**THEORY OF ACTION**

- Early Education
- Community Services
- Charter Schools
- Student Services
- Youth Workforce Services

**WHO WE SERVE**

- 92% HISPANIC/LATINO
- 90% BELOW FPL*
- 73% SPANISH PRIMARY LANGUAGE
- 65% NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

*Federal Poverty Line (FPL) defined in 2016 as an annual income of $23,283 for a family of four.

**CLIENTS SERVED**

- 4,510 STUDENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES CLIENTS
- 1,073 CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDENTS
- 460 EARLY EDUCATION STUDENTS
- **6,043 CLIENTS SERVED ANNUALLY**

**REVENUE**

- 43% CHARTER SCHOOLS
- 21% EARLY EDUCATION
- 25% STUDENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES CLIENTS
- 11% ADMINISTRATIVE & DEVELOPMENT
- **$34,862,937 TOTAL REVENUE**

Cover: Opened in 2013, the Charter Middle School campus is a shared location with our dedicated partners in education, 9th Street Elementary (LAUSD).
Dear Members of the Para Los Niños Family,

As I reflect on my first year as the President & CEO of Para Los Niños, I realize how fortunate I am to work alongside an amazing team working in partnership with thousands of kids and families across Los Angeles. The tremendous impact on the lives of the children and families we serve is a testament to our culture of excellence, community-focus and compassionate approach.

Whether it be work with young adults, our rigorous academic programs, therapeutic school supports, the work we do with the very young (sometimes children just weeks old), parent training and support efforts, or the simply extraordinary work across the organization every day by our operations, facilities, finance and human resource teams — we all strive to make Para Los Niños the model of excellence in urban education with integrated, comprehensive family support services that create pathways to sustainable success in the communities we serve.

One highlight from this year was the Fiesta Para Los Niños Gala — a vibrant display of culture, commitment and success celebrating the 60,000 children and families we have impacted through almost four decades. This year’s event was a spirited soiree in Downtown LA’s Arts District, just blocks from our original location on 6th Street; punctuated by student performances, youth art on the walls, and student-created LA-landmark centerpieces—every bit of the evening was by the children and for the children.

But what that event—and every day—truly signifies is that in the midst of a challenging world around us, our kids and families are succeeding. Despite life’s obstacles and challenges, and in a time when our kids and families might easily be ignored or forgotten by some, our youth are filled with promise and becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Our charter schools are on the rise, our early education program is growing stronger every day and we are expanding the reach of our programs serving young Angelenos— all while our school and community-based services are deepening in impact.

This is a testament to our model—we are an education organization that deeply believes in its integrated, comprehensive wrap-around service delivery as a path to success.

Thank you, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the entire Para Los Niños team and on behalf of the kids and families we work alongside, for your partnership, your support and your endless encouragement.

Drew Furedi  
President & CEO

Dear Members of the Para Los Niños Community,

What an exciting year this has been for Para Los Niños with Dr. Drew Furedi, our new President and Chief Executive Officer, at the helm. With his decades of experience as an educator, both in the classroom and in administration, and with his deep respect for and commitment to the community we serve, Drew has brought a unique perspective and drive to our mission. In his first year as the leader of our multifaceted organization, Drew has fostered a culture of compassionate service for our families. He has also empowered our nearly 400 employees across our early education, charter school and community services programs to work collaboratively to provide the most effective services to our children and families.

We have remained particularly attuned this year to the needs of the community we have served from the beginning—the underserved population in and around Downtown Los Angeles—and have focused on how we can best utilize our unique strengths and experience to support that community during this very challenging time. We are more persuaded than ever that our unique model—a strong educational foundation combined with compassionate social services—gives our children and families the best chance for success in life.

We are fortunate to have alumni, friends and supporters like you who share our convictions. This year marked the 36th anniversary of our organization—a milestone celebrating 60,000 families uplifted from the depths of poverty. Our Fiesta Para Los Niños Gala honored some amazing partners and friends including media network Univision Communications Inc. (Partner of the Year) and Netflix’s One Day at a Time (Vanguard Award). The show’s lead, Justina Machado, served as our dynamic emcee with L.A. Mayor’s Office Chief of Staff, Ana Guerrero, delivering a powerful keynote address on the city’s work and its positive impact on our youth, exemplified by our very own Youth Workforce Services graduate and now Para Los Niños employee, Nieves Rico, a key member of our Development Department.

For nearly four decades, Para Los Niños has had a profound impact on the City of Los Angeles, and has inspired a community of donors who support our mission and appreciate that, together, we can make a fundamental difference in the lives of our children and families, and provide a better tomorrow for future generations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere thanks for your continued support and passion for what we do.

Marjorie Ehrich Lewis  
Board Chair
EARLY EDUCATION
The Para Los Niños Early Education program provides services to young children (ages six weeks through entry into kindergarten) and their families in six locations in the greater Los Angeles area. Our program is designed to promote optimal child development, foster critical thinking, spark curiosity, promote inquiry and heighten parental involvement. Our goal is to create early learning environments that enable children to develop the skills to be the best they can be now, throughout their school careers and in life.

Our work with the very young, and their families, continues to anchor our work and is the foundation for relationships with many of our families. The past year has seen a continued focus on building the capacity of our early education team, which is of particular importance despite operating in a time of limited public support for early education.

Our Head Start program participated in a Federal Review that focused on Teacher-Child Interactions—where Program Quality was assessed by Federal Reviewers using the CLASS measure (classroom learning assessment system)—and found our teachers performing at or above National Standards.

Three Head Start preschools (Hollywood, Perlita and Magnolia sites) received GrowingGreat curriculum—hands-on science, nutrition and literacy programming based on gardening and funded by Astellas USA Foundation. GrowingGreat, an organization that provides STEM experiences to inspire students to become scientists, engineers, farmers and chefs, partnered with us to help introduce our students to this level of education. Together, the program serves 1,400 inner-city young students, siblings and families in neighborhoods where the average household income is $16,607. The partnership was kicked off with a dedication ceremony and opening of the Astellas STEM Garden. Festivities concluded with the students releasing dozens of ladybugs throughout the garden, which they learned will help keep their garden safe from the plant-eating bugs.

Today, we serve nearly 500 children from infancy through age five at our preschools, with 75-80% of the student body meeting or exceeding their developmental expectations.
Our community charter schools aim to close the achievement gap for children, especially English Language Learners (ELLs), living in chronic poverty by providing: (1) High-quality education—project-based learning that fosters creative problem-solving and innovation while emphasizing literacy and language arts; (2) Resources and services for children and families at school sites—access to early intervention, mental health, and family support services; and (3) Parent engagement and skill building—leadership development for parents to support their children’s academic achievement and build family strength.

The three Para Los Niños Charter Schools continue to build on past success to accelerate the trajectory of positive outcomes for our students. Thanks to stability in our school leadership, staff and especially our teachers, we are seeing gains in student attendance, internal assessments and statewide assessment results. The school network is buoyed by solid instructional leadership teams at each site, working in concert to support rigorous teaching and collaboration.

At Gratts Primary Center, which for many students is a first experience in school of any kind, our teachers and staff began connecting their data dialogues with parent surveys and input. That effort, coupled with the adoption of a new math program, lifted academic proficiency in mathematics for the 2016-17 school year. We have experienced a 20% growth in proficiency levels for students in the last two school years alone.

At Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School, we also adopted a new math program, deepened our data analysis—with a laser focus on our large population of English Learners—and continued to build our teaching faculty’s expertise, both veteran and new. As a result, the school saw double-digit gains for students taking the state Math and English Language Arts assessments and a jump in our English Learner reclassification rate.
We also began supplementing our science and math curriculum for our upper grades with a new robotics/STEM program. As a result of our efforts to offer quality education programs, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) extended the school’s charter by an additional five years.

Our Charter Middle School experienced a year of change and growth made possible by curriculum tune-ups, including the incorporation of Achieve 3000, a digital methodology tracking student progress in reading, comprehension and application derived from complex text. The program was implemented to work across content areas and increase access to reading material at students’ “just right level.”

Our team also identified math gaps and began addressing them with the roll out of the IronBox Math Intervention program, providing grades 6-8 with diagnostics assessing fundamental mathematical skills and targeted skill development. We continued to see State Assessment gains that increase as students stay with Para Los Niños for successive years.

In addition, the campus saw its extra-curricular offerings jump with a strategic development of its Athletic Program and the Univision Media Center program, now in its second school year in operation. In 2018, the Charter Middle School’s unrelenting commitment to STEM career preparation will reach astronomical heights when its student body will connect directly with astronauts in-flight in a special partnership between NASA and Univision.

Our After School Program provided services to over 700 students, ranging from transitional kindergarten to grade eight. The programs focused on providing students with a safe and engaging enrichment environment, supporting cross-campus core instructional curriculum with activities that also reinforce and enhance academic achievement while incorporating parent engagement. The program boasts a near 100% in parent- student satisfaction rating of its daily program, overall program quality and learning & development benchmarks.
Our schools bring together supports and opportunities for children, youth, families, and communities to ensure physical, social, and emotional health to live and learn in safe and supportive environments.

Total Services Provided in our CHARTER SCHOOLS in 2016-2017: 584
Para Los Niños understands that the very foundation of our being is constructed during the first five years of childhood. The experience of the world, relationships, attachment, nutrition and education we receive during our 0-5 years are the developmental jumping off points that lead to confidence, identity, positive social relationships and future success in life. We also understand that especially during these years, one cannot support the child without also supporting the caregivers as they grow into their new roles.

To give children the best possible opportunities, we offer programs that connect to mothers in our community before going into labor. We walk with pregnant mothers through the changes, expectations, safety measures, emotional support, child development education, and concrete supports to bring a healthy child into the world and create a meaningful attachment with that child. We support young children’s socio-emotional development through conjoint mental health services and occupational therapy, mothers through post-partum depression and anxiety, couples and caregivers through navigating the first five years of their child’s life and appropriate developmental expectations, caregivers with age-appropriate community play and attachment opportunities, fathers with men’s support groups, and domestic violence survivors with life giving community support.

Part of our Zero to Five programs includes our Nurturing Parent program, a resource providing young parents with the skills and tools needed for parenthood, which saw a whopping 50% of its participants improve their competencies in holding appropriate expectations for their children and establishing appropriate family roles in their homes. Many times abuse or neglect occurs because an adult does not understand a child’s developmental needs and perceives a child’s inability to perform as willful, deliberate disobedience. When caregivers gain greater understanding of what to expect of their children at different ages, empathy and patience increase and the likelihood of abuse goes down.

We work to create safe, nurturing, and healthy environments for all families and their small children within our communities, early education sites and primary grades with the goal of creating secure, healthy, curious and resilient children ready for school.

Our pedagogy is built on a foundation of strong children, families and communities. To that end, we offer access to mental health and other family supportive services at each school site, and those providers are members of the school community. In addition, parents support their children’s learning by participating in a variety of activities, from governance to workshops on a range of issues including advocacy, English as a Second Language and parenting.

There were close to 15,000 mental health contacts made with Para Los Niños clients, for context, that totals just over 40 daily contacts—seven days a week. Contacts include individual and family therapy, assessing client needs, and developing responsive treatment plans for clients and their families. 62% of overall mental health clients come from our schools.

Given that mental health services for children and adolescents in the United States has been deemed a national public health crisis due to limited access to quality and affordable mental health services, the number of mental health contacts made with children and families is a powerful testament to our commitment to supporting children and their families.
According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 5 children suffers from a mental health disorder and nearly 80% do not get the services they need. Here at Para Los Niños, we make that a priority.

Total Services Provided in 2016-2017: 14,384

466  
**ASSESSMENT**  
Mental Health & Wellness Evaluation

244  
**CASE MANAGEMENT**  
Resources & Basic Needs Assistance for Families

3,086  
**COLLATERAL**  
Education and Support to a Person Significant to the Client/Child

2,164  
**FAMILY THERAPY**  
Therapy with Child & Parents/Caregivers

1,257  
**INDIVIDUAL REHABILITATION**  
Occupational Therapy & In-Classroom Support

4,895  
**INDIVIDUAL THERAPY**  
One-on-One Therapy with a Child/Client

2,272  
**PLAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Partnering between Mental Health Staff and Teachers to Develop Responsive Treatment Plan
Our Youth Workforce Services team recognizes that the best path to higher lifelong earnings is a quality education and consistent work experience. In partnership with the City of Los Angeles’ Economic and Workforce Development Department and LAUSD, Para Los Niños reengages disconnected youth 16-24 back into school and the workforce in the Lincoln Heights area.

In recognition of its work with Northeast LA youth, the City recently doubled Para Los Niños’ contract to include Westlake-MacArthur Park. The expansion is a multi-year, multi-million dollar investment offering a slated 2,200 students with integrated, comprehensive academic, workforce and post-secondary education preparation. This custom-fit approach includes paid and unpaid work experience, basic skills training, computer literacy, mentoring, career counseling, job placement, case management, assistance in meeting graduation and admission requirements, as well as applying for financial aid and scholarships.

**Spotlight:**
- 100% of graduating high school seniors were accepted and will be attending college
- 98% of high school seniors graduated with their diploma on time
- 332 paid internships to young adults ages 14-24
- Over 11,860 hours of paid work experience
- 204 YWS students received a certificate or credential
- 91 students were enrolled in vocational training
- 71 students were enrolled in college full-time

“It is life changing, I’m truly thankful to say that without this program I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

~Destiny Nguyen, YWS Graduate
Our Family and Community Services stretch throughout our three charter schools and into the communities that include Echo Park, East Hollywood, East LA, Rampart/Westlake, Skid Row, and Koreatown in the Metro Area and South LA.

Within our three Charter Schools we support our students and families with the support of the Family Advocates, who provide Nurturing Parenting classes, social skills classes, linkage to mental health services, resource support and in-home counseling to families that attend our schools.

The Family and Community Services programs are active and connected to a vast network of supports that exist to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and maltreatment through ongoing child and parental/caregiver supports, education, community building events, and community change and advocacy capacity building. In addition, Family and Community Services provides specific support to victims of domestic violence as they work through leaving all they have to escape violence, isolation, fear and trauma to re-engage with a new community, support their children, develop coping skills that will allow them to engage in positive social relationships, increase their confidence and self-worth, and finally, to actively join the workforce in ways that establish a career pathway.

Family and Community Services actively seeks to create safe, supportive, nurturing homes and communities in partnership with the families we serve and the community resources surrounding them.
Veronica Corona joined the Best Start Metro LA (BSMLA) program nearly three years ago. Extremely shy, hesitant and self-isolated, Veronica notified us she would be leaving the group within the week. With time and guidance from staff, Veronica began to feel comfortable sharing her opinions, taking on leadership roles and deepening investment in the program.

Soon after, the NLG (Neighborhood Leadership Group) elected Veronica as one of their core representatives to lead weekly planning agendas, facilitating meetings, and disseminating updates at other NLG meetings. Unfortunately, just when Veronica was coming in to her own, tragedy struck as she came down with a debilitating illness and was hospitalized in critical condition. Her fellow NLG members launched joint efforts to support Veronica by soliciting donations to support her medical bills and household expenses. The group visited and called Veronica daily to encourage a speedy recovery. Veronica was so surprised and thankful for the support that she couldn’t wait to return to our program.

Once her health improved, Veronica decided to direct her focus and energy to our Communications Task Force (CTF) where she puts her artistic skills to work. Through CTF, she has become computer savvy and supports her team’s marketing outreach. She even penned and directed a play, performed by her fellow NLG members, to promote the program’s ‘Pledge Towards a Culture of Respect’ to help reduce community violence. Through her involvement in the CTF, Veronica has been interviewed by KPFK Radio, and manages a YouTube channel which features interviews with community members and local leaders.

Today, she credits Para Los Niños-BSMLA for her children’s pride in her accomplishments and a polished determination to succeed.
Para Los Niños continued to upgrade the supports provided to our programs by hiring a new Chief Operations Officer, Sarah Figueroa and a new Vice President of Human Resources, Deanette Brewer. With these moves, we took important steps in creating an organization better attuned to the needs of our team—our most important asset—while also strengthening the systems and operations (IT, safety, etc.) that support our work. We immediately saw an impact with a stronger retention rate, revamped recruitment and selection practices in addition to a 5% decrease in our Worker’s Compensation premium (which brings claims down 25% in just two years).

In the wake of national tragedies, we elevated safety and updated our lockdown/shelter-in-place training across the organization; the Charter Elementary took it a step further and performed a full mock-drill of a disaster and executed it with flying colors. Next year we plan to launch our Crisis Response Team and Emergency Communication System for the entire network.

After the sale of the former administrative building, which increased cash reserves by 1200%, the Hollywood site became our Headquarters. It went through an extensive renovation to convert an open layout into offices and work spaces for the HR, Finance and Facilities teams. Construction of the new Administrative Offices at 7th Street were completed and the new space houses the President & CEO and administrative support teams.

FINANCIALS
JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017 FISCAL YEAR

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<td>Contributions and special events</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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IN GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

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Brett Brewer
Gloria Calderon-Kellett
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Stephen Wallace
Pat L. Walter
Michelle and Wellesley Wild
Xerox Corporation

$500 and Above
Anonymous
Anonymous
Steven Alarcon
Bonnie and Ronny Bensimon
Benjamin Birdsall
Elizabeth Cabral
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15
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