OUR MISSION

Mujeres Latinas en Acción empowers Latinas through providing services which reflect their values and culture and being an advocate on the issues that make a difference in their lives.

Mujeres Latinas en Acción Annual Report 2010-2011
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Letter from the CEO & Board Chair

I am honored to share these amazing stories of our participants’ valor. Every day our waiting room is filled with stories of women like the ones you will see featured in the pages that follow. Their stories represent the reason why we continue to exist and grow.

The women and families that come into our office have the courage to share their stories with us. Our women are leaders filled with the strength and determination to take on every opportunity in front of them.

Once our participants are comfortable with our programs and the support that we offer, they build the strength that they need to undertake any challenge or obstacle. It takes a lot of courage to walk through our doors and even more to ask for help. But once they do, they are unstoppable. From survivors of violence to new heads of households, Latinas discover their hidden skills and talents.

We look at every participant from a source of strength and power, not pity. They become leaders in their community once they complete our programs. Women, children and their families build a set of skills that enable them to improve their lifestyle and wellbeing of their familia.

Our founder Maria Mangual wanted a safe place for our Latina women to flourish, learn, and discover themselves.

Because of her vision, we have grown to three offices, seven programs and provide services to over 8,000 individuals annually. We are proud to share with you that we are keeping our founder’s dream alive.

As a service agency, we continue to offer the tools and support women need to heal and fulfill their dreams. In this annual report, you will see the positive impact that our staff and programs have had on these women, children and their families.

I want to thank you all so much for ensuring that Mujeres Latinas en Acción is able to continue to answer the needs of Latinas and their families in and around Chicago for years to come. As an organization, we are only as strong as those who support us; this is something never far from our minds and our hearts.

I thank you to our founders, volunteers, staff members, community partners, board members and to those who believe in and continue to support the work that we do.

Maria S. Pesqueira
Executive Director
“I am a leader to my daughters and friends.”

LATINA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM The Latina Leadership program facilitates self-empowerment and leadership development. The program helps women identify their strengths, use the valuable skills they have developed through managing their households, build their self-esteem, and acquire the tools to lead and affect positive change in their communities. The Latina Leadership program also has a special mother-daughter component that provides multi-generational learning and communication that builds on the strength of Latina girls and their mothers.

Total Served for FY10: 145 FY11: 105

Being a Latina Leader/ Líder Latina

Claudia* entered the Mother/Daughter component of the Latina Leadership program shortly after she arrived from Mexico City. As a single mother of three daughters, she wanted to strengthen her relationship with her children and help them through school. She credits the program with improving the family’s communication. Claudia says the Mother/Daughter program helped her to be candid on the topics that were never discussed before and helped the two generations bridge the cultural divide that develops when children grow up in America with very different influences and expectations. As her relationship with her daughters developed, Claudia recognized her desire to advance her own skills and enrolled in Latina Leadership group sessions where she found her voice and developed her leadership skills. Claudia continues to be a part of the Latina Leadership ongoing group and regularly volunteers with immigration and citizenship campaigns, as well as community health awareness campaigns. Claudia credits Mujeres for giving her the courage to challenge herself.

She is currently working toward her GED and is looking toward the future as she hopes to become a registered nurse. Claudia is excited about setting the example for her daughters on the importance of education. Indeed, her oldest daughter is going to school to become a teacher, and tutors children in the community in her spare time. Claudia and her youngest daughter work on school subjects, frequently doing homework together and helping each other complete assignments.

“Soy una líder para mis hijas y amigas”

*All participants’ names have been changed for privacy and safety.
Latina Educator/Educadora Latina

Yolanda* enrolled in Mujer Avanzando while encountering changes in her life. Yolanda started the program with the goal to obtain a degree in marketing while working at a local magazine in the advertising department. Soon after she enrolled in Mujer Avanzando, Yolanda’s views changed. Yolanda felt closer to her Latino community and she wanted to impact her life and the life of her family in a positive manner. She felt inspired by the work of Mujer Avanzando and Mujeres Latinas en Acción. Yolanda decided to change her major and focus on social work and she is currently attending classes at Wilbur Wright College. Yolanda is also currently seeking an Addiction Counseling Certificate and started her internship in January 2011. Yolanda has become a remarkable woman and a role model to her classmates and children. Yolanda is an advocate for the Latino community and volunteers her time whenever needed.

Furthermore, Yolanda has been able to improve her credit score (38 points) by paying off debt and making corrections to her credit report. Yolanda recently started working at one of the partners of Mujeres Latinas en Acción and is using the resources provided by Mujer Avanzando successfully. “The program has made me a better person, a better mother, and most importantly it has empowered me to be a mentor for women who have found themselves in my situation,” remarked Yolanda.

MUJER AVANZANDO Mujer Avanzando seeks to empower single heads of household. The program is a collaboration between Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Instituto del Progreso Latino, and the Resurrection Project focusing on self-empowerment and leadership development, career path and asset development, and childcare assistance. Total Served in FY10: 73 Total Served in FY11: 36

“The program has empowered me to be a mentor for women who have found themselves in my situation.”
“I feel unstoppable.”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM The program provides support services to victims of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse. The objective of the program is to reduce domestic violence and assist clients to break the cycle of abuse in their lives and their families through crisis intervention, counseling, criminal/civil court advocacy, and community education. The program also offers a 24-hour bilingual crisis hotline.

Total Served in FY10: 926 Numbers Served via 24-Hour Hotline: 151
Total Served FY11: 769 Numbers Served via 24-Hour Hotline: 105

Helping Hands/Manos de Apoyo

Emma* left her native town of Guerrero, Mexico and embarked on a journey with her husband to the United States, but all did not go according to plan. Living in Texas, her husband became increasingly violent as she was made to sleep on the floor and was beaten with an electrical cord. In fact, Emma was hospitalized three times during her first pregnancy. At the time, Emma did not realize this was unacceptable as this was how she had seen her mother live throughout her life. She did not know there was any other way; her mother taught her that once she was married, she was to respect her husband and follow his word.

After the family moved to Chicago, bruises and marks on her face led other women to approach her at her children’s school; a woman on the local school council suggested she seek help at Mujeres Latinas en Acción. Her mother and family in Mexico strongly encouraged her to stay with her husband because they felt to leave him would dishonor her vows. It took some time, but after Emma’s 13-year-old son confronted his father while he was violently abusing her, Emma called the police and received legal advocacy and four years of individual counseling sessions through Mujeres Latinas en Acción.

Since this time, Emma’s life has changed completely. Emma is safe and currently attending an ongoing domestic violence support group. She also obtained a U-Visa for victims of violent crime that allowed her and her three sons to become legal residents of the United States. U-Visas also grant temporary status to immediate family members.

role model and are all in school planning careers in healthcare. Emma herself is studying for her GED and plans to go to school to become a nurse.
CHILDREN’S THERAPY Through a federal grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, Mujeres Latinas en Acción provides children who witness domestic violence with play therapy that identifies those children in need of greater intervention who are then linked to an appropriate resource for longer-term treatment and/or intervention. Music, arts and crafts, games and more are used as therapeutic techniques to allow children to express themselves in a safe environment.

“Me siento imparable.”

Peace program participant at Domestic Violence march
Cristina immigrated with her husband to the United States in pursuit of a better life. With little money and four children to support, her husband was the breadwinner of the household while Cristina was a stay-at-home mom. Two years later, Cristina’s husband abandoned the family leaving them with no money, no resources, and no hope. Worried about the future, she accepted the assistance of her husband’s friends to support her while she sought employment. Knowing that she had nowhere to turn, Cristina was exploited and abused by these men. She was knocked unconscious, sexually assaulted, and subsequently became pregnant. Considering the circumstances surrounding their conception and her very limited resources, Cristina went to the doctor planning to terminate the pregnancy until she was told she was expecting twins. She decided against the procedure. Cristina sought individual counseling through Mujeres’ Sexual Assault program to help her work through the trauma. After receiving individual counseling for one year, she moved forward to group counseling where she is able to share her experience and heal with other survivors. Cristina states that Mujeres has allowed her to dream, set goals, and see herself in a whole new light. She is currently taking English as a Second Language courses with the goal of obtaining her GED. “Me siento imparable.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM The Sexual Assault Program offers assessment and crisis intervention services, case management, individual and group counseling, court advocacy, volunteer training, medical advocacy and community education targeting Spanish speaking survivors of sexual violence.

Total Served for FY10: 150 Total Served for FY11: 171 Numbers Served by Medical Advocacy (in-hospital emergency room visits):
Total Served for FY10: 60 Total Served for FY11: 69

“I have faith and the light gives me strength.”
“They provided me with the resources and I took advantage of the opportunities.”

LATINA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM The Latina Leadership program facilitates self-empowerment and leadership development. The program helps women identify their strengths, use the valuable skills they have developed through managing their households, build their self-esteem, and acquire the tools to lead and affect positive change in their communities. The Latina Leadership program also has a special mother-daughter component that provides multi-generational learning and communication that builds on the strength of Latina girls and their mothers.

Total Served for FY10: 145 FY11: 105

Mother and role model/Madre y Modelo

Brenda came to Mujeres Latinas en Acción after being referred by the court system while filing an order of protection against her now ex-husband of two years. With two children and no employment history, she was determined to make it on her own, but first needed some assistance. Brenda sought the help of the Women in Transition program. She explains that WIT encouraged her to reach outside her comfort zone.

“They provided me with the resources and I took advantage of the opportunities,” remarks Brenda. Through WIT, Brenda received rental assistance while she looked for a job. She was also referred to Mujeres’ Domestic Violence program to receive individual counseling. Claudia Alcantara, WIT Program Coordinator, walked her through the process to obtain her U-Visa which provides temporary citizenship to victims of violent crime such as domestic violence. Currently, Brenda is employed full-time and is a part of Mujer Avanzando learning leadership skills, financial literacy, and career planning. Brenda exclaims that WIT opened many doors to opportunities she never expected. Brenda states, “Thanks to the WIT program and the coordinator who followed my case, I am an independent person and a role model to my children.”
Fortaleza/Strength

Maribel was facing difficult times as a wife, mother and woman. She recalls being frustrated as a stay-at-home mom. Maribel was separated from her husband, and her children were living with him. She was facing not only a looming divorce but also rebellious behavior from her 9 and 14-year-old children. “It was too many things at once,” recalls Maribel.

Trying to find a solution to her problem she came to Mujeres Latinas en Acción, and subsequently enrolled in the Parent Support Program. From there she came to Mujeres to an individual counseling session in which program staff evaluated her situation.

“Coming to the parent support group felt like when you recharge a phone and you are ready to face the world,” remarked Maribel. In this program she understood that giving birth doesn’t make you a parent, it’s about putting structure in their lives.

From being in the Parent Support Program, she learned to respect her children and now knows how to react to their rebellious behavior. After being in the group program for one year and coming to the ongoing group program for five years she realized the meaning of being a true mother. “A mother is a good guide, not a friend not an accomplice, but someone who will show you what is good and bad in life,” she explains.

Maribel has regained her children’s trust, and has reconciled with her husband. Maribel expresses how the Parent Support Program has changed her life for the better.

PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM The Parent Support Program provides parenting skills classes to the parents or guardians of children between the ages of 5 and 17. The objective of the program is to reduce child abuse and neglect by educating parents and guardians on proper parenting skills and how to enhance communication with their children. The program helps reduce the isolation often felt among immigrant parents by creating a network of peer support. The program also offers supervised court ordered visits for non-custodial parents through Project Sanctuary. The program provides a home-like setting for non-custodial parents seeking to improve and develop the relationship with their children.


“I learned to be a woman and I learned to be a mother.”

“Aprendí a ser mujer y aprendí a ser madre.”
“Being in the program has made me less afraid to talk to people.”

PROYECTO JUVENTUD (Project Youth) Proyecto Juventud is an after school program for adolescents from ages 12-17. The program creates options for youth and assists them to make healthy decisions. The goal of the program is pregnancy prevention and to keep teens focused on their academic and personal development by giving them tools to succeed in school. Proyecto Juventud promotes the development of peaceful relationships, open communication with peers, family, and school officials. Total Served in FY10: 25 Total Served in FY11: 23

A friend, a sister, and a leader/Una amiga, una hermana y un lider

Clementina entered Proyecto Juventud to be more involved in her community. Since she entered the program, she has become an example to her friends in school and to her younger sister, Yolanda, who recently became part of the program. Clementina finds different ways to engage her classmates in social causes. Her participation in the program has encouraged her, along with her best friend Sandra (who also is part of Proyecto Juventud), to start a community service club at Benito Juarez Community Academy. “Being in the program has made me less afraid to talk to people,” remarks a confident Clementina. As representatives of Proyecto Juventud, both Clementina and Sandra attended the National Council of La Raza conference in Washington, DC. Here, Clementina was inspired by other young Latinas who are attending some of the country’s most prestigious universities.

Clementina plans to attend Georgetown University in Washington, DC once she graduates from high school and plans to become a doctor. “I want to obtain knowledge and apply it to other people, and I want to focus on treating severe diseases like cancer.” Clementina sets the example to her peers and younger sister as a straight-A honor student and active community member.

“Me siento mas segura de hablar con la gente desde que empecé el programa.”
Mario’s parents came from Durango, Mexico to the United States to seek greater opportunities for the family. Mario recalls before coming to the Peace Program, feeling alone, bored and playing video games for countless hours. At a young age, Mario had to learn the responsibility of setting the example for his younger twin brothers since his parents worked full-time.

Speaking only Spanish and with limited formal education, it is very difficult for Mario’s parents to help him with his math homework, which is a subject where he needs extra help. He is very grateful for Peace Program staff and volunteers who helped him improve his math grades from a C to a B+ average.

Mario enjoys playing with the teens in Proyecto Juventud; his favorite sport is football. When he grows up he wants to be a professional football player. Mario is proud to be an example for his younger twin brothers, also in the Peace Program, and his younger sister who will be enrolling next year.

“Mi mamá y papá solamente hablan español y no pueden dividir números grandes, yo estoy contento de que hay alguien que si me pueda ayudar.”

**Big Brother, Big Leader/ Hermano Grande, Lider Grande**

Mario and his twin brothers.

PEACE PROGRAM The Peace Program is an afterschool program for children ages 6-12, with the goal of keeping children focused on their academic and personal development by keeping them off the streets and giving them tools to succeed in school. The Peace Program promotes the development of peaceful relationships and open communication with peers, family and school officials. Total Served in FY10: 40 Total Served in FY11: 40

“My parents only speak Spanish and can’t divide big numbers, I am happy that someone else is there to help me.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations and Corporations</td>
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<td>United Way of Chicago</td>
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<td>Other Organizations</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Fundraising Events, net</td>
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<td>$164,638</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>$408</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>In-Kind</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; PUBLIC SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,862,626</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$2,137,292</td>
<td>$3,136,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$250,476</td>
<td>$273,896</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$1,969,275</td>
<td>$2,021,309</td>
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<td>Net Assets at End of year</td>
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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Equipment, Net$</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$3,502,603</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$81,974</td>
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<td>Line of Credit</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
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<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,105,351</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,969,275</strong></td>
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<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,494,324</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,502,603</strong></td>
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FISCAL YEAR 2010

FUNDING SOURCES **

- Government
- Foundations & Corporations
- United Way
- Fundraising
- Individuals
- Other

HOW FUNDS WERE USED **

- Admin
- Fundraising
- Programs

**Pro-Forma - excluding pass-through expenses
FISCAL YEAR 2011

FUNDING SOURCES **
- Government
- Foundations & Corporations
- United Way
- Fundraising
- Individuals
- Other

HOW FUNDS WERE USED **
- Admin 12%
- Fundraising 9%
- Programs 79%

**Pro-Forma - excluding pass-through expenses
## 2009-2010 CONTRIBUTORS

We thank the following foundations, corporations, individuals, government agencies and partners that support our mission of empowering Latinas and families.

### FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

#### $50,000 and above

- Chicago Community Trust
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Taproot Foundation
- Chicago Community Trust
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Taproot Foundation
- $49,999- $25,000
  - Aetna, Inc.
  - Allstate Foundation
  - Arthur foundation
  - Chicago Tribune
  - Field Foundation
  - National Council of La Raza
  - State Farm
  - Target

#### $24,999-$10,000

- Alphawood Foundation
- Bank of America
- Chicago Public Schools
- Circle of Service
- Citigroup
- CMB Wireless Group LLC
- Comed
- Crown Memorial
- Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
- Harris Bank
- Irving Harris
- Little Angel Foundation
- Michael Reese Health Trust
- United Way
- Verizon Wireless
- Wallace Foundation

#### $9,999-$5,000

- Alberto Culver Co.
- Bank of America
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Chicago Foundation for Women
- Cubs Care
- Disney Company
- Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund
- Jewel-Osco
- Latino Family Media Inc.
- New Prospect Foundation
- Robert McCormick Foundation
- The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
- $4,999-$1,000
  - Anheuser-Busch
  - AON Foundation
  - David Pesqueira
  - Fifth Third Bank
  - Hodes Family Foundation
  - Kraft Foods
  - Macarthur Foundation
  - MacNeal Hospital
  - Macy’s Foundation
  - McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
  - Midwest Generation
  - Mt. Sinai
  - Nielsen Media Research
  - Peoples Gas
  - Pñata Graphics Total
  - Sanchez & Daniels
  - Sindley Austin Foundation
  - St. Anthony Hospital
  - St. Margaret Mary Church

#### $999-$500

- Azteca Food Inc.
- Bank of America Foundation
- Blue Foundation
- Chicago Civic Leadership
- El Milagro
- Goya Foods

#### $499-$100

- Fox Valley Park District
- ITW Foundation
- Life Coaching Group
- Macy’s
- Siegman Consulting
- YUM Brands Inc.

- Supervalu
- Today’s Chicago Woman Foundation
- United Center Joint Venture
- Universal City Studios LLP
- University of Illinois

- $999-$500

- $499-$100
2009-2010 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

$9,999-$5,000
Janet M. Madori Living Trust
Michelle Obama

$4,999-$1,000
Anonymous
Daniel J. Walsh
Diana Palomar
Helen C. Kim
Iglesia Mision Del Valle
Kathy Gustafson
Lisa Montez
Maria S. Pesqueira
Network For Good
Pulido Sanchez Communications
Susana Gonzalez

$999-$500
Carolyn Schamberger
Colorado Org for Latina Opportunity Cynthia Batman
Elva Gonzalez
Georgina Sanchez
Kenneth L. Liu
Maria C. Capoccia
Yolanda Gamboa
Yolanda Gaspar
Deborah K. Price
Delia O’Connor
Donna Thompson
Doris Salomon
Estela Melgoza
Eric Lugo
Evette Cardona
Francisco Magana
Gilberto Hernandez
Give with Liberty
Helena Sugano
Hip Sanchez
Isidra Moreno Villareal
Isabel Stewart
James Benbow
James Hill Jr.
Jean Mavrelis
Jessica Belmares
Joan E. Coogan
Jorge Quezada
Juan Calixto
Juana Guzman
Julia M. Nowicki
Luisa & James McNamara
Luisa Echevaria
MacArthur Foundation
Magdalena Del Real
Maria Backe
Maria Isabel Garcia
Maria Ovalle
Maria Prado
Mary J. Munsell Abroe
Matthew Doucet
Miguel Grajales
Monica Almanza
Neusa Gaytan
Nivia Aquino
Noemi Flores
Norma L. Seledon
Novella Chiechi
Patricia Garza
Patty Petrowski
Prim Lawrence Group
Quinn E. Delaney
Rachel Dvorken
Rafael Tunarosa
Terence A. Keating
Thomas Fox
Vanir Development Co.
Violeta Gudino
Virginia Martinez
Virginia Ojeda
Wayne Lerner

$99 or less
Abbott Laboratories
Alberto Ramirez
Alicia Higgs
Alma Gutierrez
Alma Lopez
Amalia V. Gaspar
Ana Soto
Angelica Rodriguez
Angelica Lopez
Angie Milosavljenki
Anise Wiley-Little
Antoine Scott
Anwar Adham
Balbina Leon
$99 or less
Barbara Castellan
Barbara Lannon
Blanca Fonseca
Brenda Espinoza
Brenda Moreno
Brenda Tori
Build Inc.
Catherine M. Walters
Celena Roldan
Celia Granados
Cherie Lockett
Chicago Center for Urban Life and Culture
Claiborne S. Tourre
Claudia Sanchez
Claudia Segura
Columbia College of Chicago
Delia Lopez
Dianne Lystlund
Dorothy Ragsdow
Elizabeth Hernandez
Elizabeth Quintana
Elizabeth Sandoval
Esteban Cervantes
Esther Baron
Evelia Padilla
Fatima Ortega
Francisco Orduna
Gabriela Rodriguez-Niebles
Georgina Flores
Grace Gonzalez
Gracie Aviles-Osorio
Grisel Gamboa
Guadalupe Miranda
Guadalupe Villa
Heidi Ramirez
Hilda Curiel
Huirache Concepcion
J. Gonzalez Berger
Jaime Morales
Jameel O. Zanayed
Jesus Garcia
Juan Calixto
Kelly N. Courtade
Kerry Sayers
Larissa Williams-Staples
Linda Tortolero
Lionel Bottari
Luiza Sanchez
Lynda Houston
Magdalena Zavala
Manuel Cobos
Mario Perales
Martha L. Gutierrez
Melissa Gutierrez
Michelle P. Perazzo
Michelle Fries
Nancy De Los Santos Productions
Nora L. Navar
Patricia J. Gonzalez
Paula Ortega
Phil Medina
Pilar Martinez
Robert J. Kelly
Robert Rakove
Roxanna Ortega
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Sarah Guzman
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