in Urban Studies and Political Science from DePauw University in 2020. Before his undergraduate experience, Jonathan participated in Edu-Futuro's ELP-I program in 2015, and ELP-II in 2016. Thanks to the guidance of his Edu-Futuro mentors, Jonathan won the Blair Family Avalon Bay College Scholarship, a four-year, \$25,000 award to support outstanding students. In addition, Jonathan won other scholarships thanks to the mentors at Edu-Futuro who helped him understand the application process and to prepare all the materials he had to submit. During his time in college, Jonathan participated in many research projects and field work in places like Guatemala, Mexico, South Africa, and Denmark, learning about sustainable development, public policy, and urban planning and design. He is currently completing his master's at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

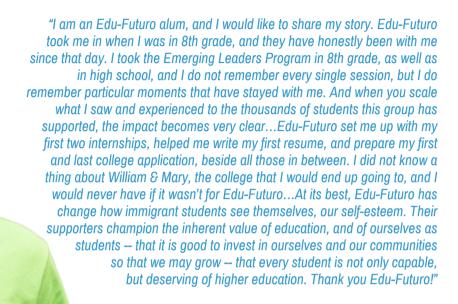
Samuel is also a first-generation college student. He is attending his last year at Radford University, where he is majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Spanish. Before he went to college, Samuel participated in Edu-Futuro's ELP-I and ELP-II programs, and thanks to his Edu-Futuro mentor, he won a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Alexandria, as well as other scholarship awards. We were just notified that, after three rounds of competitive interviews, Samuel was awarded a three-year rotational leadership offer in Sales, Marketing, and Supply Chain Management from the Ferguson company in Colorado.

Isabel is my youngest daughter, and she is currently attending West Springfield High School in Fairfax County. She participated in ELP-I in the fall of 2022, and will be participating in ELP-II so that she can start preparing her for college and scholarship applications. Jeremiah is my fourth and youngest child, and when he is eligible, he will also be participating in the Emerging Leaders Program.

Personally, I have also attended the programs Edu-Futuro offers to parents, and what I have learned during the workshops has been really important for our family. My husband Juan and I have taught our children the importance of working hard, and to do always the best they can do, but without Edu-Futuro's guidance and support, we would not have had the chance to take our children as far as they have gone. Please continue supporting Edu-Futuro, because many families like mine need Edu-Futuro. Thank you!"

Testimony from of Mrs. Marcela Yanguas-Bonilla, an Edu-Futuro parent with four children, three of whom have already benefited from the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP). Her oldest son, Jonathan, graduated from DePauw University in 2020 and is currently completing a postgraduate degree at Rutgers University. Mrs. Yanguas-Bonilla's second son, Samuel, is a senior at Radford University, and her daughter, Isabel, is an ELP student at West Springfield High School in Fairfax County.

Edu-Futuro EMERGING LEADERS I



Testimony from Rai Rocca, an ELP participant who graduated from Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. He graduated from William & Mary in May 2022, and now works as an analyst for the Edison Electric Institute.

"My name is Coronada Hernández, widow of Ponce. My

grandson is a student at Falls Church High School, and the problem we had was that he was not attending his classes. He would go to some classes, but not to others, and I was very concerned. I knew that learning English was very hard for him, it still is very difficult for him. He was especially struggling in math and English classes. In fact, the class that he would miss the most was math. We ended up in court because he would not attend his classes...I would like to send a message to Edu-Futuro, thanking them for the help they provided my grandson. They are really doing good work, helping us mothers who don't know how to deal with these situations. Edu-Futuro helps us a great deal, because we receive guidance, ideas, and support. Thanks to Edu-Futuro, and to the guidance from Ms. Gabriela, everything turned out alright. I want to thank everyone at Edu-Futuro because the organization really does a good job. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart, please continue helping all the people who need your support."

Testimony from Ms. Coronada Hernández, whose grandson was experiencing high rates of chronic absenteeism in high school. Ms. Hernández worked with the Edu-Futuro Outreach Team to successfully return her son to the classroom.

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Edu-Futuro

"I am a first-generation college student from Mexico, and I first encountered one of Edu-Futuro's programs in middle school. There was a poster advertising a Robotics Club, and even though I had participated in a similar program before, this one interested me because it seemed far more challenging — and it was. The Edu-Futuro Robotics Club helped me develop problem-solving skills and a passion for programming. The coaches provided guidance when we got stuck, but allowed us to learn new things by ourselves. We would have a different challenge to complete every meeting, and sometimes we would work in teams to complete our projects. We always did our best practicing as a team, and eventually, we entered a competition. We won 1st place!

I was very happy, and to this day, I keep that trophy.

In high school, I signed up for the ELP-I program, which took place online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My group's mentor was a nuclear engineer, and for a year, he worked on a submarine powered by a nuclear reactor. Our mentor especially helped our group with resumes and portfolios. He taught us how to build our resume, even if we didn't have many experiences to add to it. I used the lessons he taught me to highlight my biggest achievements when I wrote my resume, and also when I applied to colleges.

After ELP-I, I joined ELP-II, which helped me a lot in the process of applying for college admission and for scholarships. We all had a mentor in ELP II who offered specific help in areas where we were struggling. For me, it was organization and scholarships. We would meet online and discuss our progress in those areas. Because of ELP-II, I was able to win several scholarships, and improve my organizational skills in preparation for college.

I'm currently studying to earn a degree in Computer Science at George Mason. I would like to once again thank Edu-Futuro. Without their help, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Testimony from Eduardo Guasti, who graduated from the Arlington Career Center, and is currently attending George Mason University, where he is studying Computer Science.





Darla Ochoa, Falls Church High School — "Honestly, I was speechless. The first emotions that came to my mind were just, I was just shocked and surprised. I knew as I was starting the essay that I had a very low chance of earning the scholarship, but that didn't stop me from still participating. And now I won, and I am just proud of myself...I would say the highlight of the ELP program was not only engaging with others, but also engaging with new information that was taught by our mentors. They were really encouraging and helpful with the information they had for us. I would say that I got to make many new friends, to participate in many new activities, and I was also offered the scholarship thanks to Edu-Futuro, so I am very grateful."

Joseline Pedraza, John Lewis High School — "The program was fun. I got to meet new people and learned new skills for the future. I feel very grateful and happy that I pushed myself, even though I didn't know if I could do it, I pushed myself and worked really hard...I say, 'Go for it,' for what is there to lose? It helps you a lot, it looks really good on your college transcripts, and you learn a lot from the class."

Bostic Owusu, Mount Vernon High School — "I think that it was a great program that really helped me a lot — me and my classmates — to get scholarships and also really helped us to get prepared for college...I met new people through Edu-Futuro, and I would definitely encourage new students to join the program!"

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IN F COGNITON OF

EMERGING LEADERS II

"Life has never been easy for me. I faced a lot of challenges while growing up — a lot of challenges. But that's fine, because each challenge that appeared in front of me made me stronger, and taught me that I have to keep fighting. Dreams do come true...When I started the ELP program, I never imagined the amount of help and number of opportunities that would come along with my participation. My mentors have always been great support, and I have been awarded with more financial aid than I could ever have imagined. I can't picture a life without this amazing program! I have been happy and pleased to be part of it, and I do not regret a single second of it! Thank you ELP, for everything!"

Testimony from Marie Mendoza, who graduated from Wakefield High School in Arlington County, and is currently attending the Catholic University of America, where she was offered a full scholarship and is majoring in Political Science. Marie was also a winner of the \$5,000 Dr. Marjorie Myers Scholarship, awarded by Edu-Futuro in March 2023.

"It is inspiring to see how an organization like Edu-Futuro is committed to helping students, like me, to achieve their hopes and dreams. Being given the opportunity to win an award like the OCC Hola Scholarship is a reminder that all the effort, the hard work I did, the dedication through the years, has not gone unnoticed. There are people who appreciate my effort, people who believe in me, and that see potential in me...I was a student at John Lewis High School, and I was honored to meet people from the staff of Edu-Futuro. They helped me to get organized and to begin looking for scholarships. I am proud to be Hispanic, I am proud to speak two languages, and I thank God for my mom. She was my first mentor. My mom is a single mother, and ever since I was very small, it was just my sister, my mom, and me. Thanks to her, I am here in this country and I have been able to pursue my studies. She always encouraged me, she said, 'you can, you always can.' So, I would say to all the students in high schools to not be afraid of being Hispanic and to be proud of speaking both languages. Apply to scholarships, there are offers available, there are people who will help you. Edu-Futuro's ELP program has been a life changer. I would also like to thank my ELP-III mentor, Evelyn Aponte. who has helped to connect me with student life and my professors at Bridgewater, and has taught me so much about financial aid. Also, to be

honest, she is one of the best persons I have ever met."

Testimony from Mario Orellana, who graduated from John Lewis High School in Fairfax, and is currently attending Bridgewater College, where he is majoring in Business. Mario was also the 2023 winner of the \$5,000 OCC Hola Scholarship Award offered by the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC).



Edu-Futuro

EMERGING LEADERS

# **Our Programs**

# **Parent Empowerment Services**

Ever since the beginning of the pandemic outbreak in March 2020, Edu-Futuro has been adapting and expanding our Parent Empowerment Services (PES) in order to better respond to the urgent needs of our families. As soon as we understood the extent of the COVID crisis, we quickly increased the number of case management specialists on our staff, and mobilized to become one of the largest providers of financial aid to immigrant families in Northern Virginia. At the end of FY2022-2023, Edu-Futuro had served more than 1,500 households, disbursing nearly \$2 million for rent, food, medicine, and other basic necessities.

Our efforts to stabilize families during the past three years is a clear example of how Edu-Futuro's Two-Generation service model helps students to succeed in school by helping their parents to provide a healthy and supportive home environment. In FY2022-2023, we increased the number of in-person workshops for parents, but continued to offer virtual options for families that needed to connect online. Our PES programs are varied, but generally focus on adapting to life in the U.S., improving family communication, and learning how to communicate effectively with teachers, counselors, and other school officials. This past fiscal year, Edu-Futuro served approximately 681 parents through its five principal PES programs.

Participa en mi Educación (Participate in my Education) and Padres Comprometidos (Committed Parents) — Both of these bilingual programs teach parents how to navigate the U.S. school system, but Participa is specifically designed for parents of elementary school children, while Padres Comprometidos is intended for families with teens in high school.

Families Reunite -- This invaluable Edu-Futuro program helps families to rebuild relationships between parents and children who were separated during the immigration process.

**Strengthening Families (10-14)** -- This curriculum is designed for parents and their children, ages 10 to 14, to help develop strategies to improve family communication and help teens resist peer pressure that can lead to risky behaviors.

Case Management Services — Edu-Futuro responds to any family seeking emergency assistance by conducting a Needs Assessment Survey that asks about the impact of COVID-19 on family members, and helps our staff determine immediate household needs. Once the survey has been completed, our Parent Support Specialists help connect beneficiaries to necessary services, including rental assistance, food distribution, unemployment benefits, health insurance, educational resources, workforce development, financial workshops, immigration support, and other general community resources. For our FY22-23, Edu-Futuro provided a total of 2,126 services to 1,439 beneficiaries. Of the total services provided, 1,976 were closed with positive outcomes.





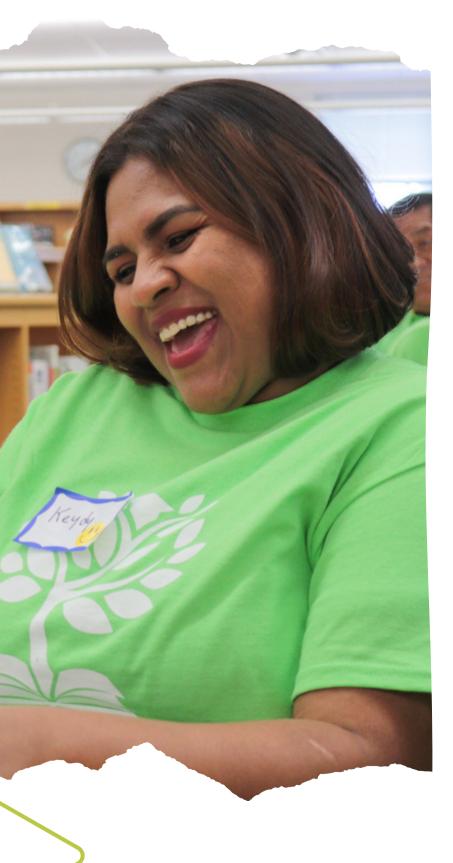
The following are two testimonies from Edu-Futuro parents who fell behind in their rent payments due to financial setbacks related to the pandemic. Latino families suffered the highest number of COVID hospitalizations in Northern Virginia, and the families served by Edu-Futuro are still struggling to recover from the massive public health, mental health, and economic impact of the crisis.

Miguel, who received \$4,800 in rental assistance — "I have been going through a very difficult time. First, I lost my job, and then, my car was totaled in an accident. I have a wife and young daughter, and I was the only one in the family who was working. I didn't know what to do, I felt like the weight of the world was falling on me. Thank God that I found the help from Edu-Futuro. More than a help, their support was a blessing. The help I received with my rent allowed me to stabilize my situation, and to move forward. Now, I am looking for work so that I can continue supporting my family, and so we can have a better future. Thank you to Edu-Futuro. I am sending you a big hug, un abrazo!"

Alina, who received \$3,538 in rental assistance -- "I want to express my gratitude to Edu-Futuro for helping me during an extremely difficult time for my family. I really thought that we had one foot out the door, and that were going to lose our home. This is always a sad situation, but with children, it is much worse. I am very grateful because Edu-Futuro helped me very quickly, the process was very fast. Ms. Olga was really friendly and kind. She let me know what we needed to apply, and boom boom, she responded and told us if we qualified or not. I tried asking for help in other organizations, and I remember that in one, I had to fill out a long questionnaire that had questions in English that, my God, I didn't even understand...I am so thankful that Edu-Futuro is helping families like ours. This is the first time in my life that I have to ask for help. In my case, I had a difficult time working after my mother passed away, and eventually, I lost my job, and everything became very complicated. I couldn't sleep, but then I found Edu-Futuro, and I want to thank you and ask you to please keep on helping families like mine. God bless vou!"

Pamela, who received \$4,800 in rental assistance — "I am very grateful to Edu-Futuro because thanks to them, and to the help of Ms. Olga, my children and I were able to keep a roof over our heads. We were behind on our rent, and thanks to Edu-Futuro, we were able to keep living in our home.

I am so thankful, but I really don't have the words to say what I am feeling. I just want to encourage everyone to keep supporting Edu-Futuro because they are helping so many people like me, who are going through very difficult times and really need someone they can believe in. You are bringing light in a dark time, and I want to say thank you and may God bless you."



"I used to stay up all night, worrying and thinking that I didn't have any options. Once my daughter graduated from high school, all she could do was to start working because we didn't have the money for her to go to a university. But with the information that has been given to me here through Padres Comprometidos, we have been able to talk to my daughter and she is very happy because I told her - 'Okay daughter, yes you can go to college, you just have to improve your grades and put more effort at school.' Now we know where to ask for information, and we see that you can get a scholarship, or you can go to the community college. She is very happy. My daughter has come with me to the classes, and we are very happy."

Testimony from Ms. Irma Ruano, who participated in Edu-Futuro's Padres Comprometidos program, which helps parents to navigate the U.S. school system, understand that college is a reachable goal for all students, and improve communication with their adolescent children.

"My name is Sava Hanafi, and I am from Sudan. I joined the Participa program just to help my kids, and to learn how to engage a little bit better with the U.S. educational system because we don't really have a background on how it works. Being in the program really educated me in how to support my children, and how to communicate better with the teachers and the principal. I also learned a lot about resources for parents that I didn't know existed. So, I think that this is a very important program."

Testimony from Ms. Sava Hanafi, who took part in Edu-Futuro's Participa program, which helps parents of children in elementary school learn how to navigate the U.S. school system, and become advocates for the education of their children.

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# **Our Programs**

# **Workforce Development Services**

FY2022-2023 marked a new beginning for our Workforce Development Services (WDS) because the program transitioned from being a part of our Parent Empowerment Services (PES), to becoming the brand-new, independent, third major service pillar for Edu-Futuro. Due to high demand from our parents, who are seeking better employment in order to recuperate from the far-reaching economic impact of the pandemic, Edu-Futuro has been working to expand and improve our WDS programs the past two years. In 2021, we created the now popular "Tech for Parents" program, which provides participants with bilingual training in computer and smartphone hardware, Internet and email applications, and web-based tools like Google Drive, Google Translate, and Zoom. After the "Tech for Parents" training, our beneficiaries are not only able to identify and apply for employment utilizing online portals, but can also upload documents and use email to communicate effectively with teachers and school officials.

In FY2022-2023, we continued to expand our WDS program by adding a major new service for our families — GED Certification. Launched in June 2023, our GED training curriculum consists of four program modules: Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Social Studies, and Science. The initial class of 123 students committed themselves to attending a full year of classes, which will culminate with the final GED exam. In FY2022-2023, Edu-Futuro served 729 beneficiaries through our Workforce Development Services, which in addition to "Tech for Parents" and GED Training, also offers Resume & Cover Letter workshops, individual job counseling, and financial empowerment training through a partnership with UnidosUS.

The following are testimonies from participants of Tech for Parents, a computer skills training course offered through Edu-Futuro's Workforce Development Services (WDS).

Fabiola Ramos — "Yes, the classes not only helped me to learn the technology, but to think about my life. The instructor gave us structure — why do we need to know how to use our phones and computers? What are the advantages of using these tools well? What are the disadvantages of using them poorly? He was a real guide. He was very sincere, dynamic, and he listened to all of us. I felt included, and felt free to ask questions. Thanks to the classes, I realized that the telephone was not enough, and I bought a computer."

Edna Herrera — "When I was young, I was very interested in learning how to use a computer, but I never had the opportunity. Today, I am very emotional and happy because I know how to use the computer. This is very important because honestly, I would be a different person if I had learned this earlier in my life. Thank you so much."







Evelyn Lemus -- "The classes have helped me a lot. Honestly, the course helped me to open my eyes, and to realize that I have many more opportunities than I thought I did before the class. As immigrants, we can continue learning. and our children can also advance and make progress through education. Now, I know that my daughter can not only graduate from high school, but that she can continue on to college...I was stuck in a job I didn't like at all, but I used to think that, as an immigrant, I had to continue there because I didn't have any choice. I thought this is all I can do, and there are really no other opportunities for me. But after going to the classes, my mind changed completely and that's when I decided that I couldn't continue suffering at work. I realized that I have many other opportunities, and I quit my job because I know that I am going to find something much better. Now, I see things from a completely different perspective. It's not like before, when I thought that my only option was to stay in a situation that was not good for me or for my family. I'll never forget. In one of the classes, the instructor told us that water had a different value, depending on where it was sold. In a desert, it costs this much, in a plane this much, in a supermarket this much. So, your value depends on where you are, and I realized I was in the wrong place. At work, they didn't value my abilities, and Edu-Futuro opened my eyes. Now, I know that my children are not the only ones who can make progress, I can advance as well. Thanks to Edu-Futuro, I am now taking GED classes, and I know that this will help me to get a much better-paying job. If I hadn't taken Tech for Parents, I never would have known about the GED classes, and this is something that will help my future and the future of my children."

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Maribelquis Vargas — "I thought that the course was wonderful — the chemistry that our group had with the instructor, and the energy in the class was great. I wanted to keep on learning, and in the end, I thought that the course ended way too soon. I think that we could have covered more topics, but the course helped me immensely. Those weeks changed my life...What I learned in this course helped me to find a brand-new path for myself, and to enter a whole new field of work. Ever since I arrived in the United States, I had worked in restaurants. Now, I have a better job, working as an administrative assistant.

After I wrote my new resume, I realized that I had good qualities, and enough experience to change — so I took the plunge...Tech for Parents also helped to connect me to my community, and after the course, I was motivated to begin volunteering at my local school. Giving back has been extremely satisfying for me."

Fabiola Torres -- "First, the classes helped me to communicate much better with the school. What I learned also helped me to improve my work and to start my own cleaning business. The course was especially important for me because I learned how to advertise and promote my services through social media...I am very grateful for the Tech for Parents program. Very sincerely. I want to tell you that you have helped me to open new doors for my children. I was completely lost in the universe of this country because I didn't know how to communicate with the school. Now, thanks to Edu-Futuro, I see that the doors are opening for me, as well as for my children. I am taking your GED classes, and I am very hopeful that I can continue to grow and to learn a lot more. Thank you for the work you do with our young people, and with persons like me, who didn't know a lot, but wanted to learn. Thank you."



# Communications: Línea Directa & Social Media

# Engagin unities Transform

## Connecting to Immigrant Families

After more than 33 years on the air, the Línea Directa public service television series continues to provide Latino families across the Washington metropolitan area with information on public health, education, and social service issues of importance to their daily lives. A unique media partnership with NBC4-Washington allows Edu-Futuro to broadcast Línea Directa every Saturday morning, at 11:00 a.m., on the region's leading Spanish-language station, Telemundo 44.

In FY2022-2023, a partnership with the CDC Foundation allowed the program to produce several shows and social media messages that focused on the protections provided by the COVID vaccine and booster shot, as well as on the mental health impact of the pandemic on Latino families. In addition to coverage of the COVID crisis, Línea Directa focused several programs on the alarming increase of fentanyl-related drug overdoses among capital-area teens. One show featured an interview with Arlington community leader, Janeth Valenzuela, and another show included a lengthy on-location segment with four local high school students giving their perspectives on the overdose death of a classmate. A Línea Directa program focusing on the importance of high school graduation and college enrollment featured an interview with U.S. Education Secretary, Miguel Cardona.

Hosted for the past 17 years by multiple Emmy-winning journalist, Andrea Sarralde, Línea Directa also continued to promote Latino civic engagement, broadcasting multiple shows that highlighted such issues as the importance of the Latino vote, the impact of county and state elections, and the power of grass-roots community action.

Another vital element of Edu-Futuro's communications program is a growing social media network that includes Línea Directa and Edu-Futuro Facebook pages with a total of more than 5,000 followers, and an active WhatsApp community of approximately 2,500 users who generate hundreds of monthly interactions with our staff. The connection we have established with immigrant families through social media has allowed Edu-Futuro to promote the availability of student and parent programs, and to continue building trust with our families.

Stay connected to our social media:













# **Edu-Futuro Volunteers**















## Making an Impact.

Total Non-Professional Volunteers: 235 Total Professional Volunteers: 34

**Total: 269** 

Total Non-Professional Hours: 1,679

Value of Total Non-Professional Hours: \$50,370

Total Professional Hours: 227

Value of Total Professional Hours: \$11,350

Total Hours: 1,906 Total Value: \$61,720

# **Financial Statement**



Fiscal Year 2023		
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023		
Unaudited Financial Statements		
Revenue		%
Nonprofit Organization Grants	\$781,847	20.73
Corporate Grants	\$29,569	0.78
Government Grants and Contracts	\$2,657,163	70.46
In-Kind Donations	\$127,790	3.39
Individuals Donations	\$145,992	3.87
Special Events	\$29,017	0.77
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,771,378	100.00
Expenses		
Program Expenses		
Emerging Leaders Programs	\$468,368	12.81
Parent Empowerment Programs	\$2,956,171	80.85
Subtotal Programs Expenses	\$3,424,539	
SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES		
Management	\$94,502	2.58
Funraising	\$137,307	3.76
Subtotal Supporting Service Expenses	\$231,809	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,656,348	100.00
Statement of Financial Position		
Total Assets	\$1,365,025	
Total Liabilities	\$657,210	
Total Equity	\$707,815	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,365,025	

Beginning of the Year \$592,785	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$115,030
	End of the Year	\$707,815
Net Assests	Beginning of the Year	\$592,785
	Net Assests	

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# **Our Supporters**

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who have supported Edu-Futuro. Your generous contributions enabled us to grow as an organization and serve a record number of immigrant and Latino children, youth, and adults. Thank you for making our work possible!

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UnidosUS

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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@edu-futuro.org, so we can correct our records.

Thank you.

Karl Zimmerer



edu-futuro.org

Xenia Rivas

Victor Rodriguez

Karen Rosales









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With your support, Edu-Futuro will continue empowering students, engaging parents, and transforming communities: edu-futuro.org/donate



## **Arlington Office:**

2110 Washington Blvd. Syphax Education Center, 3rd. Fl. Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 228-2560



## Fairfax Offices:

John R. Lewis High School 6540 Franconia Rd. Room 170, Springfield, VA 22150

(703) 924-8316

(571) 309-5455

Tysons Community Center 1961 Chain Bridge Rd, | Upper Level McLean, VA 22102

(703) 246-5995

Prince William Office:

Freedom High School, 15201 Neabsco Mills Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22191

