

2025 IMPACT REPORT



CATALYZING POTENTIAL

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2025, our community faced extraordinary challenges: rising housing instability, barriers to healthcare, confusion around public benefits, and increased fear and uncertainty among immigrant families. And yet, in the midst of those challenges, something else grew: trust.

This past year, La Paz responded to over 3,100 direct calls and walk-ins. We relieved more than \$1 million in medical debt. We supported 95 families with emergency direct financial assistance. We permanently housed 15 families experiencing instability, and we served over 4,200 individuals through our food pantry, a 233% increase from the previous year.

Our success rate benefitted from our case management becoming more intensive, more responsive, and more relationship-driven. We strengthened partnerships with landlords, property management companies, schools, hospitals, and pro bono attorneys. **We focused on stabilization, safety, and long-term outcomes, not just transactions.**

At the same time, our Education team trained entrepreneurs, supported English learners, and continued building programs rooted in immediate, practical benefit. Our volunteers and interns gave hundreds of hours in service. Our outreach efforts connected us with thousands of community members across schools, nonprofits, and government spaces.

2025 was not easy. We experienced funding losses while demand for services increased significantly, all while facing the most hostile political climate since opening our doors in 2004. But even in uncertainty, our commitment remained steady: to walk alongside Latino families with dignity, advocacy, and culturally competent support.

This report reflects trust earned, crises stabilized, and families who are safer, more informed, and more empowered than they were a year ago.

Thank you for being part of that impact.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stacy Johnson", with a long, sweeping underline.

Stacy Johnson
President & CEO

FAMILY STABILIZATION

In 2025, our Case Management team remained the front line of stability for Latino families navigating complex systems. Across more than 680 scheduled appointments and 3,104 calls and walk-ins, our team addressed urgent needs including rental and utility assistance, SNAP and TennCare enrollment, food access, immigration legal aid, SIJS screenings, and housing stabilization.

By investing in more intensive, relationship-centered case management, we increased successful housing placements, strengthened landlord partnerships, and deepened crisis response efforts. The result was not simply more services delivered, but more lives stabilized.

HIGHLIGHTS IN FAMILY STABILIZATION & CASE MANAGEMENT

682 appointments with case managers scheduled through our Resource Center, as well as **432 onsite partner appointments: SNAP, TennCare, legal access & support**

↳ **123** referrals through countywide partners including **Erlanger** and **Hamilton County Schools**

38 active cases through our **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Program**, with **11 approvals** through Baker Donelson and additional approvals through Advocates for Immigrant Rights.

15

families permanently housed through our YHDP program

95

families assisted through the United Way Bridge Fund

\$1,040,164

in medical debt relieved — removing a significant financial burden for families.

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT



In 2025, our Education Department continued building economic mobility and leadership within the Latino community through accessible, practical programming. From business tax workshops to ESL classes and entrepreneurship pathways, our programs served participants primarily from zip codes 37407, 37412, and 37343 — communities where access and trust matter most.

Participation data reinforced a key lesson: accessibility drives engagement. Programs grounded in immediate, tangible benefit consistently saw the strongest attendance.

Through workshops, workforce training, and entrepreneurship support, we are not simply offering classes, we are strengthening long-term economic resilience.

119

students engaged in long-term and independent **Workforce Development** education opportunities


122

students who participated in language and Digital Literacy education

33

college students supported through our **Avanzando** programming

ANALYSIS

- **Accessibility drives participation.** Programs grounded in immediate, practical benefit perform best.
 - Women are the department's **strongest engagement base**, and their trust should be preserved.
 - Men require **intentional outreach**, not passive inclusion.
 - 37407, 37412 and 37343 zip codes are where our class participants primarily live.
- 

FOOD ACCESS

Our onsite Food Pantry exists to provide culturally appropriate food to Latino families experiencing food insecurity, particularly those already receiving direct services from La Paz.

Food access is often the first point of stabilization. It opens the door to deeper support.



In 2025, food insecurity intensified.

While specific circumstances, such as the **SNAP freeze in November 2025** accelerated need, monthly distributions showed consistent growth throughout the year.

4,213

meals were served across **890 households**, a 233% and 316% increase respectively from 2024.

As demand continues to rise, we are committed to strengthening our tracking systems in 2026 to better capture household-level data and expanding donor engagement to ensure our pantry remains sustainably stocked.

2025 PANTRY SUPPORTERS



Chattanooga Area Food Bank
Food Lion - East Ridge (Store 364)
Gaining Ground
SEED Theatre
Indivisible TAG
LogistiX
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Chattanooga Christian School

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES



Trust does not happen by accident. It is built through presence, partnership, and shared responsibility.

At La Paz, **community outreach** and **volunteer engagement** are two of the most powerful ways we build bridges across communities. Through outreach, we step into schools, nonprofits, government spaces, and community events to ensure Latino families are seen, informed, and connected to resources. Through volunteers and interns, we invite the broader community to step into the mission not as observers, but as active participants.

Together, these efforts create two-way trust. Families know where to turn for support, and partners across sectors better understand and invest in the strength of our Latino community.

Bridge-building is not a single program — it is a practice. And in 2025, that practice continued to expand.

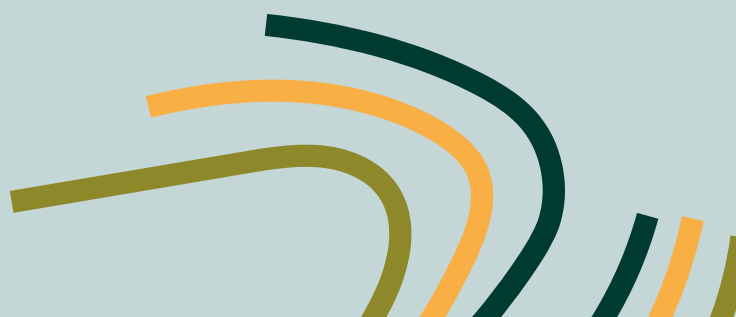
OUTREACH

In 2025, La Paz strengthened its presence across the region through 24 outreach events and 2,235 direct community interactions. During Hispanic Heritage Month alone, our team participated in 13 events, including 8 speaking engagements.

VOLUNTEERS

- **213** volunteers
- **567** service hours equivalent to nearly **3.5 months of full-time work**
- **25 events** strengthened by volunteer support

Additionally, **7 interns** from **4 academic institutions** contributed more than **1,300 hours** of skilled, supervised support across education, social impact, and engagement initiatives.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND SUPPORT.

In 2025, La Paz welcomed the most new individual donors in a single year in our organization's history. This powerful sign that our community believes in this work kept us fueled to continue finding solutions for our community.

At the same time, we experienced **\$200,000 in funding losses** while demand for services increased significantly.

Your support did not simply fund programs, it stabilized housing, relieved medical debt, fed families, supported immigrant youth through legal processes, and strengthened entrepreneurship pathways.

Every dollar entrusted to La Paz translates directly into access, dignity, and opportunity for Latino families in our region.

The need is growing. The trust is deepening. And the impact is measurable. Thank you for standing with us.

125

new individual donors

24

new members of **La Fuente**,
our monthly giving circle

STAR SUPPORTERS

Benwood Foundation
Lyndhurst Foundation
Community Foundation of
Greater Chattanooga
Footprint Foundation
Hamico Inc
City Of Chattanooga
Common Spirit
Emily Spears-Stutz Charitable Fund
Chattanooga Chamber Foundation
First Horizon Bank
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Unum Group
Chattanooga Area Food Bank
The Tucker Foundation
City of Red Bank
Food Lion Feed Charitable Foundation
Wendell M.S. Moses
Lillian L. Colby Foundation
Billy & Jane Pritchard

*We are grateful to the individuals and family foundations who support La Paz Chattanooga through donor-advised funds at the **Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga**, the **Generosity Trust**, and other philanthropic partners.*



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ABOUT LA PAZ

La Paz Chattanooga is the longest-serving nonprofit organization working directly with the Chattanooga area's rapidly-growing Latino population. The mission of La Paz is to **empower and engage the Latino community through advocacy, education, and inclusion.**

Since our formation in 2004, La Paz has gained the trust of our clients and the respect of our partners as a committed, principled, and proactive organization. Reaching 10,000 individuals annually, a key pillar of our service model ensures that we remove cultural and language barriers so that those we serve can achieve stability and access to the same resources as their non-Latino/non-immigrant peers.

We achieve this through culturally and linguistically tailored case management, systems navigation, and information and referral. We empower our Latino neighbors through educational opportunities and community building, while also advocating for the inclusion of the Latino population within our region.