



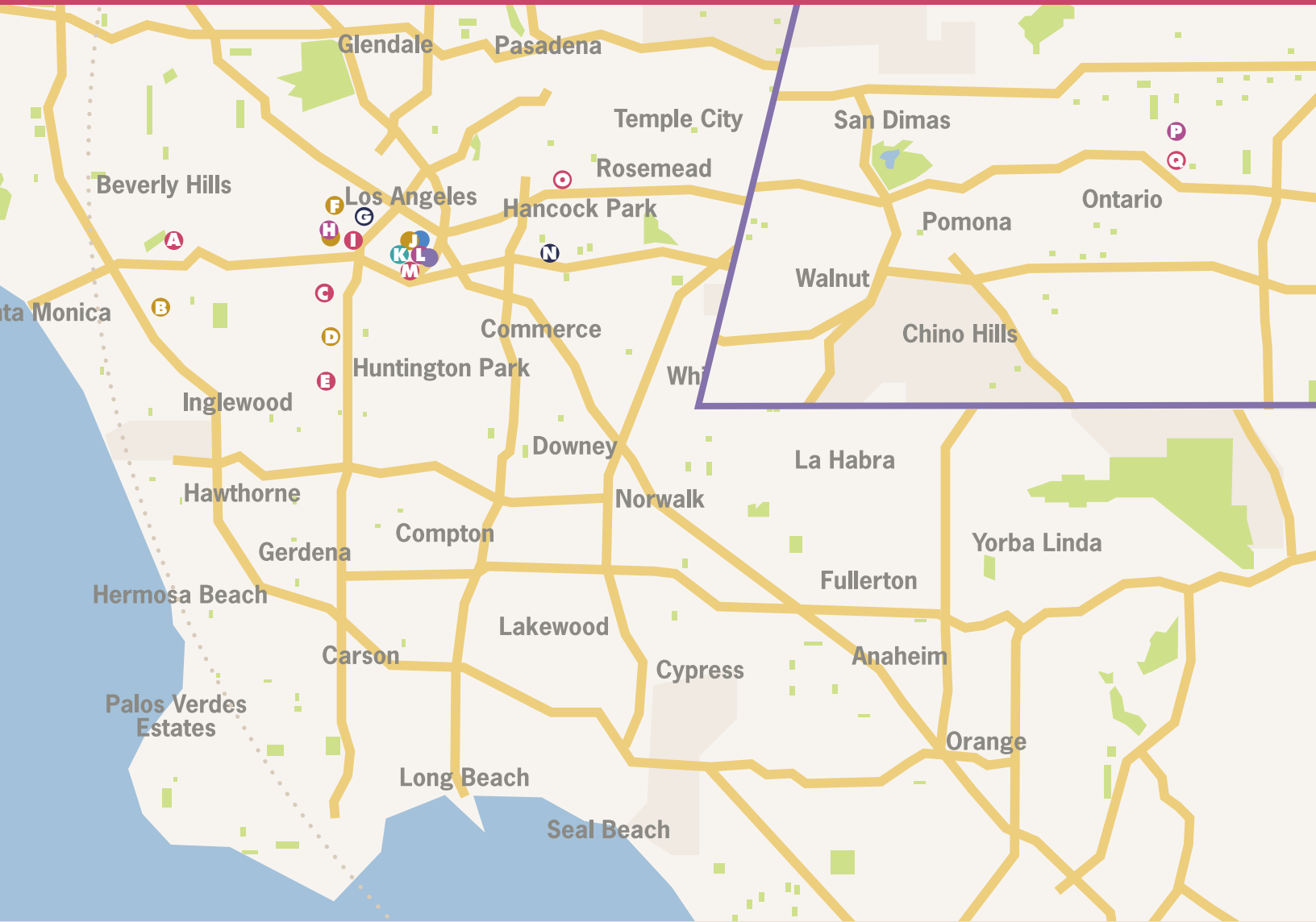
PARA LOS NIÑOS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE ONE CHILD AT A TIME

PARA LOS NIÑOS ANNUAL REPORT

2002-2003 & 2003-2004





After-School Programs

- A** Palms Elementary School
- C** Lenicia B. Weemes Elementary School
- E** Budlong Avenue Elementary School
- I** 10th Street Elementary School
- M** 9th Street Elementary School
- N** Christopher Dena Elementary School
- O** Morris K. Hamasaki School
- Q** Ontario Child Development Center

Family Centers

- H** The S. Mark Taper Foundation Child and Family Center
- L** Family Learning Complex & Charter School
- P** Ontario Family Resource Center
- G** Para Los Niños Administrative Headquarters

Child Development Centers

- B** Mar Vista Child Development Center
- D** Vermont Avenue Child Development Center
- F** The W. M. Keck Foundation Child Development Center
- H** The S. Mark Taper Foundation Child and Family Center
- J** The Bandai Foundation Center for Children & Youth Development

Charter School

- L** Family Learning Complex & Charter School

Clinical Services

- K** Community Service Center

Youth Center

- J** The Bandai Foundation Center for Children & Youth Development

BUILDING A BRIGHTER...

FUTURE

...ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

Dear Friends,

Over the past two years, Para Los Niños has made remarkable strides in expanding and enhancing our services to those most in need. This annual report – covering 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 – offers a brief summary of Para Los Niños' activity during this time and a snapshot of our financial health. Taken together, they reveal the impact and cost-efficiency of our programs, as well as the extraordinary depth and breadth of services. You'll see the faces of the children and families we serve and read their compelling stories. Each page is a testament to how vital your support is to their success.



*Message
from
the
president*

MARK ROBERT HALPER

For me, the map on the opposite page is particularly thought provoking; it is so much more than place markers, geography and statistics. I see building blocks. I see the two blocks that started it all nearly 25 years ago: a handful of dedicated volunteers with a strongly-held belief that education could change the lives of children on Skid Row. Each year, with the support of the community, there have been more blocks to stack: early childhood education, after-school programs, family support services, mental health programs, and a ground-breaking Charter School. Today, Para Los Niños is the kind of structure that every child dreams of making out of building blocks – stable and strong. It stretches across two counties, and includes schools, child development centers, and youth programs that serve 2,000 children a day, along with bridges and stair steps that enable 4,000 families each year to reach new heights.

I hope that you will take a moment to read about some of the building blocks we have added during the past two years, so you will understand the impact that each has on the lives of the children we serve. More importantly, you will see how powerful these blocks are when they are stacked together in just the right way. With your help, we will continue to build a world where impoverished children are inspired to learn, encouraged to dream, and set on the path of success.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miki Jordan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Miki Jordan
President & CEO



Graduates of Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers were half as likely as other English language learners' to be referred for special tutoring or other remedial programs in elementary school



"I like coming to school because I do a lot of things with crayons and I like my teachers."

ANA, 4 YEARS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH...

EARLY EDUCATION

JESSICA'S STORY

Jessica came to Para Los Niños' Child Development Center at age 4 1/2, when she was reunited with her parents Adela and Marco. Jessica's parents had been forced to leave her with relatives in Guatemala when they first came to the United States. When she began attending the Child Development Center, Jessica had a terrible time separating from her mother, crying inconsolably every time her mother left her at the center. Adela, a garment industry worker, did not know how to cope with her daughter's separation anxiety, and, instead of working on a strategy to transition Jessica without stress, would simply yell at her.

Para Los Niños' staff realized that Jessica's problem was two-fold: she had a great fear that her mother would again leave her and not return, and she had a terrible toothache. Jessica's parents were afraid to find dental care for their daughter because of their lack of insurance, the language barrier, and Jessica's fear of strangers. Case managers, using contacts developed for health issues not covered by MediCal, referred Jessica to a dental clinic; the clinic, in turn, referred her to a specialist to deal with her severe tooth decay. Meanwhile, Para Los Niños staff, working with Adela, discovered that she needed to learn new parenting skills, and needed help to overcome her guilt about leaving her daughter behind in Guatemala.

After a month in the Center, Jessica blossomed. At the same time, Adela made positive adjustments in her parenting to ease Jessica's fears. Today, Jessica no longer suffers from separation anxiety, and the terrible pain in her mouth is gone. Now, she is an exuberant, outgoing, happy child who is highly verbal and ready to learn.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: THE FIRST BUILDING BLOCKS

Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers are the starting point for the children we serve. In our Centers, children have daily opportunities to develop the literacy, language, physical, emotional, and social skills that will ensure academic success later in life. All children, rich or poor, are natural and eager learners; Para Los Niños programs cater to children's curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

In 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, Para Los Niños added services for the entire family to better support the child, and made its programs available to more children in more neighborhoods. We fully enrolled our Ontario Child Development Center and Family Resource Center in 2002-2003, bringing Para Los Niños' integrated services to 216 children in San Bernardino County. In 2003-2004, new centers were opened in the Pico-Union neighborhood, caring for 144 children; and in Mar Vista, providing services to 24 pre-schoolers. Looking to the future, Para Los Niños will again expand in 2004-2005, providing half-day care to an additional 144 children in the Pico-Union area.

Unfortunately, many of the young children served by Para Los Niños face hurdles that could easily extinguish the hope in their eyes, coping daily with chaotic, unpredictable family lives that often exist in the shadow of poverty. Para Los Niños' wrap-around social services not only ensure that no child or family falls through the cracks, but also that they receive the help they need to succeed.

Between 2002 and 2004, new Para Los Niños Child Development Centers were opened in Pico-Union, Mar Vista, and San Bernardino, increasing our capacity to 850 children.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT,
PARA LOS NIÑOS
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS





“I like going to the Charter School because they show us how to be responsible and how to treat our friends with respect.”

BRIANA, 7 YEARS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH...

LEARNING



NORMA SILVA, PRINCIPAL

As Principal of the Charter School, Norma Silva has a passionate interest in the success of the children attending the school. Norma grew up in a dangerous neighborhood near the downtown Charter School, and, as a child, saw firsthand the challenges her students face on a daily basis. Norma is highly qualified for her position, as she holds a Masters of Education, Administrative Studies from UCLA, and a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Los Angeles, and is accredited in Bilingual Cross-cultural, Language & Academic Development. The Charter School's ground-breaking curriculum reflects Para Los Niños' belief in the power of education. As students develop primary language literacy in Spanish, they also learn English while studying social studies, science, and mathematics. Norma leads a dedicated staff of teachers who ensure that each student's educational, social, and psychological needs are met.

SCHOOL YEARS: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDUCATION

Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers prepare young children exceptionally well for elementary school, but most public schools are not equipped to provide the comprehensive services that poor children and families need to build a successful future. Without these crucial building blocks, children can too easily lose the gains provided by early childhood education.

Para Los Niños' Charter School opened in 2002 as a Los Angeles Unified School District charter. Located just east of downtown Los Angeles in Para Los Niños' Family Learning Complex, the Charter School provides high-quality education that emphasizes hands-on, active learning in a small, intimate environment that is difficult to achieve in larger public schools. Sixty students enrolled in three kindergarten classes the first year; in 2003, the school expanded to 140 students in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Many of the children are graduates of Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers, allowing them to continue to build on their early successes. All are English Language Learners, and all are from low-income families. A key feature of the Charter School is its fully-integrated After-school Program, which allows teachers the flexibility to give extra attention to children most at-risk, and gives working parents peace of mind as their children receive care from early morning until evening. An on-site Family Advocate works to help children and families cope with the stresses of living in poverty, and to access the help they may need to stay healthy and safe.



Our goal is that 90% of children enrolled since kindergarten will, by third grade, yearly attain grade level skills in reading; 75% of those enrolling after kindergarten will reach this goal.

The Charter School will continue to grow over the next 5 years, eventually serving 390 students in grades K-5.

Full-day programs during off-track weeks are offered at Para Los Niños' Ninth Street and Dena Elementary School After-school Program sites, while My Values Project was instituted at all Para Los Niños After-school Programs



"I like to stay at Para Los Niños after school because I play with my friends and it's fun here."

RALPH, 8 YEARS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY INVESTING IN OUR...

CHILDREN

AFTER SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

ELEMENTARY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

A safe environment, an after-school snack, help with homework – these are the basic building blocks of an after-school program. But Para Los Niños provides so much more, enriching children's lives with high-quality literacy programs, educational field trips, arts and movement classes, and sports activities. The After-school Program offers programs at Ninth Street, Tenth Street, and Christopher Dena Elementary schools in central Los Angeles as well as at Para Los Niños' Charter School. Together, these programs serve 610 children daily. At Dena Elementary, a year-round school, students attend full-day sessions when they are "off-track;" a full-day Summer Camp is provided at Ninth Street School. In 2004-2005, the Program will add four new elementary school campuses, bringing the number of children served to 1,000 every day.

MY VALUES PROJECT

So that children can develop the inner strength and solid self-esteem needed to face the challenges of life in the inner city and to make the positive choices that will produce healthy, happy, productive futures, Para Los Niños' After-school Program developed and implemented *My Values Project* in 2003. Children creatively explore values such as trust, respect, compassion, and community – universal values chosen by their parents each year. *My Values Project* presents a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, community service activities, and field trips, helping children grow up to be caring, contributing members of the community.





“Everyone knows about you and they are there not just to help you with homework, but are willing to listen to you and to help with your problems.”

BLANCA, 16 YEARS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY INVESTING IN...

OUR YOUTH

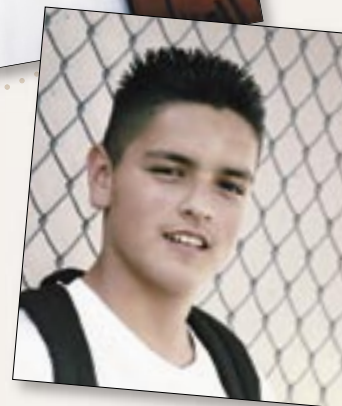
LUIS' STORY

When 13-year-old Luis first came to the Youth Center, he was having a difficult time at home, and was in grave danger of joining the neighborhood gang. His report card was filled with D's and U's; his mother did not know what her son was doing after school, or who he was hanging around with. His attitude was not much better at the Youth Center: he was resistant to participating in activities, lacked respect for teachers and peers, and had poor relationships with the other teens. Trying to develop a rapport with him, Luis' Youth Center teachers made extra efforts to include him in informal sports activities. Luis' keen competitive spirit could not be ignored, so the teachers invited him to join the Youth Center's soccer team. Although he was reluctant at first, Luis quickly improved both his attitude and ability after participating in team practices that emphasized teamwork and cooperation.

Luis quickly rose to the position of team captain and, shortly thereafter, joined the basketball team. The strong sense of self Luis developed through these activities has carried over into the rest of his life; now, he is actively involved in almost all Center activities, and has earned the trust and respect of his peers. Currently earning B's in school, Luis' school attendance has improved by 75%. Most importantly, Luis is filled with hopes and dreams for the future – and is well on the road to achieving them.

YOUTH CENTER

The Youth Center continues to provide high-quality programming to middle and high school students. In the last two years, Youth Center participation has grown by 37%, now serving an average of 60 young people, ages 11 to 18, every day. In addition to homework assistance and tutoring, a wide range of enrichment courses and activities are offered. Teens participate in reading clubs, sports leagues, field trips to sporting events and cultural centers, career days and college visits, SAT preparation, and health education. *My Values Project*, as in the elementary portion of the program, helps teens face the challenges of adolescent life.





“We had a sad transition period to overcome. But with the help of Para Los Niños, I can tell you—it really made a difference in my son’s life and in mine. I thank God every day for Para Los Niños.”

MARIA, MOTHER OF FOUR

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH HEALTHY...

FAMILIES

MARLENA'S STORY

Marlena, the single mother of seven-year-old Pablo, was struggling with a deep depression. Because of Marlena's illness, Pablo was placed into foster care for six months. When Pablo was returned to his home, Marlena entered Para Los Niños' Family Preservation Program. Initially, agency social workers found little bonding and communication between Marlena and Pablo; this, in turn, caused Pablo to be shy and withdrawn.

Para Los Niños' social workers provided intensive therapy first to Marlena, then jointly to mother and son. At the same time, Marlena received medical assistance to help lift her depression. Para Los Niños case managers began a course of home visits to support Marlena, teaching her basic life skills such as budgeting and personal hygiene. Additionally, Marlena attended parenting classes to further build her social and parenting skills.

Marlena and Pablo's relationship flourished. After seven months of intensive services, the Department of Children and Family Services closed their case, signifying their belief that this was now a functional family. Marlena found a part-time job, increasing family stability, and is now an attentive mother, home to greet Pablo every day after school. Marlena is now connected to Para Los Niños and – should problems arise in the future – she has a strong network of support in her community.

FAMILY SERVICES: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A STRONG FAMILY

Para Los Niños supplies many building blocks for success, as children of all ages develop new skills in Para Los Niños' programs. But children only truly thrive in the context of a healthy family and safe surroundings. Many impoverished parents find it difficult to access stable employment, affordable housing and quality health care. For these families, the challenges can be insurmountable, especially when compounded by poor mental or physical health.

To ensure that the gains made by children in Para Los Niños' programs are sustained and supported at home, Para Los Niños identifies and assists families in a variety of ways. Family Resource Centers are located near or within six Child Development Centers and After-school Program sites. Family Preservation services, headquartered at Para Los Niños' S. Mark Taper Foundation Child and Family Center, provide intensive assistance to families referred by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services that are most in danger of child abuse and maltreatment.



Para Los Niños' holistic approach to supporting successful families and children with intervention, referrals, direct treatment, parenting education and follow-up received national recognition in 2004. The Annie E. Casey Foundation and National Council of La Raza named Para Los Niños a recipient of its FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Award as an "outstanding program that gives children what they need most – strong, capable and economically successful families."



“A lot of these kids would never have the opportunity to set foot outside their five-block radius if it weren’t for Para Los Niños. It can change a child’s life to go to the mountains or to the beach...to have some of those opportunities we take so much for granted.”

ROBIN BIEKER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH...



Eva when she was a child at Para Los Niños 20 years ago

EVA'S STORY: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESS

Eva can track Para Los Niños' growth as an organization with her own childhood memories. She was just three, living with her family in a desolate, one-room apartment on Skid Row, when her mother first brought Eva and her younger brother to the Child Development Center on 6th Street. Later, Eva attended Para Los Niños' After-School Program and Summer Day Camp at Ninth Street School. When she was eight, Para Los Niños' social workers helped Eva's parents find a beautiful new two-bedroom apartment in South Los Angeles, and Eva transferred to her new neighborhood school. As a freshman in high school, Eva found her way back to Para Los Niños, becoming an active participant in the Youth Center and then interning in the Child Development Center. Two years later, Eva and her family moved to Bakersfield in hopes that they could escape the perils of life in the inner city.

When reflecting on her childhood, Eva says, "Para Los Niños was the place that took me off the street. The program gave me a place to keep busy, get help with homework, and play sports. I was taken on field trips to see and do things I never would have been able to do on my own, like camping in the mountains or field trips to fun places like Raging Waters."

Eva returned to Para Los Niños soon after high school graduation, this time as a staff member. In the six years since she began working at Para Los Niños, she has held a number of program and administrative positions, including three years as a group leader in the Youth Center. Now, as an administrative assistant in the Charter School office, with her own four-year-old daughter attending the Child Development Center, Eva still thinks of Para Los Niños as her second family. She is proud to be able to serve as an example for students at the Charter School, and to be part of their journey toward a successful future. Her own journey continues: with support and encouragement from her colleagues at Para Los Niños, she is completing her general studies curriculum at Cerritos Community College and plans to pursue a degree in social work. Eva's daughter, Anna, will proudly enroll in kindergarten in the Charter School in fall 2005.

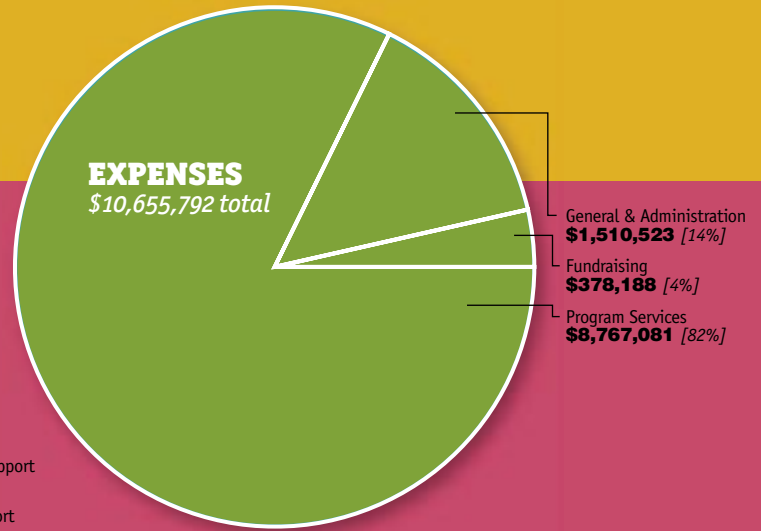
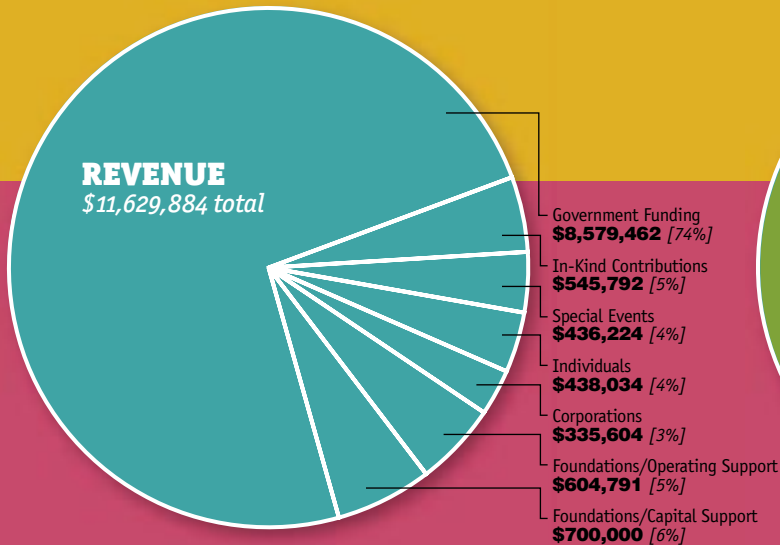
"I was taken on field trips to see and do things I never would have been able to do on my own..."



Eva's daughter, now benefiting from Para Los Niños' programs



For the year ending June 30, 2004



The illustration of Revenue sources does not show Other Revenue of negative \$10,023 which includes a decrease in the net value of a perpetual charitable remainder trust help by a third party in which Para Los Niños has a 12.5% interest.

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Dear Friends:

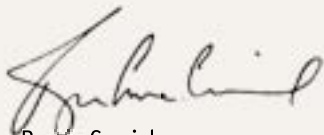
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Para Los Niños, I am pleased to present this report on our achievements and financial activity during fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

The image of “building blocks” is an apt one: at Para Los Niños, we see the power of one small thing when it is linked with another, then another, and one more after that. Most importantly, we see that poverty can be alleviated in our society – one child at a time, one small step at a time. Each time a child discovers the thrill of learning at a Para Los Niños Child Development Center, each time a child masters a new concept with the help of a tutor in the After-school Program, each time a parent decides to break free from past cycles of poverty and abuse – each is a building block to help children and families succeed.

We measure our success in small ways, too; but each small personal achievement adds up to numbers that confirm the success of Para Los Niños’ approach. Our programs have met and exceeded the standards set by the Council on Accreditation. Graduates of our Child Development Centers consistently exceed their peers in standardized tests; and – though it can’t be tested – their enthusiasm for learning. Children in our After-school Programs are given a chance to explore literacy, arts, athletics and more, as they are given safe haven from dangerous streets. And, we are proud that Youth Center participants continue to maintain a 100% record of avoiding gang involvement, criminal activities and teen pregnancy.

Our strategy is to help children succeed – one child at a time. Thank you for your support; together, we will continue building a brighter future for the children and families of Para Los Niños.

With best regards,



Roger Carrick
Chair, Board of Directors
Para Los Niños



*Message
from
the
Chair of
the Board of
Directors*

We gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to Para Los Niños, made between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003.



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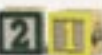
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Anna Marie and Ned Salcido
Anne and David Samson
Santa Clarita Valley Chapter of Thrivent Financial
Eleanor Sattinger
Jill Sattinger
SBC Communications, Inc.
SBC Telecommunications, Inc.
Barbara and Robert Scheibel
Karen Schiffer
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Grace Schroeder
David Schroeder
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Toby Allen Schwede
Abby and Barrie Segall
Kathleen G. Seiler
Dianne T. Seminaris
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Shields For Families, Inc.
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Marron K. Smith
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Sony Pictures
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Erin Starr
Suzanne and Marc Stein
John G. Stephens Survivor's Trust
Lisa and Mike Tan
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Telscape Communications, Inc.
Gary L. Thethaway
Pirjo Tjomslund
Akemi Uchiyama
United Association Local Union 345

United Labor Agency of Orange County
United Way of Tri-State
United Way of Ventura County
UPS Foundation
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Diana and Robert Walker
Lynn and R. Duffy Walton
Sandra and Norman Weinstock
Richard Wells
Sue Angela Welsh
Mary Ann and Ronald Wielock
William Wiley
N. Dexter Williams, Jr.
Nathan Wood

MISSION

Helping children succeed

VISION

Be the leading provider of high-quality services for children

VALUES

Children come first

Excellence in all areas

Respecting and embracing diversity

Responsive, compassionate, and inspiring to those we serve

Highest ethical standards

Transparency and accountability

Teamwork



Project

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Copy: Lisett Bañuelos, Debra L. Bronow/The
Bronow Group, Amy Brotslaw Schweiger

Design: Loren Roberts/Hearken Creative Services

Photography: Cynthia Cotton, Blythe Cotton Maling,
Clifford Lester/Clifford Photography,
Ellice Schwartz/David Michael
Photography, & Loren Roberts

Para Los Niños is most grateful to
photographer Clifford Lester and
his students in the class Intro to
Professional Photography at Cypress
College for generously donating their
services to this project. Photos from the
following students were selected:

Albert Dinger

Michelle Khemthong

Todd Vo

For privacy reasons, the names of Para Los Niños
clients featured in the stories contained in this report
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included in the stories are of Para Los Niños clients,
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