



Edu-Futuro
Annual Report

2023-2024





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Message From The President of the Board of Directors



“Today, I am extremely proud to report that the hard work of our staff resulted in providing 5,363 services to 2,999 households, in which we served a total of 3,937 unduplicated children, youth, and adults.”

On the evening of March 22, 2024, 260 special guests joined Edu-Futuro’s staff of 40 full-time team members to celebrate our organization’s 26th Anniversary Gala. During the joyous event, we heard directly from some of the students and parents whose lives had been impacted positively by our services, and had the opportunity to honor several of the government and corporate partners whose support is absolutely essential to the success of Edu-Futuro. Just a few years ago, however, such a celebration would not have been possible. In 2015, Edu-Futuro had a staff of just two full-time employees working alongside three AmeriCorps members. We could only serve a few hundred students and parents, and our work was limited to a handful of schools located in Arlington County.

Today, I am extremely proud to report that the hard work of our staff resulted in providing 5,363 services to 2,999 households, in which we served a total of 3,937 unduplicated children, youth, and adults. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Edu-Futuro programs changed the lives of immigrant and Latino families in Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, and Alexandria.

Additionally, some Edu-Futuro initiatives that we envisioned and launched gradually throughout some of the most challenging periods of the pandemic have become successful stand-alone programs that grow stronger each year. Edu-Family, a full day of activities and workshops aimed at helping families understand the importance of a college education, has now drawn some 500 students, parents, volunteers, and staff to a local college campus for two years in a row. Our President’s Day trip to Richmond has become an annual civic engagement tradition, giving approximately 60 youth and parents the opportunity to meet and speak directly with local legislators. Tech for Parents, the computer/smartphone literacy training program we created in response to the massive economic impact of the pandemic on our families has now become the heart of our Workforce Development Services, giving hundreds of beneficiaries the ability to apply for employment online, and confidently use such digital tools as email, Google Translate, and Zoom.

Of course, this work was only accomplished with the steadfast support of our philanthropic and government partners, individual donors, and outstanding volunteers. We are incredibly grateful for your faith and generosity!

Betsy Jaffe
Board President

Vision & 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.

“The 219 outstanding students who graduated from our flagship ELP-II program during the past four years refused to let the COVID crisis steal their dream of a college education, and worked tirelessly with our staff to earn more than \$29 million in life-changing scholarships and financial aid for their four-year college education.”

Message From The Executive Director



“The Chronic Absenteeism Program we created in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in 2021 has been such a success that Edu-Futuro received a contract to continue the program for the next five years.”

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was a truly historic year for Edu-Futuro. Not only did we deliver a record number of 5,363 services to our families, but our hard work was rewarded with several breakthroughs that have already improved our ability to make a significant difference in the lives of our students and parents.

First, I am extremely proud to report that Edu-Futuro was one of just 279 grassroots nonprofit organizations selected from among 6,353 applicants to receive a \$2 million grant from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott’s inaugural Yield Giving open call. This transformative gift was the result of a highly competitive, nationwide process, including a participatory peer review and expert evaluation panel. The award came at a critical time for Edu-Futuro, as we were still struggling to recover from a significant financial setback we suffered during the pandemic when we used our hard-earned financial reserves to hire the case managers we needed to address the urgent needs of families affected by the crisis.

Second, the Chronic Absenteeism Program we created in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in 2021 has been such a success that Edu-Futuro received a contract to continue the program for the next five years. Starting this 2024-2025 academic year, our three-person bilingual outreach team will serve more than 300 at-risk students in 13 different FCPS high schools, working closely with families to identify why students began missing school, and finding ways to return youth to the classroom.

Demonstrating the power of unity and perseverance, I was also proud to be part of a group of nonprofit leaders who succeeded in changing Arlington County’s legacy-based procurement process, which for over three decades, had prevented many nonprofit organizations from competing for public funds. As a result of our advocacy during the past three years, the Arlington County Board finally voted to create an open competitive process, and this year, the government awarded \$2.4 million to 22 different nonprofit organizations, including Edu-Futuro.

Finally, I will continue to advocate for the equitable distribution of local government resources as one of the first two Latino co-chairs elected to the 19-member One Fairfax Community Roundtable. Appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the group is tasked with monitoring, informing, and supporting the county’s efforts to advance equity in alignment with the Countywide Strategic Plan and the official Racial and Social Equity Policy adopted in 2017.

As always, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the support of our staff, volunteers, Associate Council, Board of Directors, and funders. By working together, we will continue to change lives and break the cycle of poverty in our community.

Jorge E. Figueredo, MPP

2023-2024 Program Year Highlights

Edu-Family 2023 a Great Success at Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale Campus



On Saturday, July 15, 2023, Edu-Family 2023 became one of the best-attended events in the 26-year history of Edu-Futuro, as more than 400 students, parents, volunteers, and staff joined us for a full day of educational activities at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Throughout the day, small groups of students participating in our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) had the chance to rotate through different learning stations and career panels designed to encourage high school graduation, college readiness, and postsecondary enrollment.

Parents were also an integral part of Edu-Family 2023, participating in training sessions focused on providing information on the availability of scholarships and financial aid, the importance of community college, and how to budget and manage the cost of a college education. All our students and parents were given a guided tour of the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. The parents also attended workshops to manage their finances, and household budget.

“Once again, our Edu-Family event served to show just how important education is to immigrant and Latino parents,” said Jorge E. Figueredo, Executive Director of Edu-Futuro. “On a beautiful Saturday, hundreds of parents decided to spend an entire day with their children, talking about education, and learning how the college diploma of even one student can impact the future wellbeing of the entire family.”



Edu-Futuro: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Education

In FY2023-2024, the 49 students who participated in our flagship ELP-II program successfully graduated from high school, joining the 47 students who graduated in 2023, the 40 students who graduated in 2022, and the 83 students who graduated in 2021. We are very proud to report that these 219 outstanding high school seniors refused to let the COVID crisis steal their dream of a college education, and worked tirelessly with our staff to earn approximately \$9,088,551 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and a remarkable \$29,392,486 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid.



Our Edu-Futuro students are now attending such institutions as American University, Bridgewater College, Bright Point Community College, Catholic University of America, Earlham College, George Mason University, George Washington University, Hollins University, James Madison University, Marymount University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Mount St. Mary University, Northern Virginia Community College, Old Dominion University, Penn State University, Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, Radford University, Rhode Island School of Design, School of Arts in Chicago, Shenandoah University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, and the College of William & Mary.

Edu-Futuro Opens New Office at Tyson’s Corner Center

On Saturday, July 29, 2023, Edu-Futuro celebrated the opening of a new office located in the popular Tyson’s Corner Shopping Center, right next to the Nordstrom department store. Attended by nearly 100 well-wishers, the Grand Opening event was actually the re-opening of the Fairfax County Community Services Room, which is now being supervised by Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and staffed, Monday through Saturday, by Edu-Futuro team members. The celebration included a dance presentation from children enrolled in the Fairfax School Age Child Care (SACC) Program, as well as speeches from: Fairfax County Supervisor, Dalia Palchik (Providence District); Edu-Futuro Executive Director, Jorge Figueredo; and Neighborhood and Community Services Division Director, Chris Scales.

“This is such an exciting day,” said Supervisor Palchik. “We are re-opening the space here at Tyson’s Corner Center of the Community Services Room. It’s going to be a place that Neighborhood and Community Services helps oversee for families, kids, and especially for teens brought here by our libraries, by the Department of Family Services, and especially by Edu-Futuro. They are one of our great partners in the community, providing bilingual programming for our immigrant families, for students, for parents, and for teenagers.”



Even though the location is officially called the Community Services Room, the newly renovated space includes four individual offices, a spacious conference room, a small kitchen, and a lobby area with two computers that can be used by the public on a walk-in basis.

26th Anniversary Gala Celebration Held on March 22, 2024



Students, parents, educators, elected officials, and a wide array of business and community leaders gathered on the evening of March 22, 2024, to help Edu-Futuro celebrate 26 years of outstanding service to immigrant families in Northern Virginia. For the second year in a row, Edu-Futuro broke the organization's record for Gala attendance, as more than 260 guests joined us at the Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park to offer their financial support, and to hear the testimonies of students whose lives were changed by our Emerging Leaders Program (ELP).

For example, Katerin Quispe was finishing her senior year at Justice High School in Fairfax County, and had already been accepted to eight universities, receiving offers for a combined total of more than one million dollars in scholarships. Originally from Perú, Katerin told the Gala audience that she planned to study nursing. David Ortiz, a senior at Freedom High School in Prince William County, shared that he had been accepted by seven universities, and had been awarded approximately \$412,000 in scholarships. David's family emigrated from Honduras, and he told the Gala audience that he was planning to attend the University of Virginia, where he wanted to pursue a degree in Business Administration. Originally from Ecuador, Karen Bailón was a senior at Wakefield High School in Arlington who spoke about how her Edu-Futuro mentor helped her to earn over \$120,000 in scholarships, and about her decision to study photography at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In addition to our student testimonies, the Gala audience had the opportunity to hear several parent testimonies, as well as inspiring comments from the event's Keynote Speaker, Melody Gonzales, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. Gala attendees also included: Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, Dr. Michelle Reid; Fairfax County Supervisor, Andrés Jiménez (Mason District); Virginia State Senators Ghazala F. Hashmi (15th District) and Stella Pekarsky (36th District); and Virginia State Delegate, Alfonso López (3rd District).



Edu-Futuro Students Attend White House Film Screening

On Tuesday, April 9, 2024, a group of 14 Edu-Futuro students had the unique opportunity to attend a White House screening of the film, *The Long Game*, which tells the true story of the San Felipe Mustangs, a group of Mexican-American high school students who won the Texas state golf championship in 1957, despite facing racism, poverty, and a host of other societal obstacles. Based on Humberto G. García's 2010 novel, *Mustang Miracle*, the inspiring film was officially released in theaters across the country on Friday, April 13.



In addition to watching the film three days before the rest of the nation, our Edu-Futuro students were treated to a Q&A session immediately following the screening that featured Director, Julio Quintana, as well as members of the *Long Game* cast, including Jay Hernández, Julian Works, Paulina Chávez, and Latino comedy legend, Cheech Marin. The White House screening also included the surprise appearance of Lupe Felan, one of the original members of the San Felipe Mustangs who won the golf championship in 1957. The family-friendly film has received excellent reviews nationwide, and won the Audience Award at the 2023 SXSW Film Festival.

COVID Vaccination Campaign Reaches Thousands of Families



Throughout May 2024, a 30-second television public service message produced by Edu-Futuro encouraging Latino families to protect their health by getting vaccinated against COVID-19 reached thousands of viewers across the Washington metropolitan area through the Spanish-language station, Telemundo 44. Part of Edu-Futuro's COVID-19 prevention partnership with the CDC Foundation, the Mother's Day-themed television spot was broadcast nearly 160 times by Telemundo 44, delivering more than 306,000 on-air impressions among viewers aged 25-54 in the capital area, and an additional 21,631 impressions to Northern Virginia Latino viewers via online streaming.

The television message featured a Latino mother talking about the importance of the COVID vaccine, as well as the CDC's Bridge Access Program, which offered free COVID vaccines to individuals without health insurance. The 30-second spot featured the main character of the mother, as well as her two children and father, to emphasize the importance of protecting the entire family. In addition to the television spot, Edu-Futuro has produced and broadcast multiple *Línea Directa* public service television programs on Telemundo 44 focusing on COVID-19 prevention that have featured numerous doctors, psychologists, community leaders, and elected officials.



***Línea Directa* Wins Emmy Award for Coverage of Fentanyl Crisis**

Línea Directa, Edu-Futuro’s public service television series, won an Emmy Award on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the 66th Emmy Awards Gala held by the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Edu-Futuro won the coveted honor in the category, Societal Concerns (Long Form), for the production of a half-hour program focusing on the fentanyl crisis that has led to the death of many adolescents across the Washington region during the past two years.

The winning *Línea Directa* program featured an interview with Elena Suárez, whose daughter, Colette, tragically died from an accidental fentanyl overdose in 2020. “We are extremely grateful to Ms. Suárez for her grace and generosity in sharing the story of her daughter, Colette,” said Eduardo López, Edu-Futuro Communications & Programs Manager, and *Línea Directa* Founder/Producer. “The moving interview conducted by our Associate Producer and Host, Andrea Sarralde, gave thousands of Latino families the opportunity to see just how dangerous fentanyl is to the life and health of our community.”

Since 2019, Edu-Futuro has been the proud home of *Línea Directa*, one of the nation’s longest-running weekly Spanish-language television programs dedicated to public service. For nearly 35 years, *Línea Directa* has operated as a crucial link between immigrant families and trusted information on public health, education, and a multitude of social service issues. A unique media partnership with NBC4-Washington, allows Edu-Futuro to air *Línea Directa* on Saturday mornings, at 11:00 a.m., on the region’s leading Latino station, Telemundo 44.



FY2023-2024 BENEFICIARY PROFILE*



67

Countries

1

Territory

Race and/or Ethnicity

Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Yemen.

Hispanic/Latino: 78%

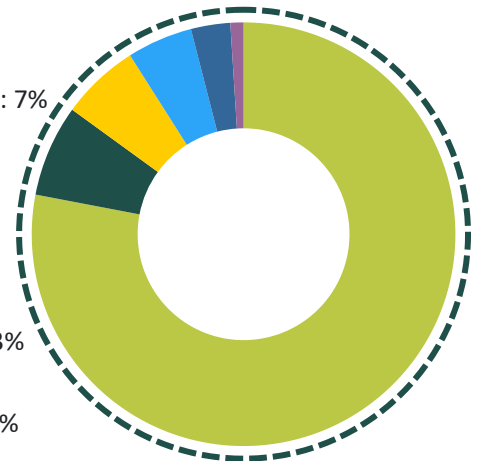
Black/African American: 7%

White/Caucasian: 6%

Multiracial: 5%

Asian/Pacific Islander: 3%

Middle Eastern/Arab: 1%



Approximately **91%** of the students enrolled in our 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.

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 FY2023-2024, Edu-Futuro served approximately 738 students who participated in our five core Emerging Leaders Programs: ELP STEM Robotics for youth in grades 6-8; Pre-ELP, also for youth in grades 6-8; ELP-I for students in grades 9-12; ELP-II for high school seniors; and ELP-III for college students attending local institutions.

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 \$42,000 in college scholarships to our participants. A total of \$24,000 was awarded through ELP-I, \$5,000 through ELP-II, and \$13,000 through ELP-III.



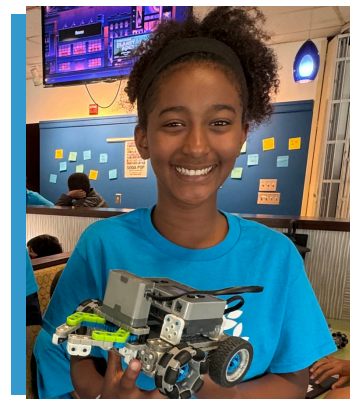
ELP STEM Robotics

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. Throughout the year, 146 youth participated in the robotics sessions held at Gunston, Kenmore, and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools in Arlington, as well as Forestdale Elementary School and Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.

In the ELP STEM Robotics program, students learn how to construct their robots, and gain hands-on 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 FY2023-2024:

- 92.7% developed strong critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- 87% improved their mathematical, technical, and scientific competencies, and increased their confidence in STEM subject areas.
- 96.4% reported that the ELP STEM Robotics program strengthened their abilities to work in a team environment.



Pre-ELP - Social Emotional Learning

Pre-ELP is a virtual Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program specifically designed to help students in grades 6-8 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.

The Pre-ELP program served 60 students in FY2023-2024, and of the students who completed the program during the year:

- 95.8% expressed they were more motivated to achieve their future goals.
- 91.6% recognized they had learned how to encourage and support fellow team members.



Emerging Leaders Program - Part 1 (ELP-I)

For the 2023-2024 school year, our ELP-I academic support and college readiness program served 454 high school students in grades 9-12. In-person sessions of the ELP-I program were conducted during the Fall and Spring at Washington Liberty and Wakefield High Schools in Arlington County; John Lewis, Justice, Robinson, Westfield, Annandale, and Mount Vernon High Schools in Fairfax County; and Freedom High School in Prince William County. Virtual versions of the ELP-I program were held during the winter months for students unable to attend in-person programming in the Fall or the Spring. Our ELP-I college readiness workshops include sessions focusing on such areas as resume preparation, job interviews, networking, financial literacy, public speaking, community service and advocacy, team building, and the college-application process.

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 group 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 FY2023-2024:

- 93% exhibited the confidence, abilities, and skills needed to stay on the college track.
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed that they connected to at least one adult invested in their success.
- 97% reported that after taking ELP, they understood the benefits of furthering their education beyond high school.



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. We are proud to report that the 49 outstanding high school seniors who graduated from ELP-II during the last fiscal year were collectively offered \$1,469,814 in scholarships and financial aid for their first year of college, and \$3,136,042 in four-year renewable scholarships and financial aid.

Past and present ELP-II graduates are currently attending the following universities: 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.

In FY2023-2024, Edu-Futuro students won scholarships to the following institutions: American University, the College of William and Mary, Catholic University of America, George Mason University, Virginia Tech, Northern Virginia Community College, Juniata University, Brightpoint Community College (Transfer for Radford), Virginia Commonwealth University, Simmons University, Christopher Newport University, Radford University, University of Virginia, Mary Washington University, Marymount University, and Chapel Hill University.



Emerging Leaders Program – Part III (ELP-III)

Edu-Futuro’s ELP-III program successfully extends our “Classroom-to-Career” continuum of academic support and guidance to students attending local colleges who also graduated from our ELP-II program. Through ELP-III, our mentors help immigrant youth navigate the challenges of college life, providing training sessions on financial aid and essential life skills, such as: time management, effective study skills, and career exploration. During FY2023-2024, 29 students participated virtually in our ELP-III program.



Chronic Absenteeism Program Edu-Futuro Bilingual Outreach Team



In April 2021, Edu-Futuro approached Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to talk about possible ways to combat the sharp increase in chronic absenteeism among Latino youth and English Learner students. In partnership with FCPS, Edu-Futuro created the Chronic Absenteeism Program (CAP), 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.

During FY2023-2024, Edu-Futuro’s outreach team reached 247 students, with 226 students improving their attendance. Through our experience speaking with hundreds of families, we have found that, very often, students do not want to abandon their studies. They need encouragement and concrete help to address the underlying challenges that lead 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, and CAP has given our outreach team an invaluable tool to empower families, and give vulnerable students a new opportunity to return to class, graduate from high school, and enroll in college.

Student Testimonies



David Ortiz graduated from Freedom High School in Prince William County. He is currently attending the University of Virginia, where he is majoring in Business Administration.

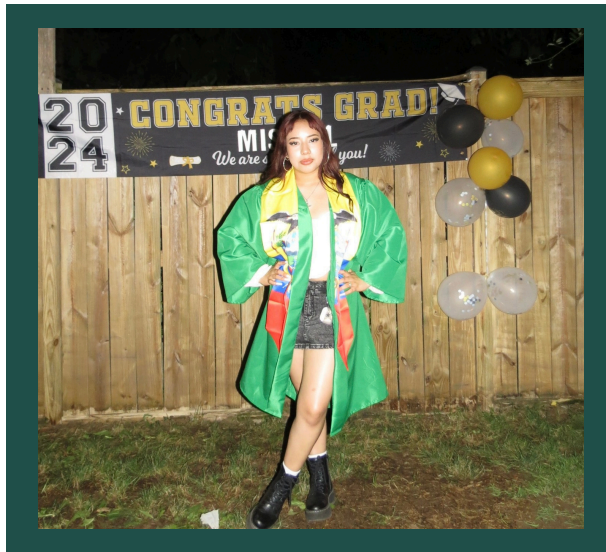
“Edu Futuro has been a guiding light in my pursuit of higher education. Under the mentorship of individuals like Natalie Gutiérrez and Anthony Torrelío, I've been equipped with the knowledge and support necessary to navigate the complexities of the college application process. Their guidance has been invaluable, and I am deeply thankful for their dedication to empowering students like myself.

Through Edu Futuro, I've not only gained practical insights into financial aid opportunities, but have also had the privilege of connecting with mentors who have inspired me to dream big and reach for the stars. It's more than just a program; it's a community of support and encouragement that has bolstered my confidence and fueled my determination to succeed.

With the help of ELP and their support, I was able to get into all the seven colleges I applied to, including William Mary and Virginia Tech. However, I decided to go with the University of Virginia. Furthermore, ELP mentors provided me with resources and information, which resulted in being offered a total of \$412,000 in scholarship money and grants.

Looking ahead, my vision for the future is one filled with opportunities for growth and exploration. One of my aspirations is to study abroad in a country in South or Central America, immersing myself in the rich tapestry of Hispanic culture and expanding my horizons. This experience, I believe, will not only deepen my understanding of my heritage, but also enable me to make meaningful contributions to my community.

I am reminded of the words of Nelson Mandela: ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’ With the support of programs like Edu-Futuro, and the unwavering encouragement of mentors, I am committed to harnessing the power of education to create positive change in the world around me.”



Karen Bailón graduated from Wakefield High School in Arlington County. She is currently attending Virginia Commonwealth University, where she is studying Photography.

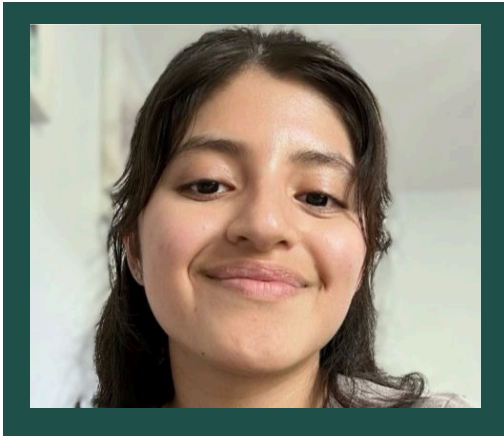
“My name is Karen Bailón. I currently live in Arlington, and attend Wakefield High School. My plans after school are to attend Virginia Commonwealth University, where I will be studying photography. I am originally from Ecuador. I have been in the U.S. for three years, and I am so proud of my culture and being Ecuadorian. I will say that learning a new language starting from zero is very difficult, just like learning a new culture, being in a new community, and even adapting to a new lifestyle. I think that if you want to grow and achieve your goals, you have to be a determined person. When I came here, I didn’t know English, or anything about college. What I did know, was that I had to learn fast so that I could help my parents, since they don’t speak English. To me, helping my parents is an honor, and we should all be proud of being able to help our families.

Last year was the year when I started thinking about college, and how I might be able to submit my applications. If I’m honest, I was scared because I realized that I didn’t have knowledge about the steps I needed to take to apply to college. My mom was also frustrated because she didn't know how to help. Then my mother’s friend told her about Edu-Futuro. She told her about a program that could help her daughter, and I remember going to my first Edu-Futuro event. That program was so helpful! I learned things that no one had told me before, like realistic information about the steps you needed to take in order to enroll in a university. Before, I had only received superficial information about college, but the Edu-Futuro event was like opening my eyes, like answered prayers.

As I said before, I had no one to ask about college, or anyone who could help me with the application process. In the ELP-II program, they gave me a mentor who would help me for an entire year with the application process for college and for scholarships. My mentor helped me with the questions I had, and how to find scholarships and fill out my financial aid forms. I want to publicly thank and honor my mentor, Natalie Gutiérrez, for all the help, understanding, empathy, and patience that she showed me during all this time. I am very grateful to Edu-Futuro for helping me with the tools I needed to create my path towards the future. Thank you for the great impact you made in my life! There are no words to describe how thankful I am to Edu-Futuro and the ELP-II program.”

Student Testimonies

Lisi Orozco Yoc is a graduate of John Lewis High School in Fairfax County, who is currently attending NOVA. She will be transferring to George Mason University, where she plans to study education.



“ELP-II has helped so many students like me to navigate successfully through our high school experience. Since joining the program, I’ve learned to write a resume, how to find resources like scholarships, and also to learn much more about the opportunities that exist for high school students who want to go to college. Some of the scholarships that I earned through this program include the Ashworth Grogan Scholarship, and the Hispanic Leadership Alliance Scholarship. I would’ve never gotten the opportunity to apply for these resources without the help of ELP-II and my mentor, who was with me every step of the way. I really recommend taking ELP-I and ELP-II because the programs and mentors teach the students so much about college and scholarships, helping us to prepare for interviews, and so much more.”

Alvaro Erazo graduated from Annandale High School in Fairfax County, and is currently attending Northern Virginia Community College, where he is studying mechanical engineering.



“After a year of receiving one-on-one mentoring throughout my senior year of high school, I can say that Edu-Futuro’s ELP-II program has made a positive impact on me, both in a professional and personal context. What made this program really special to me was my mentor, Natalie. Through countless meetings with her regarding the college application process, applying to scholarships, and questions about life after high school, I feel that I’ve learned a lot, not just as a student, but as an individual as well. During the course of this program, we applied to various opportunities, and I received help navigating this year’s new FASFA application process. Furthermore, in our monthly ELP-II meetings, I always learned something new. Whether it was about different career paths or mental health, the information shared with me was always relevant. In the end, I’ve decided to enroll at Northern Virginia Community College, where I’ll be studying engineering with a discipline in mechanical engineering.”

Karen Veizaga Logo graduated from Justice High School in Fairfax County, and is currently attending American University, where she is studying Business Management.



“Hello, my name is Karen, and I’d like to start by saying that Edu-Futuro is a life-changing organization. I love how their goal is to empower students through mentorship, educational opportunities, and leadership development so that we feel prepared for our college transitions. Through this nonprofit organization, I got the opportunity to join the Emerging Leaders Program and to meet amazing people who supported me through my last year of high school. Thanks to Edu-Futuro, I was able to complete my college applications, scholarship applications, and to be more aware of the next steps I needed to take towards the start of my college journey. Not only was I able to feel more secure about college, but I was also able to apply to many scholarships. The scholarship list they have for seniors helped me win over \$50K dollars for college this year! Time goes by fast, and I wish I had known about this program sooner! I am going to American University, and the location, diversity, and internships offered in Washington D.C. make me feel more reassured about what’s to come for me through the next four years. I wouldn’t have done any of this without the immense support and guidance I received from my mentor and friends here in Edu-Futuro.”

Alexandra Arispe graduated from West Springfield High School in Fairfax County, and is currently attending NOVA. She will be transferring to George Mason University to study Health Science.



“Being in both ELP-I and ELP-II opened so many opportunities for me as a high school senior. I was especially grateful for my experience with ELP-II, which was a real blessing. My mentor, Ms. Nelly, helped me so much by working with me to identify scholarships. She gave me feedback on essays, sat down with me to complete the FASFA form, and much more! I was also the winner of the \$5,000 Dr. Marjorie Myers Scholarship under the Edu-Futuro program, and I am so grateful that I got to share my story with Dr. Myers and the scholarship judges. I definitely recommend this amazing program to everyone so that they get to experience the fun activities, and the free educational opportunities offered by Edu-Futuro.”

Parent Empowerment Services

One of the most important, yet underreported stories of the pandemic has been that Latino families suffered the largest number of COVID hospitalizations of any racial or ethnic group in Northern Virginia. In response to the heavily disproportionate impact of the crisis in our community, Edu-Futuro's Parent Empowerment Services (PES) have been adapting and expanding our workshops in order to help our parents provide their children with a healthy and supportive home environment. This past fiscal year, Edu-Futuro served approximately 777 parents through our five principal PES programs.

Participa...en mi educacion (Participate in My Education)

This series of bilingual workshops are designed to teach immigrant parents how to navigate the U.S. school system in order to support and advocate more effectively for their children's schooling. Participa is intended specifically for parents of elementary school children. During FY23-24, Edu-Futuro offered eleven Participa programs, both virtually and in-person, to a total of 177 parents. Of the 132 participants who graduated:

- 100% exhibited greater knowledge about the U.S. school system, including their rights and responsibilities.
- 93% felt prepared to support and advocate for their children's education.



Padres Comprometidos (Committed Parents)



This bilingual program helps immigrant parents of high school youth learn to navigate the U.S. school system, as well as develop postsecondary goals for their children, understand the academic requirements for college, and model behaviors at home that encourage and promote learning. During FY23-24, Edu-Futuro offered ten Padres Comprometidos programs, in virtual and in-person settings, to a total of 188 parents. Of the 135 parents who graduated:

- 95% reported an increase in knowledge of the steps their children should take to be ready for college.
- 96% reported an increased ability to model positive behaviors that promote learning at home.

Families Reunite



This inspiring and emotional Edu-Futuro program helps families to rebuild relationships between parents and children who were separated during the immigration process. During FY23-24, Edu-Futuro offered nine Families Reunite programs to a total of 79 parents and children. Graduating parents reported the following:

- 94% now have the tools to be a good parent.
- 94% have positively changed their parenting practices/behaviors.

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. During FY23-24, Edu-Futuro delivered nine Strengthening Families programs, in virtual and in-person settings, to a total of 175 parents and teens. Of the 132 participants who graduated:

- 100% of the parents increased their ability to set appropriate limits, and show affection to and support for their children.
- 100% of the teens reduced risky behavior and increased resistance to peer pressure.

Case Management Services (CMS)

Edu-Futuro responds to any family seeking emergency assistance by conducting a Needs Assessment Survey. This survey asks about the needs of family members, and how the emergency situation they are experiencing has affected the immediate needs of the household. After the survey has been completed, our Parent Support Specialists help connect beneficiaries to necessary services, including rental assistance, food distribution, COVID-related services, unemployment benefits, health insurance, educational resources, workforce development, financial workshops, immigration support, and other general community services.

During FY2023-2024, Edu-Futuro provided a total of 1,935 CMS services to 1,306 beneficiaries. A total of \$545,157 was disbursed in direct financial aid for rent, utilities, and other household bills. We are very proud to report that, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Edu-Futuro has helped to stabilize more than 1,800 households by disbursing over \$2.5 million in financial aid for rent, food, utilities, and other basic necessities.



Workforce Development Services

As a result of the pandemic's impact on the families served by Edu-Futuro, we experienced a major increase in the demand for Tech for Parents, our computer/smartphone literacy workshop series, as well as for the other programs offered through our Workforce Development Services (WDS). Consequently, we made the decision in FY2022-2023 to transition WDS into its own independent service pillar at Edu-Futuro. This transition has allowed us to focus greater attention and resources on WDS, and last year, we continued responding to the needs expressed by our beneficiaries by launching our brand-new GED Certification Program.

Today, WDS includes the following programs intended to equip our beneficiaries with the essential skills needed to seek and secure meaningful employment: Tech for Parents, Resume & Cover Letter Workshops, Individual Job Counseling, GED Certification, and the Financial Empowerment Network workshops. During FY2023-2024, Edu-Futuro delivered 1,347 services to 1,091 beneficiaries through WDS, including 278 students who participated in the year-long GED Certification Program.



Parent Testimonies

Testimony from Rebeca Juárez, a graduate of Edu-Futuro's Tech for Parents computer/smartphone literacy program.

"I didn't know very much about technology and I wanted to learn how to communicate better with my child's teacher. So, I saw a flyer in the school and I decided to take the Tech for Parents class. Before the workshops, I could not use the computer, but now, I can use the internet to help my son. He has a lot more confidence in me. For example, now he asks me to register him online for his cooking classes...Now, whenever I see a flyer for the course at school, I tell my friends and family members that they should take the classes. They have really helped to improve our community here in Culmore and Bailey's Crossroads.



As Latinos, sometimes we focus only on work, and we don't take the time to study and learn a little more. In my case, I used to always be busy with work, but thanks to the classes, I am now able to save a lot of time. For example, I used to have to go to the school to ask about different things about my son. Today, I can communicate with the school through email, and I don't have to take time off from work...In my community of Culmore, there are many mothers from Guatemala who can't speak Spanish because they speak Mam, like me. Very often, they don't know what an email is or how to use a computer. Thanks to what I learned in Tech for Parents, I have been able to help other mothers to communicate with the school through email. I teach them about passwords and other things so that they can talk to the teachers."

Parent Testimonies

The following are three testimonies from parents 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.

Enereida Pérez -- "Throughout the program, I acquired skill and knowledge that helped me improve communication with my children and better understand their needs. I learned the importance of involvement in their education, and how I can effectively support their academic and personal development. Additionally, the program provided me with a supportive community. I met other parents who were facing similar challenges, and together we shared our experiences and solutions. This sense of community made me feel that I was not alone in my parenting journey and that I could rely on the support of others. One of the program's highlights was the focus on leadership and responsibility. I learned to be a role model for my children and to get actively involved in the school and community. This not only benefited my children, but also strengthened our family relationship and made us feel more connected and united. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the Padres Comprometidos program. The dedication and professionalism of the facilitators were exceptional, and the positive impact on my family is evident. I highly recommend this program to any parent who wishes to improve their parenting skills and strengthen their relationship with their children."

Maribel Díaz -- "The Padres Comprometidos program helped me improve communication with my children, understand their needs, and listen to them before judging them. I have also had the opportunity to hear the experiences of other parents who attended the program, and it has helped me improve communication with my teens at home. I recommend this program to parents who have children in the difficult age of adolescence, as it helps us to improve communication and listen to our children. This program, in addition to teaching us keys to better communication, also offers information about ways to get help for our children to continue their studies once they finish high school."



Bernadino Saavedra -- "Thanks to the Padres Comprometidos classes, I have learned about commitment, managing emotions, vision, and how to guide my son in learning during adolescence. I am happy to have participated in these classes that are helping me to improve the relationship with my son. Now I know how to help my son with his homework, also now I feel that I can guide him when he gets closer to graduating from high school and wants to go to college. I recommend this program to families who have teenage children because they can learn tools to improve communication with their children, and also help them learn how to find help so that students can continue their preparation and studies once they have finished high school."

Parent Testimonies

The following are two testimonies from a teen and a program facilitator who participated in Edu-Futuro’s Strengthening Families program, which helps parents communicate more effectively with their adolescent children.

Emanuel Rivas -- “As a young person who participated in the Strengthening Families program, I can say that the workshops really helped me to understand the perspective of my parents. I also learned about about the danger of drug and alcohol use. I liked learning how to handle peer pressure, and now, I know how I should respond if I were to be in a situation where others were trying to involve me in activities that could get me in trouble. I invite other young people to participate in this program because they will be given tools that will help them to handle various peer pressure situations, and to stay informed about issues related to alcohol and drugs. Also, one of the important things about this program is that the kids have time to share with their parents as a family, and to do fun activities together.”

Beatriz Gutiérrez -- “I participated as a facilitator in the Strengthening Families training program...I gained valuable tools to inspire and assist families in improving communication with their children, helping them to make responsible decisions during adolescence. Now, as a facilitator of this program, I have the opportunity to provide guidance and support to families, positively impacting not only their family dynamics, but my own as well.”



Testimony from Anabel Cruz Zelaya, a resident of Arlington County, who received support from Case Management Services.

“My name is Anabel Cruz Zelaya, and this year has been a challenge for me and my family. Early this year, in April, my daughter passed away, and it’s been a hard process to move forward. Also, after the passing of our loved one, my husband lost his job due to a medical condition. He had to stay home for several weeks until he was able to recover...As time was passing, we were getting further and further behind on our rent and utility payments. Unfortunately, I wasn’t working, and my husband, who was the head of the household, was sick. Our savings were very low due to the cost of the funeral for my daughter, and I felt very hopeless and worried about what would happen next. Then, I remembered that during COVID, Edu-Futuro had helped us to pay some rental costs. I made the decision to contact the case management specialist who had helped me, and to tell them about my situation and the hard time I was experiencing, that I didn’t know what to do...The Edu-Futuro team responded with such concern and wanted to help. They helped me to apply for rental assistance with Arlington County, and they also assisted me with an application to pay the gas and light bills with Arlington Thrive. I would like to thank Edu-Futuro, and to express my sincere gratitude for their incredible assistance with my moment of need. The support from Edu-Futuro came at a crucial time, and truly eased the situation I was facing. The team was compassionate, understanding, and made the process very easy.”

COMMUNICATIONS

Edu-Futuro – Connecting to Immigrant Families

In addition to winning an Emmy award (page 7) during FY2023-2024, the Edu-Futuro communications team continued to provide immigrant and Latino families across Northern Virginia with vital information on public health, education, and social service issues of importance to their daily lives.

Our public service television series, *Línea Directa*, completed a three-year partnership with the CDC Foundation with a series of six Spanish-language programs focusing on the considerable impact of the pandemic on the Latino community. Led by long-time Host, Andrea Sarralde, *Línea Directa* featured interviews with doctors, elected officials, and topic experts about such issues as the mental health impact of COVID on Latino families, the continuing importance of the vaccine, and the serious damage being caused by medical disinformation being spread through social media. Additionally, *Línea Directa* produced a landmark series of three programs focusing on how racism is affecting Latino families. Other *Línea Directa* shows covered such issues as pedestrian safety, wage theft and the rights of workers, and the importance of civic engagement and the Latino vote.



On the air for nearly 35 years, *Línea Directa* reaches thousands of Latino households throughout the Washington metropolitan area on Saturday mornings, at 11:00 a.m., on the region’s leading Spanish-language television station, Telemundo 44. This past year, the Edu-Futuro communications team significantly increased the production of 45-second social media messages on many of the public service topics covered by *Línea Directa*, as well as postings promoting specific Edu-Futuro programs for students and parents. As a result, we improved our connection with beneficiary families, and continued the growth of our social media network that now includes *Línea Directa* and Edu-Futuro Facebook pages with a total of more than 6,000 followers, and an active WhatsApp community of approximately 2,500 users who generate hundreds of monthly interactions with our staff.



We invite you to join our social media network:

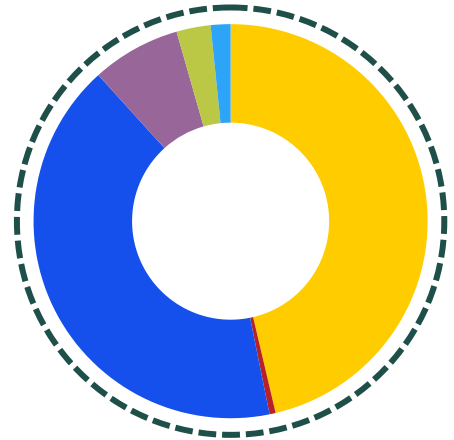


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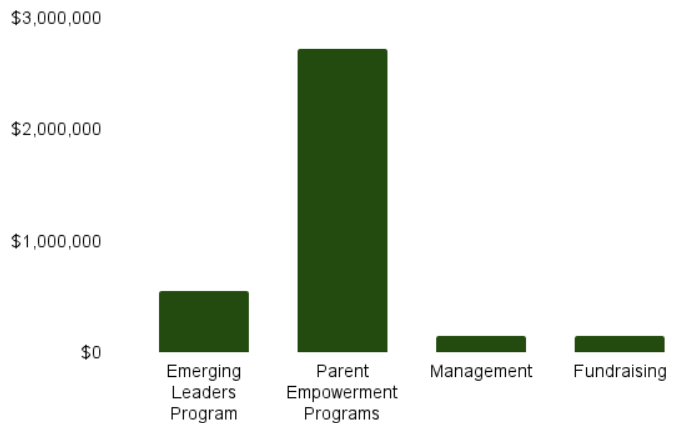
Fiscal Year 2023-2024 July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 Unaudited Financial Statements

Revenue		%
Nonprofit Organization Grants	\$2,250,123	46.33
Corporate Grants	\$24,033	0.50
Government Grants and Contracts	\$2,013,756	41.46
In-Kind Donations	\$354,224	7.29
Individual Donations	\$136,173	2.80
Special Events	\$78,763	1.62
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,857,072	100.00

- Non-Profit Organization Grants: 46.33%
- Corporate Grants: 0.50%
- Government Grants & Contracts: 41.46%
- In-Kind Donations: 7.29%
- Individual Donations: 2.80%
- Special Events: 1.62%



Expenses			
Program Expenses			
Emerging Leaders Program	\$549,326	15.42	
Parent Empowerment Programs	\$2,710,897		
Subtotal Programs Expenses	\$3,260,223		



SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES			
Management	\$151,876	4.26	
Fundraising	\$149,978	4.21	
Subtotal Supporting Service Expenses	\$301,854		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,562,077	100	

Statement of Financial Position		Net Assets	
Total Assets	\$2,218,717		
Total Liabilities	\$223,754	Beginning of the Year	\$699,968
Total Equity	\$1,994,963	End of the Year	\$1,994,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$2,218,717	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,294,995

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