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Commissioned by the
Robert and Kathrina Maclellan Foundation, Inc



Addressing the Growth of the Latino Population in Chattanooga



Introduction



- Chattanooga has seen an incredible transformation in the last two decades.
- From a 10% population decrease in the 1980's, Chattanooga has rebounded and grown as an important player in the Tennessee landscape.
- Along with population growth, the Latino population of Chattanooga has increased exponentially over the last two decades, as much as 180% decade upon decade.
- This growth should be addressed proactively, in spite of the political climate, to ensure sustainability of the quality of life of all Chattanoogaans regardless of their racial and ethnic origin.

Objective



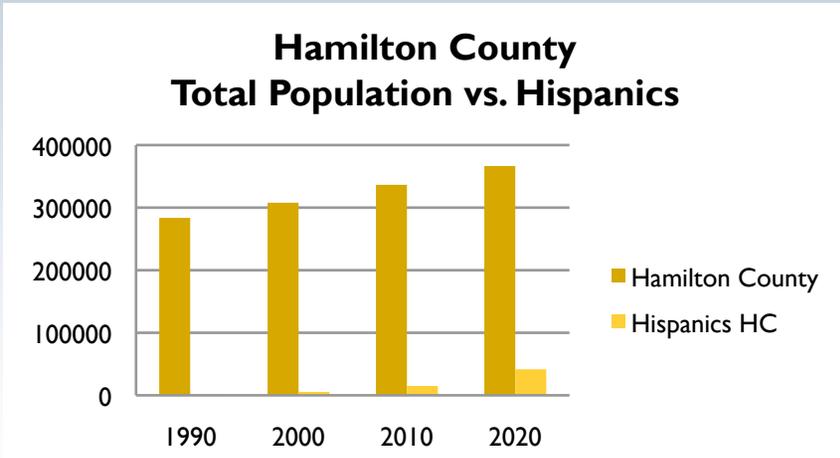
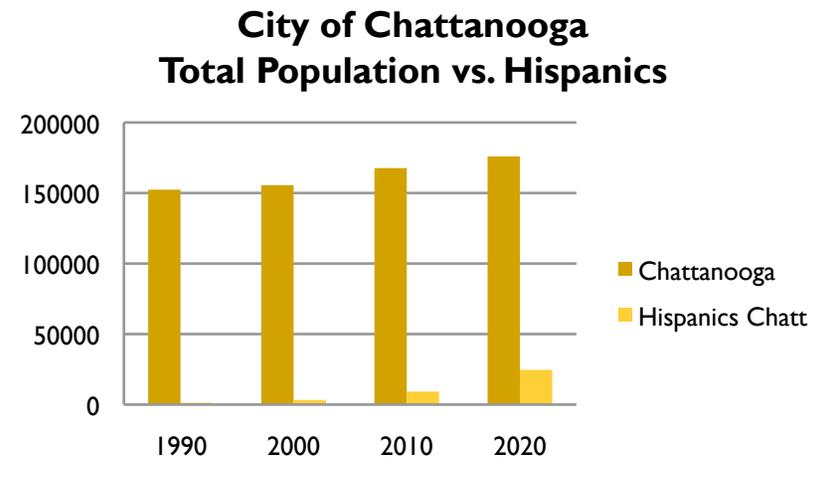
- To present an objective view of what the reality of the Latino growth in Chattanooga has been in the last decade.
- To identify organizations that are crucial in addressing the growth and socio-economic needs of the Latinos in order to recommend their continual support.
- To unite efforts across public, nonprofit, and private sectors in order to improve the opportunities of all member of Chattanooga's society.
- To present estimates of what the Latino population may be in the next decade, and resources that need to be invited to meet the needs of that demographic.

Statistics and Projections



Latino Growth and Projections

	Chattanooga	Growth	Hispanics Chatt	Growth	
1990	152,393		1,299		0.85%
2000	155,554	2.07%	3,281	152.58%	2.11%
2010	167,674	7.79%	9,225	181.16%	5.50%
2020	175,945	4.93%	24,619	166.87%	13.99%



	Hamilton County	Growth	Hispanics HC	Growth	% of Pop
1990	283,590		1,946		0.69%
2000	307,896	8.57%	5,481	181.65%	1.78%
2010	336,463	9.28%	14,993	173.54%	4.46%
2020	366,491	8.92%	41,621	177.60%	11.36%

Source. US Census Bureau.
Projection based on Average growth.

Latinos in the Public School System

Table 2. Public School Enrollment Change, Chattanooga MSA

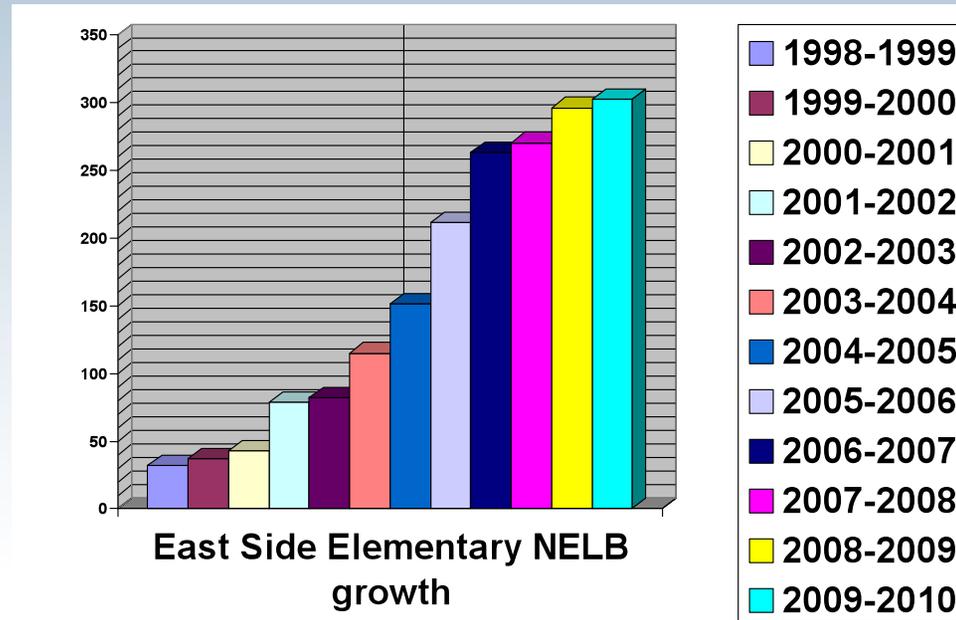
2000-2001 Enrollment	White	African American	Latino	2007-2008 Enrollment	White	African American	Latino
Hamilton County	26,519	13,817	541	Hamilton County	24,370	13,529	1,554
Walker County	7,968	521	87	Walker County	8,127	452	181
Chickamauga City	1,246	0	0	Chickamauga City	1,308	0	0
Catoosa County	9,101	95	95	Catoosa County	9,631	209	209
Marion County	3,908	205	25	Marion County	3,927	169	48
Dade County	2,482	0	0	Dade County	2,371	0	24
Sequatchie County	1,815	0	10	Sequatchie County	2,164	5	67
Metro Area	53,067	14,638	758	Metro Area	51,896	14,364	2,383

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics 2000-2001 student demographics; Georgia Department of Education Report Card 2007-2008; Tennessee Department of Education Report Card 2007-2008

Source: Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies. "Demographic Change. State of Chattanooga 2008 Report. p 4.

Latinos in the Public School System

School (Statistics as of 2011)	Total Students	Total Latino	% Hispanic
Elementary	21,822	1,645	7.54%
Middle School	6,530	330	5.05%
High School	9,095	397	4.37%
Other	5,990	69	1.15%
Total Students	43,437	2,441	



Source: Hamilton County School District

Latinos and Healthcare



Number and percentage of Latino births in Hamilton County

	All Births	Latino Births	Latino Percentage of All Births
2001	3,937	240	6.1%
2002	3,811	216	5.7%
2003	3,865	261	6.8%
2004	3,898	278	7.1%
2005	3,902	353	9.1%
2006	4,202	429	10.2%
2007	4,272	439	10.3%
2008	4,262	486	11.4%

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Source: Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies. "The State of the Region 2010: Health". p 12.



Latinos in Chattanooga

- As of the 2010 Census there are 14,993 Hispanics in Hamilton County and 9,225 in Chattanooga.
- The Hamilton County School District records 2,441 Hispanics in the school system.
- There is a strong focus on the Guatemalan immigrants in Chattanooga from both community leaders, the media, and service organizations.
- According to the Census, Guatemalans represent only 21% of the total Hispanic population, and Mexicans represent 45%.

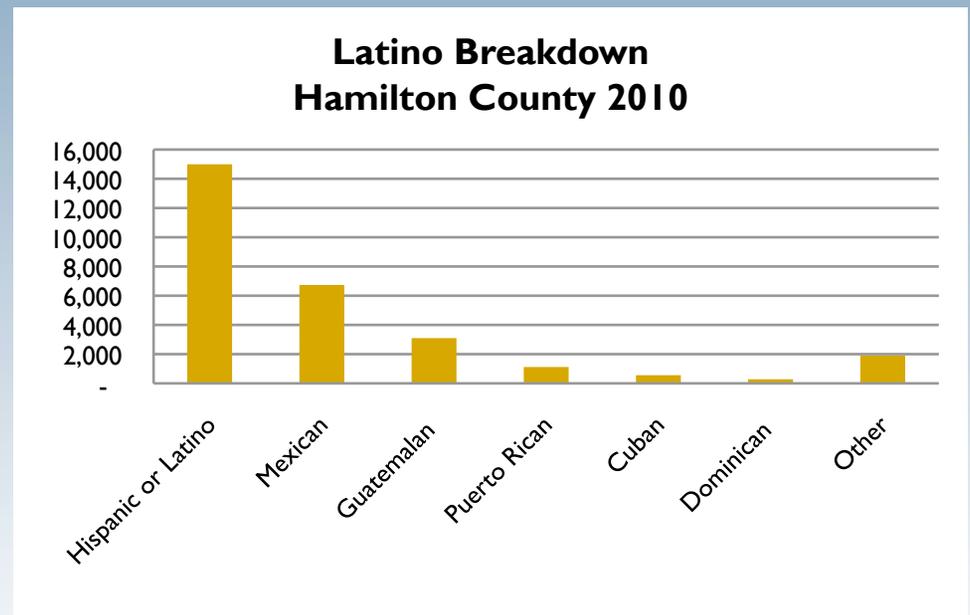
Emphasis on the Guatemalan Population



The Latino in Hamilton County

Latinos in Hamilton County 2010

Total population		336,463
Hispanic or Latino	14,993	
Mexican	6,736	
Guatemalan	3,097	
Puerto Rican	1,120	
Cuban	560	
Dominican	282	
Other	1,903	



Source: Times Free Press, <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2011/aug/26/influx-immigrants-chattanooga/>



Guatemalans and Chattanooga

- Community services emphasize the growing Guatemalan population, although according to the Census, they represent only 21% of the Latino population.
- When community leaders are asked about these numbers, the only response the researcher has gotten is that the Census statistics are inaccurate.
 - Guatemalans were urged by their leaders to not respond to the Census.
 - Some census takers label every Hispanic as “Mexican.”
 - Guatemalans are from “shy” rural regions and probably just agreed to what the Census taker asked... (ie. Are you Mexican?)



Guatemalan Immigration

- Guatemalans are the third largest Hispanic group in the US, following Mexican's and Salvadorans.
- Their population has almost tripled in the last decade.
- In the 80's and 90's the Guatemalan growth was due mostly to political unrest, which became less of a factor after a peace accord was signed in 1996.
- Currently the immigration is due to vast economic despair, especially for rural Guatemalans.
- Immigration has seen a decline in the last few years due to the political environment in the US, the economic recession, the insecurity in Mexico, and the growing opportunities in the countries of origin.



Characteristics of Guatemalans

- 57% of Guatemalans live below the poverty line.
- Guatemala has a 69% literacy rate.
- Guatemala has 23 official languages. Spanish remains a language understood by most Guatemalans, but is not necessarily the “mother tongue” of immigrants in the US.
- Most Guatemalan immigrants come from the rural regions, and live to support their families back home.
- From the 1.044 million Guatemalans in the US, \$4.126 billion were sent home in remittances.
- 57% of the population receiving the remittances are from rural areas in Guatemala.



Personal Observations

- The official information is the best starting point.
- The Guatemalan population growth has been the fastest and most observable in the last 10 years.
- Prior to the 2010 Census, Mexican's were the largest population, and have already established some resources and networks.
- Guatemalans are from rural areas, have a lower level of education, and therefore a higher need of social resources and community assistance.

Needs of the Latino Population





- Adults.
 - Basic reading and writing education. GED training.
 - Language training.
 - Immigrant rights and obligations education, “Life in Chattanooga.”
 - Community safety education.
 - Health education, pre-natal, sex education, contraceptive training.
 - Financial literacy and financial security.
 - Family and parenting support.
- Job preparedness and assistance.



- Children.
 - Public School support.
 - Bilingual staff and ESL teachers.
 - Cultural training for teachers and staff.
 - Integration opportunities for all children, and parents regardless of race or ethnic origin.
 - A transitional school? (look at example in Dalton)
 - Continued support for early child education, and after-school programs.
 - Youth opportunities.
- College awareness and preparedness.



- **Transportation**
 - Chattanooga has a limited public transportation network.
 - Undocumented immigrants have no legal means of obtaining a license.
 - These issues combined present a significant challenge in providing services to the immigrant population.
- **Business and Medical Bilingual employees.**
 - Few hospitals and businesses have a bilingual staff member who is dedicated to supported the Non-English Language Background clients.



- **Transportation.**

- Driving without a license and DUI's are some of the major issues that are occurring with the Latino's.
- Undocumented Latinos are unable to get a driver's license.
- The public transportation network in Chattanooga is limited.
- This presents a challenge to organizations trying to provide services to the Latino's in that they often need to also provide transportation in order for the Latinos from surrounding areas to take advantage of those services.

Community Resources



La Paz de Dios, Chattanooga



The screenshot shows the homepage of the La Paz Chattanooga website. At the top left is the logo for La Paz Chattanooga, featuring a green leaf icon and the text "La Paz Chattanooga". Below the logo, it says "Language: English | Español". To the right of the logo is a photograph of a family: a woman in a purple floral top, a young girl in a pink top, a young boy in a white shirt, and another woman in a floral top. In the top right corner, there is a yellow button that says "Make a Donation: Invest in Our Latino Community". Below this button is the address "1402 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga TN 37404" and the phone number "Phone: (423) 624-9414". A search bar is located below the address. A dark green navigation bar contains the following links: "News", "Events", "Board & Staff", "About", "Services", "Membership", "Contribute", and "Contact". The main content area has an orange background. On the left is a photograph of two women smiling; one is wearing a white hat and a white embroidered shirt. To the right of the photo is the heading "Empower & Engage" and a paragraph of text: "La Paz Chattanooga is the leading organization connecting the growing Latino community to the people and resources of the greater Chattanooga area." Below this is another paragraph: "The Mission of La Paz is to empower and engage Chattanooga's Latino population through advocacy, education and inclusion." At the bottom right of this section is a yellow button that says "Read More".

La Paz
Chattanooga

Language: English | Español

Make a Donation:
Invest in Our Latino Community

1402 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga TN 37404
Phone: (423) 624-9414

Search

News Events Board & Staff About Services Membership Contribute Contact

Empower & Engage

La Paz Chattanooga is the leading organization connecting the growing Latino community to the people and resources of the greater Chattanooga area.

The Mission of La Paz is to empower and engage Chattanooga's Latino population through advocacy, education and inclusion.

[Read More](#)



La Paz Chattanooga

- La Paz

“La Paz is the leading organization connecting the growing Latino community to the people of the greater Chattanooga area. Since its inception in 2004, La Paz has worked to build tolerance, opportunity and mutual understanding, so as to create an environment in which cultural acceptance can thrive.

“Every program and service of La Paz is planned and implemented as a reflection of the mission, specifically tailored to the language, culture and background of the Latino community. The La Paz staff is bilingual, bicultural and skilled at meeting the needs of the diverse Latino community. The La Paz office is strategically located in the heart of where a large number of Latinos have taken residence. With such direct access to and cultural knowledge of the Latino community, La Paz is the source upon which local and regional organizations depend for accurate information of, appropriate service toward, and trusted access to the Latino community.”



La Paz Chattanooga

- **Advocate.** La Paz advocates on behalf of the Latino community by creating awareness and building trusted relationships with partner organizations and individuals working to serve the Latino population.
- **Educate.** La Paz educates the Latino community to become self-sufficient, engaging members of the Chattanooga community through educational information sessions, small group interaction, client consultation and referral, and language and cultural exchange.
- **Include.** La Paz includes our Latino neighbors into the greater Chattanooga community by introducing them to places that might fall beyond their cultural boundaries and/or comfort level.

Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

 SEARCH

- Services
- About Us
- Get Involved
- Media
- Contact Us

Donate Now

Annual Giving Report 2010-2011



Your Help. Their Hope.™

Annual Giving Report
Partnership leveraged the support of multiple investors and volunteers to touch the lives of over 50,000 clients last year. Thank you for your help! Read more about our accomplishments.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

News & Events

- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Sign Up for an Agency Tour!
- Partnership Receives Grant from National Crittenton Foundation
- more ...

Join our list



Partnership for Families, Children and Adults.



- Partnership meets a variety of needs for all community members regardless of their ethnic background.
- Their East Lake campus has bilingual staff ready to meet the needs of the growing latino community.
- They provide ESL classes for adults, support in filling out online job applications, and financial literacy, as well as a limited “food bank” and free clothing.
- Although, unassociated to the recreation center, they are looking to help rebuild the 30 year old playground.

Local Churches



HOME ABOUT RBBC MINISTRIES MISSIONS RESOURCES GIVING CONTACT US



Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Red Bank

Pastor Jaime F. Betancourt V.

Bienvenidos (as)

Si usted vive en Chattanooga y está buscando una iglesia Cristiana para asistir o integrarse a ella, le animo a que considere la "Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Red Bank", como una opción segura. Estamos en esta ciudad por más de una década y media ayudando y capacitando a la comunidad hispana a vivir en este siglo a la manera de Dios, fomentando y solidificando valores cristianos que personalmente y familiarmente tanto lo necesitamos en este mundo. Tenemos un amplio programa de actividades todas ellas en un agradable ambiente de compañerismo cristiano.

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Welcome / Bienvenida
Schedule / Horario
English Classes / Clases de Inglés
Spanish Classes / Clases de Español
Mission Statement / Declaracion de mision
Directions / Direcciones
Map / Mapa

Contact Jaime Betancourt in the church office or at fabianbetancourt@hotmail.com






Home Who We Are Worship C & E Time Advent Readings Labro Ministry ELECT
New City Eats Youth Ministry Children's Ministries Deacons Small Groups News and Events
Photo Gallery Blog Important Links

"The cities that were in ruins, desolate and deserted, are now fortified and inhabited. / The Lord have spoken, and will do it." - Isaiah 60: 10, 18

CELEBRATING THREE YEARS OF GOD'S GOODNESS IN THIS PLACE!



Sunday Worship
Join us each Sunday at the corner of 37th Street and 12th Avenue

6:50 - 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Contact Us
Mailing Address:
New City East Lake
2903 East 37th Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37407

Phone:
(423) 403-9400

Email:
prickett@newcityeastlake.com
jrcarlo@newcityeastlake.com

Local Churches



- Local Churches.

- At any given time there can be close to 100 congregations in Chattanooga. (TFP)
- Many of these spring up for a short period of time, and because of the temporal nature of many immigrants, may just as suddenly disappear.
- Some congregations are independent, others are supported by large local churches.
- Churches present a unique opportunity to provide some of the education and family resources to the Latino community.
- There is a monthly meeting of Latino pastors, looking to discuss needs within their community and



The Latino Church

- Three Different Approaches.
 - Target to the resident Latino.
 - Higher level of education.
 - More financial stability.
 - Target to the undocumented Latino.
 - Limited education.
 - Financial stress.
 - Target to the whole community, with Latino ministries.
 - Positive attempt to bring communities together under one roof, sharing one faith.
 - Risk of paternalism and creating dependency.



The Latino Church

- Challenges for the local churches.
 - Varied levels of education. Some literate, some illiterate. Some for whom Spanish is not a primary language.
 - Generational chasms. (ie. third-culture kids, with better education, and more functionality in English).
 - Highly transitional populations.
 - Poorly educated leadership.
 - Leadership with time-constraints.
 - Financial challenges for the local church.
 - Some churches are financed by larger anglo churches.
 - Some churches are financed by their own populations.

Local media and majority education.



- There is a continued need to develop cultural awareness and sensitivity among the masses.
- The Times Free Press has done award winning work writing about the Latino and especially Guatemalan population in Chattanooga.
See www.timesfreepress.com/betweentwoworlds
- There is a local newspaper, called La Prensa, which is written for Latinos in Chattanooga and surrounding areas.
- There are very few radio stations or broadcast programming outlets that are directed to Latino's.

Conclusions and Recommendations



- The Latino growth is inevitable, and will continue, until it reaches a low-skill job saturation point.
- The Latino growth will move into the employment field of the lower-income communities, creating further distance and resentment among other members of this community.
- Currently, the Latino population numbers are accessible if approached proactively.
- Development of local community leaders will be key to the positive integration of the Latino's as a whole.
- Approaches toward Latino's should be inclusive and serve to integrate all segments of society.

Conclusions and Recommendations



- Further support of those organizations that are looking to reach out and understand Latino's needs to continue.
- La Paz needs to serve as a resource to all other organizations, as well as to the Latino community, until at least additional resources become abundant.
- Schools in Chattanooga need cultural training and language support to address the growing Latino student population.



Resources and References

- Trevizo, Perla. Times Free Press, “Between Two Worlds.” www.timesfreepress.com/betweentwoworlds
- Scholes, Heather. “The Experience of the Guatemalans in Chattanooga.” Departmental Thesis UTC.
- Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies.
- US Census Bureau.



Thank you!

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- Gladys Piñeda-Loher, International Business Council, Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce.
- Perla Trevizo, Times Free Press.
- Heather Scholes, “The Experience of Guatemalans in Chattanooga.”