



EL
HOGAR
DEL NIÑO
The home of the child

ANNUAL REPORT **2012**

Dear Friends,

It is our distinct honor to present to you El Hogar del Niño's 2012 annual report. We are proud to have served our community for forty years. We understand that for many of the families we serve – over 1,000 last year! – we offer a unique opportunity for their children to achieve their dreams. We are deeply proud of the success our families have had and are committed to continually improving our services.

We are excited to share this year's progress with you and to share stories about some of the people – clients, an associate, and alumni – who make our agency what it is today. Their stories, told in their own words, are the centerpiece of our report this year.

We are honored that nearly 20% of our staff has been part of the El Hogar family for ten years or more. We believe this is a great demonstration of the level of commitment our staff members feel toward El Hogar's mission. While the agency is best known for its bilingual early childhood education program, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), El Hogar is truly dedicated to ensuring the entire family's well-being. It is imperative for an agency to remember its roots, but even more important to look toward the future.

As a leadership team, we are tied to our community through a rich history and many relationships built over time. We are grateful to you for your continued support and we feel truly blessed to have such a committed and interconnected base to build upon.

Again, thank you so much for supporting us over the past forty years. El Hogar is strong and growing and we look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

The El Hogar Board and Executive Director

We are very proud to offer a special thanks to Heriberto Quiroz for all the beautiful images presented in this report. Heriberto is a life-long Pilsen resident and former El Hogar student. Currently, Heriberto studies photography at Columbia College. Great work!

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Board of Directors

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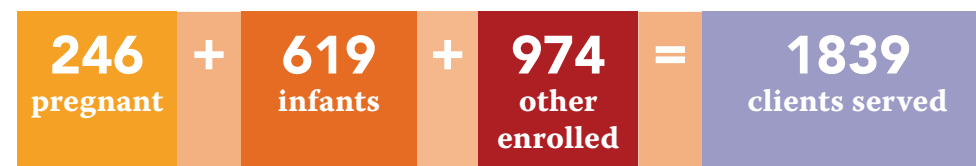


FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT



Over the past 18 years, El Hogar del Niño's Family Case Management (FCM) program has been helping the local community to reduce infant mortality and prematurity through prenatal care, informing families how to obtain access to essential services, and empowering families to reach self-sufficiency. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to connect our families to prepare them for the future.

Number of families/clients that Family Care Management program served in Fiscal Year 2012 (July 2011–June 2012):



Goals:

- Reduce infant mortality
- Prevent premature labor
- Promote self-sufficiency
- Connect families with essential services
 - Emergency food and shelter
 - Infant growth and development assessments
 - Housing
 - Medical Care
 - WIC
 - Mental health consultations
 - School
 - All Kids

FCM Requirements:

- Low-income pregnant women
- Low-income families with an infant under the age of 12 months



Outcomes achieved by our clients:

88%	families enrolled in WIC
80%	infants fully immunized by 12 months
85%	infants with at least three well-child visits
62%	infants with completed ASQ (developmental screenings)
67%	pregnant clients screened for perinatal depression
54%	guardians screened for postpartum depression

CLIENT PORTRAIT

BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO EL HOGAR DEL NIÑO'S FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, I HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE AGENCY.

When I applied for the WIC program, the intake specialist asked why I had never seen my assigned case manager. I had no idea what she was talking about. Apparently, when I applied for Medicaid my case was assigned to a case manager at another agency, but because I had never seen that person, I was reassigned to El Hogar del Niño. This oversight turned out to be a blessing.

My first appointment at El Hogar was when my son Rocco was around three weeks old. We have now been involved with the Family Case Management program for eight months and our experience has been great. My case manager has assisted me in different ways. She helped me obtain bus passes so I can see the chiropractor and helped me find an affordable new car seat for my fast growing son. He loves his new car seat and is much happier in the car. As all parents know, a happy baby in the car makes for a happy mommy too!

I think the best part of my experience at El Hogar has been the relationship I have developed with my case manager. Like me, she is a young mother with a daughter just a little older than Rocco. When I talk to her I know she can really relate to what I am going through. We chat about anything from diapers to transitioning to solid foods; she even lent me a playmat her daughter had outgrown. Her personal connection with our family and her quickness in responding to any question I have make coming to El Hogar a pleasure instead of just another appointment for an exhausted new mother.

—Sophia Hochstedler



CLIENT PORTRAIT

WE HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE WORK EL HOGAR DEL NIÑO DOES FOR A LONG TIME because Francisco's cousin used to work for the agency. She told us about the Family Case Management program and advised us to use their services. When I was five months pregnant with Xavier, Francisco and I visited El Hogar for the first time and we were immediately assigned to a case manager.

Our case manager has proven to be very helpful and attentive. For example, during my pregnancy she made sure to give me a call regularly to check how my prenatal appointments were going. Her knowledge about the various assistance programs we qualify for has been a blessing. I find myself calling her often to ask about all types of concerns.

Now that Xavier is born, our world has changed. Everything now (and in the future) revolves around his needs. At our most recent visit, our case manager sent us home with a can of formula, because I mentioned we were running low. She continues to check in on our well-being on a regular basis. We already have a wonderful support system in place, and it is comforting to know there is one more person ready to help us make Xavier's life wonderful.

—Victoria Muñoz



CENTER-BASED PRESCHOOL



El Hogar del Niño Center-Based Early Childhood Programs	Infant/Toddler	Head Start	In FY2012, 60 children transitioned ready for kindergarten and beyond.
Total number of children and families served	84	155	
Average monthly enrollment number (as a percentage of funded enrollment)	97%	100%	
Percentage of eligible children served	100%	100%	
Percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams	100%	100%	

El Hogar del Niño's early childhood education goal is to prepare our students to excel once they enter kindergarten. Our Head Start program takes numerous steps to achieve this goal.

- Ensure preschool curriculum is aligned with kindergarten readiness goals to facilitate successful learning from kindergarten and beyond
- Individualized plans designed to support each child's growth progressively through fall, winter, and spring
- Monthly newsletter to reinforce skills taught in the classroom
- Home visits
- Parent and teacher conferences
- Tours and visits to kindergarten classrooms
- Parent workshops: Kindergarten readiness and Applying to CPS for Kindergarten
- Supportive transitioning ceremonies

El Hogar del Niño understands that a child's well-being depends greatly on the overall health of the family. Therefore, the agency pays special attention to providing extracurricular activities that engage the family as a whole:

Health and Mental Health Wellness

- Agency-sponsored fitness fair
- Nutrition Education Series conducted by Dominican University (Focused on nutrition education, food preparation demonstrations, and role modeling of healthy eating habits)
- Parent support groups and individual family support sessions
- Child abuse and neglect prevention training
- Stress management techniques
- Zumba classes for parents

Community and Social Services

- Informational parent bulletin boards that highlight community and social services, through events, programs, and opportunities
- Cook County Discount Car Seat Program
- Credit repair workshop and financial planning series

Special Gatherings and Activities

- Monthly Parent Committee meetings
- Abriendo Puertas parental leadership training
- Parent recognition event
- Family field trips
- Family literacy night

OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN A PART OF EL HOGAR FOR NINE YEARS, since Neftaly, my older daughter, was two years old. A lot has changed over the years, but the impact on my family has not. The main thing that drew me to El Hogar all those years ago was their emphasis on culture and bilingual teaching. In retrospect, I also recognize El Hogar does an amazing job of teaching their children responsibility and the importance of routines. I remember being amazed one day to see my three-year-old daughter put away her toys on her own, completely unprompted by me. As a household with a busy working mom, we really didn't have any sense of routines in our home. Watching my daughter made me realize how the seemingly small things being taught at El Hogar are actually skills our kids can use to succeed in life.

Neftaly is eleven now and no longer attends El Hogar, but my younger son, Emmanuel, still does. For a while I've known Emmanuel was facing challenges that Neftaly never did. The teachers



at El Hogar saw these difficulties, too. About a year ago, El Hogar suggested we have Emmanuel evaluated and develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for him. His evaluation revealed social/emotional problems and speech delays. Since that time, we have been working as a team to get Emmanuel ready to transition to kindergarten.

He has made amazing progress, although he still has a little ways to go. I am so grateful for the support Emmanuel and I have received from the staff at El Hogar. I know we could not have overcome this obstacle on our own. The time and commitment *everyone* has put into making Emmanuel successful truly makes me feel that El Hogar is part of our family.

—Margarita Arnold

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

El Hogar del Niño offers Early Head Start/Head Start and Child Care services through our Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) program. We currently coordinate six homes located around Chicago's southwest side which provide services to children ranging from six weeks to five years of age. The family child care setting promotes small group sizes of 5–8 children within the home and offers opportunities for siblings to be cared for together. It also promotes an environment that is comfortable and feels like home, while supporting children's needs and their learning experiences to the fullest potential.



Program Enrollment:

10 Early Head Start	14 Head Start
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Program Strengths:

- Offers bilingual programming
- Assists low-income families with baby care items (diapers, wipes and formula)
- Assesses children's development four times a year using Teaching Strategies Gold with the implementation of the Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care
- Family Child Care Homes are enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and provide a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack
- Provides families with community resources and referrals
- Four Family Child Care Homes are accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care and the other two are pursuing accreditation

Program Statistics, Early Head Start:

Average monthly enrollment number (as a percentage of funded enrollment)	100%
Percentage of eligible children served	100%
Percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams	100%



PROVIDER PORTRAIT

AS A MOTHER OF FOUR AND GRANDMOTHER OF EIGHT, to me the idea of becoming a home daycare provider seemed natural. I have always been very interested in child development. In 2001 I obtained my license and opened Tiny Tots Home Daycare. My childcare philosophy focuses on caring for and educating children both physically and intellectually so that they will be prepared for their future life as successful students.

In order to adequately prepare my children for the future, I utilize activities that focus on physical development, language acquisition, the sciences, and the arts. It is my greatest joy to continually learn about each child's individual personality and to watch the child develop confidence in his or her personal decision-making skills. It is also essential to me to maintain an honest and friendly relationship with the parents who entrust their children to my care. I strongly encourage family participation in my program.



This year I achieved two personal and professional goals. First, the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services extended my daycare license to the level of "group home." I can now open my daycare to twelve children instead of eight. Soon I hope to expand my services to sixteen children. Second, I received my Certificate of Accreditation for Family Child Care from the National Association for Family Child Care. I am proud to continually improve my ability to provide the best childcare possible.

–Isabel Gutierrez
Tiny Tots Home Daycare Provider

CENTER-BASED SCHOOL AGE

Serves 5 to 12 years

0

6 yrs

12 yrs

El Hogar is proud to offer our families a School-Age program which serves children between the ages of five and twelve years. Many of the 120 students served throughout our six classrooms are former El Hogar Head Start students or have siblings currently enrolled in our Head Start program. Our ability to offer families a continuation of care once their children have entered the public school system is fundamental to the child and family's sense of stability.

Our Little Giraffes, Little Giants, Penguins, Musketeers, Dolphins and Angels are all part of a year-round program which offers half-day after school services and full-day summer services. During the school year,

teachers focus on supporting learning through homework assistance and report card tracking. Summer offers students the opportunity to continue learning through a variety of clubs such as Book Club and Cooking Club. Also during the summer, students and teachers are able to explore Chicago by participating in field trips around the city.

While many components of the School-Age program are fun, its true purpose is to allow children, in a critical age group, to realize the benefits of quality education and to put them on a path to staying in school. Additionally, parents receive parenting and development education, and the entire family benefits from a comprehensive network of referral services.



OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN WITH EL HOGAR FOR ALMOST NINE YEARS, STARTING WITH MY TWIN DAUGHTERS when they were about three years old. They no longer attend the school age program, by my two sons still do. As a working parent, the most important thing about El Hogar is knowing I can count on people I trust to pick my children up on a daily basis. El Hogar is truly a safe haven for my boys. The high-quality programming allows me to work for my family while feeling confident that my children, the treasures of my world, are being well cared for. Over the years, I feel like the teachers at El Hogar have become a close knit part of our family.

During the school year, the homework help provided by the teachers is what I value the most. Being able to simply review their work once we are home for the evening really makes a difference in our nightly routine. Really, though, the fact that El Hogar offers a year-round program is what helps our family the most. The boys attend a school that is in session year-round and they have a lot of random school breaks during the year. If they weren't able to go to El Hogar on those days off, I wouldn't be able to keep my job. Without family nearby to help with childcare, El Hogar becomes our second home.



The school age program offers full-day programming during the summer months. I love all of the field trips and enrichment activities the boys are exposed to during this time. Alex discovered his affinity for the arts by participating in a clay sculpting class offered at a nearby park. I wouldn't have been able to take him to this activity regularly, but his teachers at El Hogar walked a group of students to the park for every class. One year my daughters learned how to play *cajones*, which highlights another aspect of El Hogar that is very important to me-cultural connection. El Hogar has always done a wonderful job of teaching my children a little more about their Latino heritage. The emphasis on bilingual/bicultural programming instills in my children a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves. As a mother, this is a lesson I am often challenged to teach them on my own. I am grateful to El Hogar for the continued impact they have on my family and our lives.

—Sofia Mendez

ALUMNI PORTRAIT

IN 1976, TWO LATINOS IN THEIR EARLY TWENTIES ENTRUSTED EL HOGAR DEL NIÑO WITH THEIR CHILDREN. For those parents the school was essential. It provided a safe haven for their little ones while they struggled and worked hard to survive. Beyond care and education, El Hogar provided a place for those children to deeply connect to their heritage, the value of which cannot be overstated.

I stand as a testament to my parents' hard work, and to the critical role El Hogar played in our lives. In this testament, I could point to my personal success in education as an honor graduate from UIC's Department of Engineering or as a graduate from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Or, I could point to my success in business with companies such as Accenture and Nokia, or titles such as Senior Manager and Director, on my resume. However, my true testament will be the legacy I pass on to my three children, and the legacy they pass on to their children.

What I am leaving them is deeply informed by the role El Hogar del Niño played in my early life. I can say with the deepest conviction that I am passing on to them core values, which El Hogar played no small part in developing in me. Simply, they are education, hard work, dedication and a commitment to the Latino community.

As a family we live those values, working hard to ensure that we are putting together the building blocks of success. We are also immersing ourselves in community service through our fledgling



organization the Latino Parents Network, whose mission is to help Latino parents enrich each others' lives by making it easy for them to share resources and information. While we have a long way to go, I am confident that we have a solid foundation.

For 40 years, El Hogar del Niño has helped to build foundations for hundreds of children from Pilsen and Little Village. They provide a springboard for those children to launch themselves into the stratosphere. I am one example. However, their true value is immeasurable as it spans generations.

—Domingo Miranda

Director, Client Service/Account Management
HomeFinder.com

ALUMNI PORTRAIT

EVERY DAY CHILDREN LIVING IN OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FACE AN EARLY CHILDHOOD FILLED WITH INSTABILITY, hunger and little in the way of developmental stimulation. As we know, the care, nutrition and attention we give our children in their first few years of life are the building blocks for a successful future. For 40 years, El Hogar del Niño has helped hard working parents in our community make sure their children have a safe place to learn and thrive during their early formative years. El Hogar's bilingual, bi-cultural and community-based approach to early childhood development makes it welcoming and relatable.

Both of my parents worked full time while I was growing up and El Hogar del Niño was a place they knew I would be safe and nurtured. Thanks to the vision of the founders of El Hogar, the support of the Board, commitment of volunteers and the staff's hard work and dedication, El Hogar will continue to be an important institution that working families in Chicago's Latino community can depend on.

Felicidades on serving the community for 40 years!

—Amanda Cortes, J.D.

Assistant to the Alderman, 22 Ward



EL HOGAR DEL NIÑO

The home of the child

Statement of Activities For the Year ended June 30, 2012

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Fees & Grants	4,740,301
Corporate, Foundation, and Individual	18,384
Special Events	5,274
Total Public Support	4,763,959

REVENUE

Program Service Fees	117,209
Other Income	1,472
Total Revenue	118,681

Total Public Support and Revenue	4,882,640
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EXPENSES

Program Services	4,146,303
Management and General	254,796
Fundraising	19,992
Total Expenses	4,421,091

TOTAL NET ASSETS

Net Assets at the Beginning of Year	1,785,737
Net Assets at the End of Year	2,247,286

In Closing: A Call to Action

The value of investing in quality early childhood education has been discussed in many forums, but thanks to the work of leading economist and Nobel Laureate James J. Heckman, it is widely acknowledged that the \$7 return on each dollar invested is well worth the cost. President Barack Obama has even demonstrated the importance of early childhood education on a national level by calling for investment in universal pre-K initiatives.

Advocating for and supporting early childhood education should be a calling for each and every American. It not only affects the mother with small children down the street, but dictates the direction our great nation will take in the years to come. Individual agencies cannot do it alone.

We invite you to come and spend time with us; visit the center, witness the impact we have each day. Donate your time, donate your resources. Follow El Hogar through social media, join our mailing list, spread the word about the work we do.

An annual report not only allows us to take stock of the past year but provides us an opportunity to visualize the years ahead. How do we conceptualize our children's future? What does it mean to be well prepared to enter kindergarten in 21st-century Chicago? What challenges lie ahead for our children in a tenuous economy and increasing globalization? These are just a few questions we think about each and every day.

As El Hogar del Niño looks back on the past 40 years, we can all be proud of the impact the agency has had on the surrounding community and countless families. El Hogar has grown from the grassroots efforts of a few concerned citizens to become one of Chicago's leading early childhood education centers. Your support is the reason we have been successful and we want to extend to you a very heartfelt thank you! But our mission continues; there is more work to be done.

As the communities that El Hogar serves continue to change and evolve, we are steadfast in our commitment to continue serving them in the most impactful ways possible. El Hogar invites you to be an integral part of our continued success over the next 40 years! We look forward to working together with you to improve our services and grow El Hogar's role as a community leader.





EL HOGAR DEL NIÑO

The home of the child

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