



2023 IMPACT REPORT



NOSOTROS

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

OUR MISSION

To empower and engage Chattanooga's Latino population through advocacy, education and inclusion.

OUR VISION

We have a vision of a thriving Latino community and we support efforts that are designed to make Chattanooga a more inclusive city.

OUR WORK

At La Paz we work to stabilize Latino individuals and families through culturally and linguistically tailored case management, systems navigation and information and referral. We empower our Latino neighbors through educational opportunities and community building. We also advocate for the inclusion of the Latino population within our region.



STRATEGIC FOCUS

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES

WEALTH BUILDING
& ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

EDUCATIONAL
ACCESS FOR ALL

AREAS OF IMPACT



1

FAMILY & INDIVIDUAL STABILIZATION

- Multicultural & bilingual case management
- Systems navigation
- Resource & referral
- Homelessness prevention & housing
- Legal access
- Onsite choice food pantry
- Partner services

2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Career readiness & workforce development
- Asset & wealth building
- Student success & development
- Early childhood development & literacy
- Health & wellness
- Community outreach & engagement

3

ADVOCACY & PLACEMAKING

- Civic engagement
- Community needs assessment
- Latino support partnerships
- Government relations
- Cultural demographic awareness



La Paz's vision of a thriving Latino community means one that not only has financial stability and economic opportunity, but a community that can safely retain and express their values, culture & identity.

FAMILY & INDIVIDUAL STABILIZATION

Our Office of Family & Individual Stabilization, which houses all direct service and case management, is the foundational pillar of support for our Latino families and individuals. In 2013 the City of Chattanooga gave La Paz the title of Latino Family Resource Center. We take this title very seriously, acting as a guide and connector for Latino families in our city.

From housing support to medical debt relief, our in-house staff & organizational partners together provide wraparound social support with caring dispositions and, more importantly, the language skills and cultural awareness to **meet our community where they are.**

46,022
CALLS TO OUR RESOURCE CENTER

\$652,000
OF MEDICAL DEBT ALLEVIATED

764 INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY
OUR CASE MANAGERS

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

389 TENN CARE APPLICATIONS COMPLETED OR RENEWED BY FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

FOOD ACCESS

SNAP(EBT) APPLICATIONS COMPLETED OR RENEWED BY CHATTANOOGA AREA FOOD BANK **351**

120 AVERAGE MONTHLY VISITS TO CHOICE FOOD PANTRY SINCE APRIL 2023 LAUNCH

YHDP

Our Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project launched this year and we **successfully rehoused 41 individuals** & provided transitional housing support for **six**.

LEGAL ACCESS

Our Legal Access Coordinator met with **over 20** eligible SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) clients in the program's first year.

Ten clients have signed contracts with attorneys and are moving forward on a pathway to citizenship.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

PERSONAL FINANCE

WEALTH BUILDING

ARTS & CULTURE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Under CE&E, La Paz provides educational support and wealth building opportunities for students, families, and small businesses as well as community building and engagement.

2023 took the title of the most diverse offering of educational and resource opportunities to date in one year! This year we focused on a range of topics that the community expressed as a need, and partnered with various local, statewide and national organizations to bridge access.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

**ROADS TO READING GUATEMALAN LITERACY INITIATIVE
LAUNCHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHATTANOOGA 2.0,
WTGI, THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND HCS**

STUDENT SUCCESS

**MONTHLY FAFSA CLINICS
GEARUP + COLLEGE TOURS EN ESPAÑOL
FAMILY ATTENDANCE: 30**

AVANZANDO THROUGH COLLEGE INAUGURAL COHORT

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**ENGLISH CLASSES WITH CHATTANOOGA SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE
THREE 10-WEEK CLASSES + 40 TOTAL STUDENTS**

**COMPUTER LITERACY CLASSES WITH TECH GOES HOME
SEVEN 4-WEEK CLASSES + 80 TOTAL STUDENTS**

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Homeownership among Hispanic/Latino populations in the U.S. continues to grow at a steady rate, although in 2022, the percentage of Latino homeownership was 48%.

Since 2022, La Paz has partnered with local Latino realtors, mortgage experts, and financial coaches to provide educational programming and support for families looking to invest in real estate (many the first generation to do so).

*Our realtors have reported that **six workshop participants achieved homeownership in 2023.***

ADVOCACY & PLACEMAKING

THE LATINO HUB

La Paz's advocacy work can look different from day to day, but our ultimate goal is to continue to raise awareness and promote investment in and within the Latino community. Last year we strengthened relationships with those looking to invest in the community by **activating our center to convene around Latino-centric efforts**, and collaborating with local governments to build more inclusive infrastructure.

**THE GENEROSITY TRUST
LATINO GIVING CIRCLE**

**COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY WITH
PARTNER RESOURCE FAIR**

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS WITH
LOCAL OFFICIALS**

LATINO LEADERSHIP AWARDS



The first step of advocacy is listening. At La Paz, we are client led and informed. As our services and programming continue to expand, we used 2023 as a year to better understand the current needs, limitations and strengths of our city's fastest-growing demographic.

**MAMÁS LATINAS LISTENING SESSION
TU VOZ COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
SMALL BUSINESS FOCUS GROUP**

LOOKING AHEAD 2024 AT A GLANCE



20 YEARS OF LA PAZ

In March 2004, La Paz de Dios, Inc. received its official 501(c)(3) status, legitimizing the community work in which numerous volunteers had been engaged.

Two decades later, Chattanooga's Latino population is vibrant, diverse, and leaving their *huella* (mark) on the Scenic City. To celebrate the growth of our organization alongside our community, we have some amazing plans for 2024.

TU VOZ SURVEY INSIGHTS
SANGRIA ON THE SOUTHSIDE
4TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
20TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK
SMALL BUSINESS COHORT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEW FACES @ LA PAZ

2023

Jasmin Celis

Operation & Administration Coordinator

Jesus Lopez

Office Coordinator

Daniela Durán

Communications Specialist

(transition) Ashley Valencia

Programs & Outreach Coordinator

2024

Claudia Rodríguez Mandujano

Case Manager

Mayra Díaz

Abriendo Puertas Instructor

Follow our Impact
lapazchattanooga.org
[@LaPazChatt](https://www.instagram.com/LaPazChatt)