Fostering academic success for every Latino student through parent and community involvement
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The mission of Para Los Niños (PLN) is to foster academic success for every Latinx student through parent and community involvement. From birth and beyond, PLN supports and empowers the entire Latinx family through early learning, literacy and academic skills development, summer enrichment, and social justice parent leadership programs.

PLN believes that all Latinx children are capable of excellence, and we achieve that goal by building culturally relevant programs upon a foundation of love and respect, supported by a community leadership model that recognizes the talents and skills of each person. We believe in the inherent value of all Latinx children, and help create a world that celebrates the beauty and brilliance of our community.

I have developed my leadership skills over the years participating in Para los Niños’ Leadership Academy and workshop events, which led me to participate at other organizations as well. It has served me a great deal because it has motivated me to learn more and discover ways of how I can participate to advocate for the well-being and equality for my community. I am currently representing “Para los Niños” at the Metro Equity Cabinet and have represented PLN at the King County Open Space Equity Cabinet.

If I can make a change, you can also make a change for yourself and others. We can accomplish it together.

- Azucena Muñoz
COVID-19 RESPONSE WORK

PLN responded to the emergency needs of our community - who have been put under tremendous economic strain due to the pandemic. We prioritized getting emergency financial assistance, food, educational materials, and culturally relevant information about health and safety out to our families and community, while staying as connected as possible with them through this long period of isolation. We also focused on providing educational support for parents and children as they navigated remote learning. PLN raised money that was distributed to hundreds of families in need in our extended community network through food vouchers, cash, and rental assistance. Moreover, we provided technology training and digital access and support to families, many of whom were learning online tools and skills for the first time in order to support their children's online learning.

PLN has already helped 605 heads of household (around 2,000 family members) with rental assistance, cash assistance, gift cards, and emergency food, and over 4,500 people with personal protective equipment. We are also building on our long partnership with the Highline School District to address the unique educational needs of Latinx children throughout this crisis, and to be the bridge that connects both students and parents to administrators to make learning as accessible as possible to families, despite the great inequities in technology access for the Latinx community. To combat this inequity, we distributed 119 computers to adult community members. In addition, we worked with King County to create COVID-19 informational videos on how to stay safe during the pandemic in the four most common languages in our communities -- Spanish, American Sign Language, Mixteco, and Purépecha.

In 2020, a year of tremendous challenge and change, we worked to meet basic needs, increase accessible learning opportunities, and promote leadership and inclusion in decision-making for Latinx immigrant families in the Puget Sound who are being impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
COVID-19 FUNDERS

Ballmer Group
Cedarhurst Elementary PTA
City of Burien
Exchange Club of Highline
Group Health Foundation
Impact 100 Seattle
King County
Liberty Mutual
Racial Equity Coalition
Renton Regional Community Foundation
Safeco Insurance
Satterberg Foundation
Seattle Foundation
Stolte Family Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
United Way of King County
Washington Census Equity Fund

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers from the community who gave to support PLN’s important work in 2020! We depend on you.
PARTNERSHIPS

Para Los Niños has many strong community partners which we collaborate with to make our programs successful and share our collective vision for uplifting the voice and power of the Latinx community, especially our children. In 2020 we both deepened our connections with key partners and established new connections to respond to emerging community needs. Our core partnerships with the Highline School District and Highline Community College are long-established and adapted in 2020 to meet the food and educational needs of our community through the challenges of the pandemic. We also partnered with Highline Heritage Museum to give youth impacted by the pandemic a creative outlet and hosted a Latinx Youth Art Exhibit entitled, “Children’s Voices in Times of COVID-19.”
PLN supported the formation of the community and grassroots campaign, Alimentando Al Pueblo. This campaign was designed to address food insecurities in the Highline Service Areas Latinx Community by providing culturally relevant foods and promoting community healing through art, music, and books. This community initiative was a joint venture of PLN, Southwest Youth & Families, Colectiva Legal Del Pueblo, White Center Community Development Association, La Roxay Productions, and Lake Burien Presbyterian Church.
Para Los Niños programming is designed to support parents in holistic learning that establishes their competence and confidence as their children’s first teachers. This model reinforces a core value of our community and PLN: support the whole Latinx family to grow together and don’t leave anyone behind.

Our programs switched to a virtual model in 2020 but continued to engage our families in learning opportunities together online. Because we had to pivot our work completely to respond to the emergency needs of our community who have been put under tremendous economic strain due to the pandemic, we continued to follow state and federal guidelines that allowed us to deliver resources to families.

APRENDAMOS JUNTOS
SUMMER PROGRAMS
PLAY & LEARN PROGRAM
LATINX YOUTH PROGRAM
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING
TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM

7 TOTAL PROGRAMS
PROGRAMS

- All of our programs moved to virtual with occasional safe, socially distanced in-person gatherings.
- Our new technology programming and computer lab launched in 2020, providing essential digital support and technology training for families navigating online school.
- Our new youth organizing program stayed connected and implemented educational programming for high school youth, navigating the pandemic without the typical community support structure.
- We had the support of 56 volunteers in 2020 supporting PLN virtual programs and events, emergency response work, and delivering materials and supplies to our families.

ADVOCACY AND ORGANIZING

- PLN led community efforts to deeply engage the Latinx immigrant community on the importance of voting and civic engagement in 2020, addressing concerns and educating our community on the power of our votes and our voices, especially among youth and new voters.
- We partnered with the City of Burien on our Census Outreach engagement work, translating and distributing materials, tabling, and supporting the participation of our community in the 2020 Census. We were recognized by the US Census Bureau for our community partnership and engagement program.
- PLN leaders are staying active in community leadership roles, including the King County Metro Initiative, Moving Forward Together Equity Committee, and Advisory Board for Highline Public Schools Superintendent.
- PLN parent leaders testified to elected officials to advocate for increased funding for programs serving communities of color in King County.
- We launched our community organizing Parent Leadership Team who supported PLN’s emergency COVID-19 response work and coordinated advocacy opportunities for our entire community.
Summer Programs: Descubriendo Nuestra Cultura and Around the World are culturally-aligned summer education programs for pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade children and youth that provide art, cultural learning, physical fitness, and academic skill building. Children and youth are immersed in Latin American culture, art, language and history to demonstrate cultural pride. We were not able to hold our traditional in-person summer programs in 2020 and instead held outdoor resource fairs while following social distancing guidelines. The kick-off fair was one of our biggest events and introduced the community to our new Downtown Burien office, as well as provided food from a local Latin restaurant. Throughout the summer, we held three more fairs and we were able to distribute a total of 411 bags of resources that included bilingual books, art and school supplies, cultural games, and personal protective equipment to families.

Aprendamos Juntos: Our flagship after-school program improves the academic performance of Latinx children while simultaneously supporting parents to build English literacy and develop leadership skills to advocate for their children’s education. Parents build an understanding of their children’s development milestones, early learning goals, community resources, and educational systems to help them forge a path for the academic and personal success that our Latinx children so well deserve. We doubled our program offerings so that families with multiple children could still participate.

Play & Learn Program: PLN ran a virtual Play and Learn group twice a week with parents and toddlers with fun activities designed to foster children’s development, help social and emotional development, and first relationships. We also gave away free materials, activities, and educational toys for parents to utilize with their children at home.
Latinx Youth Program: While the pandemic made it difficult, we adapted our free programming for youth grades 9-12 to support our students with social-emotional learning activities, virtual community programming, and pandemic resources. During the summer, we launched the Latinx Youth Summer Program, where students were able to stay active, engage in cultural activities, and enjoy their summer break in a safe-6 feet distanced, clean environment.

Parent Empowerment Programs: Padres Unidos and our parent Leadership Academy are year-long investments in the leadership development, building confidence, skills, and civic engagement of our Latinx parents, 90% of whom are women. While the Leadership Academy was not able to run in 2020, we did engage past leaders in our growing virtual community organizing program, a place where their skills and talents are thriving. PLN leaders stepped up as community leaders, offering their time and energy as volunteers with our partners at Alimentando El Pueblo and Big Brothers Big Sisters, assisting with our grocery and supply distribution, and working to safely meet our community’s needs during the pandemic.
**Community Organizing:** 2020 saw the launch of our Parent Leadership Team made up of long-term parent leaders who will coordinate families’ participation in advocacy and social change opportunities. They are working together to coordinate advocacy opportunities for families’ civic and political engagement around the issues that impact our communities the most. They participated in focus groups and conversations with PLN families to address inequality and the lack of support and representation of Latinx families in the Highline School District. The team wants to work for more Latinx involvement in the PTA, more interpretation and translation of educational materials, more language access to give them options to speak directly to teachers and administrators, and addressing the challenges of remote learning for Latinx children.

**Technology Access Program:** PLN is breaking down the digital divide through the development of culturally-aligned technology resources specifically for Latinx families. The program includes computer classes, ongoing training to learn technology tools, on-call computer support, and a Learning Lab for parents to gain technology skills and reduce the barriers to technology access. Families are gaining skills to become familiar and competent in navigating school programs, checking email, applying for jobs, doing basic research, and assisting children with homework assignments.
OUR IMPACT IN 2020

Para Los Niños rose to the challenges facing our community in 2020, forging new paths forward for families facing the health and economic crisis brought on by the pandemic.

My family, along with many other families, have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I was in a very horrible situation, during this time Para Los Niños was there to help my family and many others. They helped with my food, masks, and other resources, and I am incredibly grateful for this. I pray that Para Los Niños continues helping families in need because they have made a big difference. Millions of blessings to you all!

- Maria T.

OPERATIONS AND CAPACITY

PLN expanded staff members by hiring three positions, including a Program Manager, a Communications & Development Manager, and a Computer Lab Assistant.

Our budget increased to support the growth of our programs and in addition for the emergency response work in 2020.

We are able to provide increased training opportunities and support for staff, including the Midwest Academy Organizing training.
The Para Los Niños fundraising gala is an annual event bringing together PLN families, supporters, community partners, and volunteers for celebration and learning about the impact of our work. The theme of 2020’s gala was “Floreciendo,” and it was held virtually to ensure the safety of our community. Over 200 people gathered to connect and hear the first-hand testimony from PLN parent leader Grabriela González about the impact of our programming on their lives and community. The primary purpose of the event was to raise funds for our work and to share PLN accomplishments with the broader community. Through our annual gala, we have built and cultivated relationships that extended past the event between PLN leaders, community members, allies, and supporters to showcase the importance of PLN’s work. The keynote speaker was Judge Veronica Galván and there were cultural performances from Grupo Folklorico Citlali WA and the Garifuna group Hagucha Garinagu.
I came to the United States in 2009, to Los Angeles. In 2010 my family, which is made up of my husband Limonar, my three children David, Rubén and Victoria and I moved to the city of Burien, here in Washington state and since then we have lived here.

At the end of 2012 I realized that the Para Los Niños organization existed so I started assisting the Let’s Learn Together program, this program consists of giving English classes to parents and members of the community and while the adults take classes, the children also receive classes according to their ages and support with homework. Throughout these 8 years of knowing the organization, my children David, Rubén and Victoria have attended this program and also the summer program in which they have learned and gotten to know about different cultures and customs from other countries as well as feeling proud about preserving our culture and language. In these programs, my children have felt valued and respected since the teachers who teach these programs speak their mother tongue. My son David attended these programs as a child and now that he is an adult, he has volunteered in the 2019–2020 cycle at Aprendamos Juntos. He is now taking classes at Renton College.

In 2019 I was invited to participate in the Leadership Academy and I accepted and it has been one of the best decisions I have made. From that moment on I realized that there are many things as a woman we have to know, value and learn; like: keep learning English, have better communication with the family, organize, manage my time and support the community. Para Los Niños has given me the opportunity to represent them on the Capital Facilities Advisory Committee in the HIGHLINE public schools. I also participated as a trusted messenger in CENSUS 2020, helping the community with the distribution of food to families affected by COVID-19.
PLN is growing every day, serving more families and responding more fully to community's strengths and needs. We offer our deepest gratitude to the individuals and foundations who contribute to our success, from PLN families to community allies. We would like to give special recognition to the monthly donors, our Madrinas and Padrinos! Thank you, we depend on your support to do our work.
PLN 2020 Funding Sources

- Coronavirus Aid: 20%
- Special Events: 5%
- Individual Donors: 10%
- Government: 25%
- Foundations: 40%

PLN 2020 Expenses

- Aprendamos Juntos: 20%
- Summer Programs: 10%
- Youth Program: 10%
- Pre-K Play & Learn: 5%
- Advocacy & Organizing: 15%
- COVID Emergency Funds: 20%
- Administration: 10%
- Fundraising: 5%
- Computer Lab & Technology Programs: 5%
THANK YOU PLN FUNDERS

4 Culture
Best Starts for Kids/King County
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
City of Burien
Communities of Opportunity
Group Health foundation
Highline Community College
Highline Exchange Club
Highline Public Schools
Impact 100 Seattle
International paper
King County

King County Elections VOTE!
McEachern Charitable Trust/Union Bank
Noman Archibald
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