



Serving the community in 2020



LA ESPERANZA 2020

In 2020, La Esperanza had a challenging yet rewarding year. We continued to provide essential services for Hispanic and immigrant families throughout the COVID pandemic, as well as expanding services and responding to the immediate needs of families. Our services include bilingual DOJ-accredited immigration counseling; victims' advocacy and legal assistance; resource navigation and family coaching; youth leadership and prevention programs; and food assistance.



A DAY TO CELEBRATE

La Esperanza finished 2020 strong by planning and executing a much loved community event. We celebrated Three Kings on the Epiphany in 2021 by distributing gifts and stockings to 140 children from 60 families. Children and parents lined up in masks at La Esperanza in Georgetown, and were greeted by the Three Kings, who gave a gift to families and a stocking to each child. La Esperanza thanks Draper Holdings and Bless Our Children for the funds to support this event, and the Nimble Fingers knitters for the baby blankets, hats and scarves that families received.



MEETING NEEDS DURING THE PANDEMIC

La Esperanza increased our food assistance by partnering with First State Community Action and Food Bank of Delaware to deliver food to families in quarantine and host drive-through pantries. The Food Bank and Harry K Foundation have supported our after-school youth by providing backpack meals. Thank you to all our food partners, including Epworth Church for their weekly donations, Salvation Army, Thanksgiving for Thousands at Mountaire and Crossroads Church, Perdue, First State Community Action, Harry K Foundation, and the Food Bank.



La Esperanza has partnered with healthcare providers and the state of Delaware to share information about COVID in multiple languages through in-person outreach and social media, as well as hosting community-based testing in Sussex County. Thank you to the many partners who made testing for Hispanic and immigrant communities successful, including La Rosa Health Center, La Red Health Center, Beebe Healthcare, Westside Family Healthcare, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, and ChristianaCare.

MORE THAN
\$150,000
HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO
350 FAMILIES
IN NEED
IN SUSSEX AND KENT COUNTIES

La Esperanza and others saw the need for cash assistance for immigrants without access to other forms of relief. Communities suffering from poverty experienced job loss, illness and homelessness. La Esperanza partnered with First State Community Action to form the Sussex County Relief Program, a financial relief program with wraparound assessment and referral services. This program has been generously funded by the Arshnt-Cannon Fund, Delaware Community Foundation and the Matt Haley Fund.



IN 2020, LA ESPERANZA:

Provided DOJ-accredited immigration counseling to

345 CLIENTS FROM
22 COUNTRIES

While most clients are from Guatemala, Mexico and other Central American countries, our clients include immigrants from Haiti, Thailand, Jamaica, Egypt and Canada.

Educated, assisted and advocated for more than

100 VICTIMS OF CRIME AND
DOMESTIC ABUSE

La Esperanza provided safety planning, Victims' Compensation Assistance Program assistance, referrals, and legal assistance in family law.

Provided **20** STUDENTS WITH CITIZENSHIP CLASSES;

Filed **34** CITIZENSHIP CASES RESULTING IN **5** NEW CITIZENS



Filed **175** CASES WITH USCIS

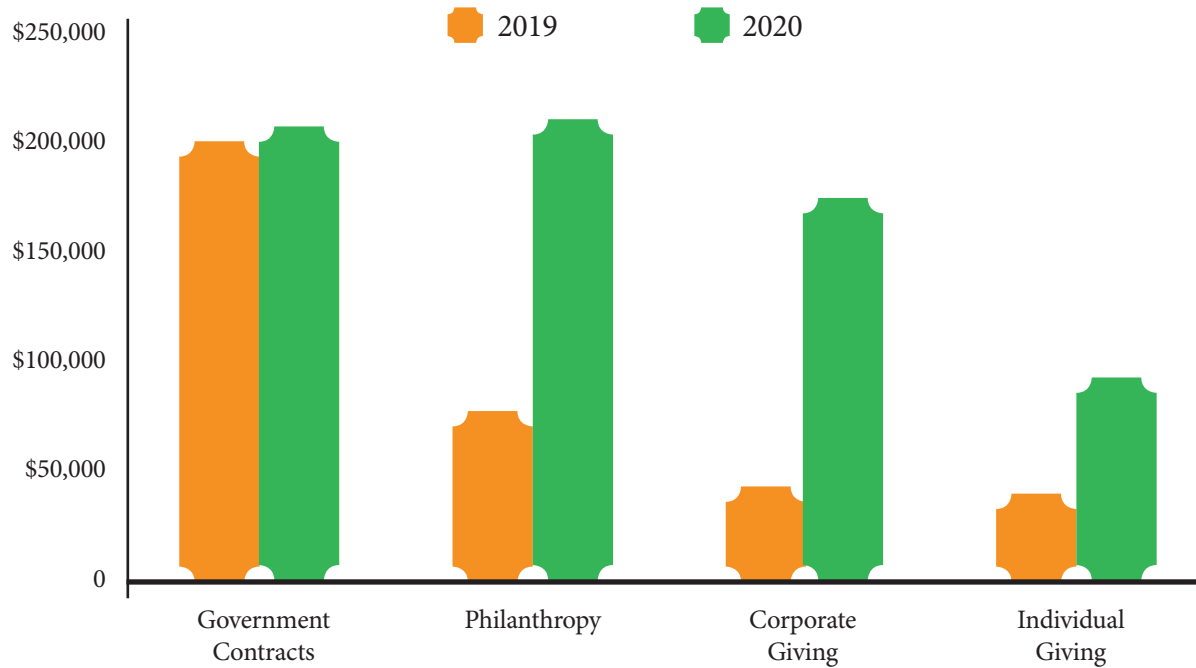
Immigration cases include DACA renewals, work authorization, permanent residency, family-based immigration citizenship and other benefit cases.

Assisted more than **1200**
CLIENTS THROUGH RESOURCE
NAVIGATION AND FAMILY
COACHING

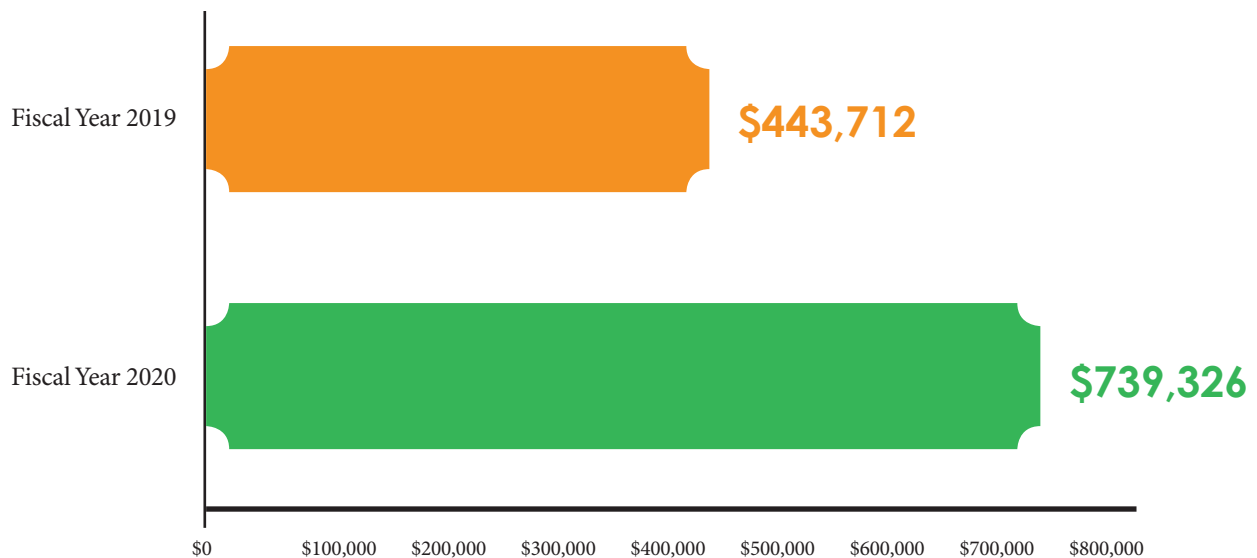
to access health and human services; understand and interpret bills and applications; access food and financial assistance; and pursue goals such as learning English and taking citizenship classes.

While responding to dire immediate needs, La Esperanza continued to provide our services and programming, with adjustments due to COVID, of course.

LA ESPERANZA TYPES OF SUPPORT 2019-2020



LA ESPERANZA TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET 2019-2020



Provided **30** MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH LEADERSHIP AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT COVID

Hybrid in-person and online programs included a pre-COVID college visit to Delaware Technical Community College; guest speakers from Delaware Center for Inland Bays, WONDER Works, Beebe Healthcare, Georgetown Police Department, and NAMI DE; and field trips like a summer camp cleanup day at Trap Pond. During the pandemic, youth produced videos about COVID and the U.S. Census for social media, and recruited 15 parents for an online information session with Dr. Rama Peri of La Rosa Health Center.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The youth program distributed more than 30 laptops to families for schoolwork and over 1000 meals. Students joined forces with a local church and ACE Peer Resource Center to prepare and distribute more than 60 meals to the homeless. Thank you to our partners and funders at DSAMH, DHHS, DCE, and the Food Bank.

After visiting Delaware Tech, our students shared that the trip had given them hope! They did not realize they



could receive a college education at little to no cost and stay close to home to help support their families.

Our work at Trap Pond State Park was so moving to one of our students that she was inspired to start a Latino cleanup campaign. She is promoting recycling and environmentally friendly living in her hometown of Georgetown.

Another student stated, “the thing I am most proud of is that I came to be a part of this program, I want to learn how to be a leader and help my family and my community.” V. age 13.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

La Esperanza is grateful to all of our supporters and donors.
Without you, our work would not be possible.

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Sussex County Council



MISSION

To assist Sussex County Latinos on their journey to achieve stability, integration and success.

VISION

To create an inclusive and thriving community where hope is fulfilled.



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Please donate: laesperanzacenter.org/donate/