



!!! CentroNía

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

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Dear Friends of CentroNía:

This year, CentroNía is excited to celebrate 30 years of providing high-quality, bilingual early childhood education and supportive services to low-income children and their families in the Washington, D.C. region. With only 15 children enrolled when CentroNía was founded in 1986, our organization has grown to now provide award winning programs and services to more than 2,400 children, youth, and families in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Every day we give thanks to our donors, dedicated supporters, alumni, volunteers, and committed staff for making it possible for us to continue to offer high quality education programming to our community. **We are happy to share with you some of the recent accomplishments made possible because of supporters like you. Please, take a moment to reflect on the impact YOU can have in the lives of our city's earliest learners.**

- The CentroNía Institute, officially launched the CentroNía Institute Reflective Practice Approach (CIRPA) Toolkit—a toolbox of instruments to early childhood educators and enhance teacher-child quality interaction in the classroom.
- CentroNía was recognized as one of over 230 Bright Spots in Hispanic Education across the country by The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics as an organization that addresses key education topics for Hispanics, closing the achievement gap from cradle to career.
- CentroNía consolidated and strengthened our early childhood education programming at our headquarters at Columbia Road with an increased focus on 0-5 education.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognized CentroNía for providing free meals to children at DC's first Farmers Market Summer Food Service Program.
- With your support, CentroNía has been able to grow and expand its programs, serving our city's most vulnerable families with the highest-quality education, guaranteeing our early learners will be school ready when they start kindergarten.

But, still today, there continues to be a need for affordable, high-quality early childhood education for all children and finding such opportunities is extremely challenging for low-income, working families. For this reason, looking ahead, we hope to expand our Maryland program with emphasis on Prince George's County and a larger facility on Montgomery County, where there is a growing need.

Thank you so much for continuing to support CentroNía. This is an exciting year for our entire community, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

THANK YOU for being champions in the education of our children!

Sincerely,



Myrna Peralta, CentroNía President & CEO



Linda and Sammy (pictured above) reading a book with their son, Eliseo, a CentroNía Pre-K student.

Meet Linda, Sammy, and Eliseo: A CentroNía Family

Linda and Sammy were overjoyed to finally have the family they dreamt of together when Eliseo was born. They knew they needed the support of a high-quality early childhood education program, and before long they realized how critical this was in the development of their son.

“When I came to D.C. at the age of ten, I did not have any family. Today my family, Linda and Eliseo, mean the world to me,” says Sammy.

When Eliseo was still very young, he was enrolled in a home-visiting program. In this program an educator came to their home to work with Eliseo a few days a week to promote his development and provide support to Linda and Sammy as new parents. As Eliseo grew it became clear speaking was a challenge for him, so he began working with a speech therapist. The speech therapist recommended Eliseo transition into a high-quality early childhood education center so he could be around peers his age—interacting with other children would foster the development of his speech and social skills. As working parents, Linda and Sammy needed to find a childcare option that was affordable, yet still offered the high-quality support Eliseo required to learn and grow.

After researching many options, Linda and Sammy enrolled Eliseo at CentroNía, which came highly recommended by a close family member. At the age of 3, Eliseo joined CentroNía's Pre-K program and is one of the youngest in his class.



“For me, CentroNía is the perfect place for Eliseo. I trust his teachers with everything –Eliseo and Ms. Nicole have a very special relationship. In some ways, she’s like a second mom. We’re very happy as parents,” says Linda.

When Eliseo came to CentroNía he was shy and kept to himself. Today, he is learning to use his language skills in both Spanish and English—even stopping by offices on the way home every day to say hi to CentroNia’s administrative staff. Eliseo loves to read and each night Linda and Sammy read a book before bed (his favorite is *The Gingerbread Man*). That’s not all that’s changed for Eliseo. He’s also begun to try new foods he refused to try at home—he LOVES hummus and many different types of vegetables. For Eliseo, CentroNía is proving to be the perfect place for him to learn and grow.

“We can see a huge difference in Eliseo since he started at CentroNía. He comes home and shares what he learned...naming the colors he sees as we walk around the neighborhood and counting things at home with us,” says Linda.

Eliseo continues to work with his speech therapist twice a week and he has made significant progress since coming to CentroNía. He also has a safe space where teachers and peers encourage his curiosity and give him the self-confidence to speak. Linda and Sammy are so happy at the growth they’ve seen already and are confident CentroNía is putting Eliseo on the trajectory to be school ready by age five. **CentroNía is a place where all children receive the support they need to grow while developing a lifelong love for learning.**



“For the class holiday party, Linda and Sammy brought sandwiches cut into hearts and fruit cups for the whole class. They treat the teachers and students like their own family. As a teacher, it’s so great to see them passionate about Eliseo’s education”

- Ms. Nicole, Pre-K Teacher



Meet Lisa: A CentroNía Alumna

“CentroNía was the place where I received an education, found confidence in my abilities, and learned to believe in myself!”

Lisa (pictured far right), a CentroNía alumna, poses alongside her aunt, niece, and brother outside CentroNía before leaving D.C. to complete a masters in Clinical Psychology.

As a young teenager it can be challenging to make friends and find meaningful activities during breaks from school, especially in a neighborhood where resources are limited. For Lisa, this was even harder. She recalls herself as a very shy person who had a difficult time making friends. Lisa was always a great student, but her introvert personality prevented her from participating in group activities or speaking in public.

Lisa began her story with CentroNía at a young age when she first joined the Pre-K program. At the time when Lisa joined CentroNía, her parents were very familiar with the organization having enrolled their older children in the program as well. While Lisa and her siblings were learning and growing at CentroNía, her parents were able to both work full-time to provide for their family.

“My older brother and sister attended CentroNía before I did. Being very familiar with the program, my parents knew it was a safe place where I had the opportunity to learn and make friends,” says Lisa.

Once Lisa entered elementary school, she transitioned to Studio R.O.C.K.S., CentroNía's out-of-school time program, where she continued learning alongside peers her age. In Studio R.O.C.K.S. students express themselves through visual and performing arts, explore the worlds of science and math through exciting games, and practice literacy skills. In this program, Lisa had the opportunity to participate in a week long camping trip. The camp, she recalls, had a variety of activities meant to empower students to try new



Lisa (picture above on left) sitting with her friend at a Studio R.O.C.K.S. Community Presentation for parents in the audience.

During Studio R.O.C.K.S. Winter Camp, Lisa (pictured below) performed in a holiday play with her peers.



things and explore anything and everything they could. While on the trip, Lisa received love and support from her teachers - especially her favorites Ms. Bertha and Mr. Ricky. She felt inspired and encouraged to believe in herself. With confidence, she decided to try every activity offered at the camp.

“At the beginning of the summer, I didn’t realize what I was in for—that participating in the Studio R.O.C.K.S. summer program would change my life forever!” says Lisa.

After the camp, Lisa left her shy personality behind and blossomed into a whole new person. “I was painfully shy, but [afterwards] all fear vanished,” she says. Surprising even herself, Lisa fell in love with theater and upon returning home got involved at a local theater. **CentroNía gave her confidence to explore the world with curious eyes and the opportunity to make lifelong friends.**

Today, at age 24, Lisa is now the Director of the Visitation Program at the Family Place, an organization focused on empowering low-income families to foster the development of young children through educational and support services. She completed her bachelor’s degree in just three years and is preparing to enter Ohio University to obtain her doctorate. She dreams of one day opening her own clinic.

As she reflects back on her time at CentroNía, Lisa is thankful for having the opportunity to be in a safe, multicultural environment where she learned to overcome her fears and meet many people that continue to inspire her to this day.

iCentroNía's 30th Anniversary!

In 2016, CentroNía turned 30! Throughout the year we have celebrated with our children and families, staff, volunteers, and supporters. We also started our first Birthday Challenge where more than 20 supporters pledged their birthday in support of the life-changing programs at CentroNía. Let's review what we've done to celebrate so far and look forward to opportunities to join in the celebration.



VIP Reception

We hosted an incredible evening of delicious food, soulful music, and lively company with many of CentroNía's loyal donors and supporters. We were so grateful to celebrate CentroNía's 30th anniversary with some of our dearest friends! The evening wouldn't have been possible without longtime board member, Gretchen Ellsworth, who generously welcomed us to the very exclusive Potomac Boat Club.

iBirthday Challenge!

CentroNía launched its first peer-to-peer campaign this year asking supporters to pledge their birthday in honor of our mission. We are so happy with the response we received and are getting so close to achieving our \$30,000 fundraising goal for the year-long effort.



Veteran Board Member Gretchen Gayle Ellsworth inspired us all when she rallied friends, family, and colleagues to raise an incredible **\$3,715** on her birthday this year.



CentroNía staff member, Alice Sadler, hosted a festive event to celebrate her special day. Alice and her friends exceeded her goal and raised **\$357** for the children and families at CentroNía!



“I remember the stories my father would share about his difficulty of learning in a non-bilingual environment after migrating from Cuba at a young age. When I came across CentroNía, I was instantly connected to their mission and wanted to get involved. I know the burden web design costs can have on small organizations, that’s why I offered pro-bono services to help launch their new website. “

- Erika Gordan, Volunteer Web Designer

iGet Involved!

Donate

With your donation, no matter the size, you ensure children, youth, and families in the Washington, DC area have opportunities on a local level. Whether you’re a believer in bilingual education, a caregiver for your community, or a dedicated dreamer, your donation means you are making this mission a reality.

Volunteer

Every year hundreds of volunteers visit CentroNía and change the lives of our children and families through weekly tutoring sessions, art projects, one-time intensive projects with our facilities team, and everything in between. Time spent and talent shared makes an enormous impact at CentroNía and we are so grateful for each and every one of our volunteers.

In-kind Drives

Receiving much needed items through donations allows CentroNía to keep its operating budget as low as possible. From stocking classrooms with diapers and wipes or filling our library’s shelves with bilingual books, in-kind donations make a difference! All donated items are distributed free of charge to the children and families in our community.

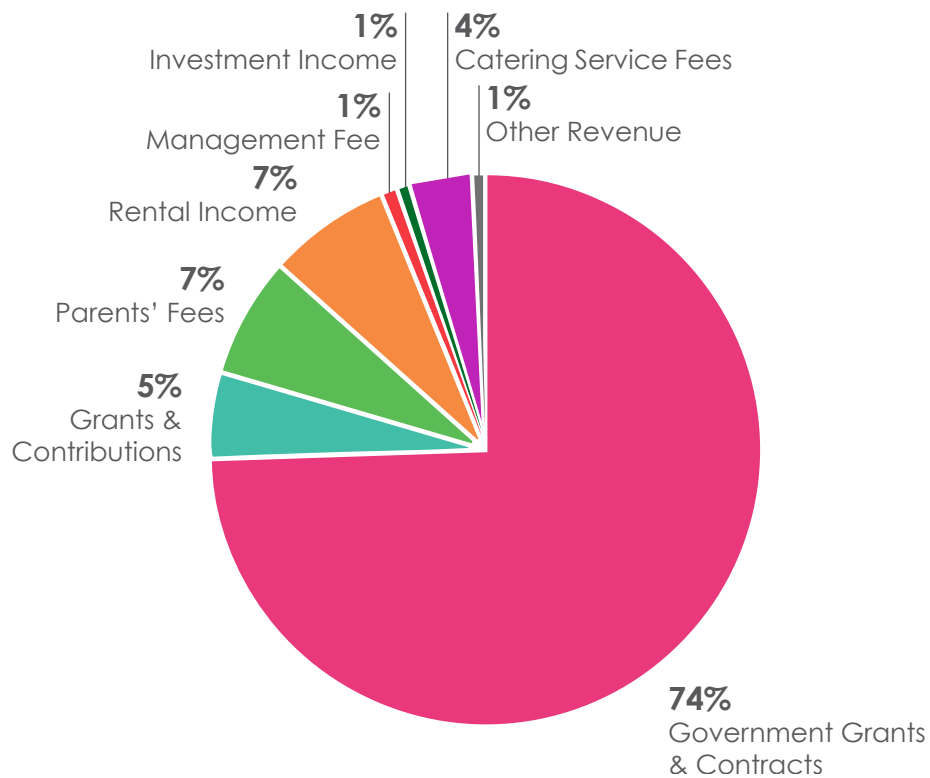
Attend Upcoming Events

As we enter 2017, CentroNía will host events throughout the year that give supporters and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Whether you attend a fundraising happy hour or join us for a special volunteer day, YOU can make a difference for our community! Visit www.centronia.org/events to learn more about future events.

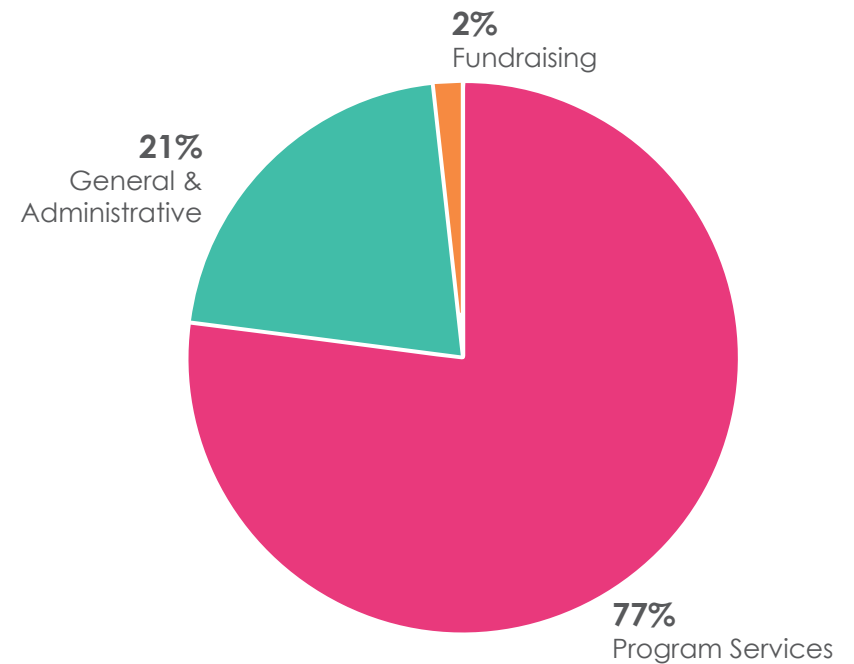


Financials

Revenue



Expenses



For complete audited Form 990s, please visit our Guidestar page:
<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/25-1689720/centronia.aspx>

We are so grateful to all our generous supporters! Although a great deal of care has gone into ensuring the accuracy of this donor list, there may be some errors. We apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or other mistakes and welcome your corrections and suggestions.

Individuals

Simone Acha
Juanita Acha
Kate Akalonu
Stuart Allen
Diana Alonzo Watkins
Maria Alvarez
Laura Anduze
Alejandra Aramayo
Eduwiges Arciniega
Jose Argueta
Lizzette Arias
Diana Arroyo
Marion Ballard
Grace Bateman
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Educating children and youth and strengthening families in a bilingual, multicultural environment

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