



Mothers' Club
Family Learning Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

At Mothers' Club Family Learning Center, our strength comes from our holistic approach. We are a **two-generation learning center** that provides comprehensive education programs and social services for the whole family.

Sometimes it is easier to describe what we are not: we are not just child care; we don't just provide ESL classes; we aren't just preparing kids for kindergarten. We do much more. We empower parents and children by providing education, skills, resources, and confidence. **We strengthen families.**

At the same time, we strengthen the community. **Mothers' Club knows that a community is only as strong as the members within it.** We connect parents struggling with isolation and poverty with the resources and social networks they need to become productive, contributing members of society. We provide free early education to children who are at-risk of being left behind. Research suggests that high-quality preschool with intensive parent engagement provides society with a **return on investment of \$8.60 for every \$1 spent.** Investing in families now will benefit the community exponentially for generations to come.

Over the past 56 years, we've come a long way as an organization – from an informal “club” of moms and kids to a model two-generation learning program providing high-quality early childhood education. Whether you've been a supporter for two months or 25 years, **thank you** for coming with us on our journey to strengthen families and the community.

As we look towards the future, we're excited to offer even more services to those in need. We will be creating opportunities for **grandparents**



to get involved, offering programming during **nights and weekends**, building a network of **alumnae**, and lending our voice to **advocate** for causes close to our heart. Our past has prepared us for our future and we look forward to continuing our growth!

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.

VISION

- Families will work together to be active and contributing members of their local community and of the larger society.
- Parents will be welcomed into our community as partners, life-long learners, and their child's primary and most influential teacher.
- All children will be nurtured and prepared to enter kindergarten ready and able to learn.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

We provide free education programs and social services to disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5.

- Our core **Two-Generation Learning Program** consists of a morning session and an afternoon session. Both sessions contain: Early Childhood Education, Parent Education, Adult Education, Mental Health Support, and Leadership Training.
 - Our **morning session** is offered Monday-Friday from 8:30am-12pm and serves 62 children and their parents.
 - Our **afternoon session** is offered Monday-Friday from 1:00-4:30pm and serves 56 children and their parents.
- Weekly **Teen Parenting Program** on Thursday afternoons
- Weekly **Fathers' Support group** on Wednesday evenings
- **Early Readers' Book Club** one Saturday morning a month



WHAT WE DO

OUR GOALS

Mothers' Club is built on two guiding principles: in order for significant, long-term change to occur within a family, you must reach both parent and child and educate them together; and, the most critical time to reach a family is when children are proven to be most vulnerable and impressionable, between birth and five years-old.

Our preventive programs are designed to:

- Increase school-readiness of young children who are at-risk for failure in school
- Increase parenting skills and adult literacy levels
- Teach parents to be active advocates for and participants in their children's learning
- Prevent neglect and abuse by supporting the overall well-being of families with very young children



WHO WE SERVED

Of the families we served in 2015-2016:

- **83%** are living at or below the federal poverty level
- **44%** of parents do not have a high school diploma
- **27%** have less than a 9th grade education
- **67%** are English language learners
- **44%** live in overcrowded, shared households.

OUTCOMES

Across our programs, children and parents met or exceeded their learning benchmarks, demonstrating children's readiness for school and parents' ability to support their children's education, as well as their own personal development.

- **98%** of infants and toddlers demonstrated appropriate developmental growth
- **92%** of children entering kindergarten possessed school readiness skills
- **73%** of adult learners showed gains in their English reading skills
- **92%** of parents took on a leadership role at Mothers' Club

LEADERSHIP & STAFF



Hector LaFarga, Jr., *Executive Director*
Silvana Casalegno, *Program Director*
Julie Espinoza, *Education Director*
Mara Leong-Nichols, *Development Director*
Berit Anderson, *Development Associate*
Sarah Ojeda Kimbrough, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Martha Murillo-Spangler, *Office Manager*
Andrea Huicochea, *Program Coordinator*
Maria Lupe Vargas, *Nutrition Coordinator*
Rosa Martinez, *Kitchen Aid*
Guillermina Garcia, *Kitchen Aid*
Jose Amezcua, *Maintenance*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS

Cindy Alvarado	Micaela Martinez
Lucy Alvarez	Sandra Mora
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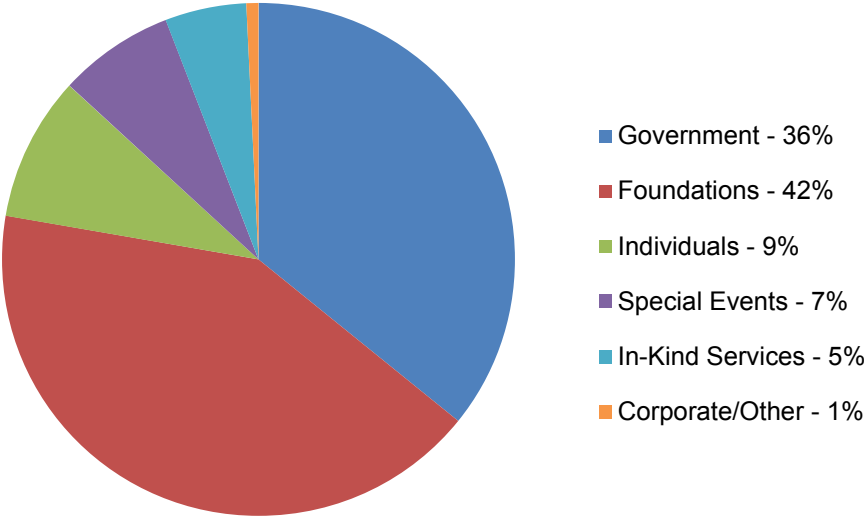
ASSETS	2015-2016
Cash	\$65,244
Investments, at fair value	\$1,553,437
Grant receivables	\$213,943
Prepaid expenses	\$848
Property and equipment, net	\$5,267,225
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,100,697

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

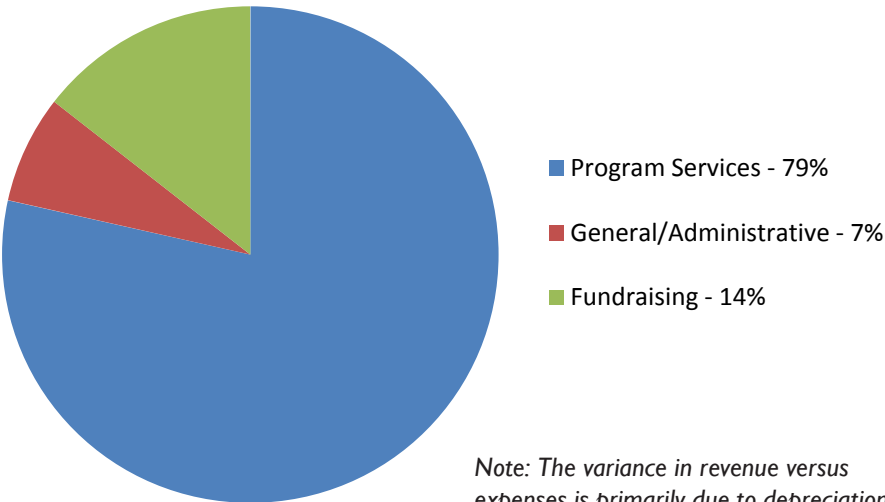
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$48,694
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$6,351,608
Temporarily restricted	\$439,767
Temporarily restricted – Capital maintenance reserve	\$100,000
Temporarily restricted – Kujawa staff development	\$37,128
Permanently restricted	\$123,500
Total Net Assets	\$7,052,003
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	\$7,100,697

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE: \$1,692,036



EXPENSES: \$1,874,749



Note: The variance in revenue versus expenses is primarily due to depreciation and unrealized loss on investments.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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A FAMILY'S STORY



A lot of immigrants come to this wonderful country looking for opportunities. For my family, we had to leave Guatemala in fear for our lives. Growing up in Guatemala, I thought I had my life well planned out. I was studying to be a doctor and my husband was a civil engineer. In our five years of marriage, we had built a nice life. I had my house, my belongings, and I was expecting my first child, Fatima. I had dreams of seeing our family grow and I was happy.

However, the civil unrest in Guatemala was growing more and more dangerous. The government is not very good at keeping control and the people are very unhappy. There is a lot of poverty and people are desperate. There are organized criminals that go after the middle class and try to extort money from them.

My family is one of those being victimized. Even though my husband and I do not get into politics, my family works in the legal system. My

mother is a lawyer and my uncle was a judge. With that connection, my entire family was targeted. People would call and tell us that we needed to pay or they would kill our family members or kidnap our children. We had to be very careful where we went and always go with someone that could protect us. Cars would be stopped in the middle of the street and people would be carried off. In fear, my family members started to move out of the city to the countryside or to other cities but that did not help. My husband Noe and I started to get calls telling us that they knew where our baby was or where my husband was working. For more than a year we lived in constant fear.

By the time Fatima was a year old, I knew we could not stay in this environment. I could not live with the fear, the tension, and the stress that these criminals were creating in my family. I was so scared for my baby's life and knew we had to find another way to live. My husband's brother lived in Pasadena and luckily he offered us refuge. Noe and I decided to leave everything we had made for ourselves and everything we knew because it was more important to give our daughter a safe life.

Intellectually, I understood the changes that were coming; but emotionally, I never imagined the pain. We were starting over. We had to leave everything we knew and had worked for as a couple in five years of marriage. All of our belongings were now in three suitcases. I cried for several

weeks, maybe even months. I was not crying for the objects, but for the loss of my dreams and of my home.

In 2015 we arrived in Pasadena. We could not get jobs like we had in Guatemala. I was a doctor and my husband an engineer but our degrees are not valid in this country. My husband was helping his brother with construction work. I did not speak much English and didn't know how to get a job or what to do with my baby.

I was not sure what we should do. My sister-in-law had attended Mothers' Club and told me that I should go and that they could help me. I was placed on the waitlist, but by August of 2015, we were able to enroll. I joined the ESL class and took parent education. My daughter was enrolled in the Twos Classroom. I felt welcomed and started to feel that I was not alone. I met the other moms and this wonderful place became part of my family. The staff was helpful and kind and I learned so much. I found

friends that told me what parks to go to, what sports Fatima would enjoy, and I started to feel safe again.

Mothers' Club has helped me to not be afraid and to remember my goals as a person. As a professional, I want to continue within the health field but I'm not sure in what area. For now, I have finished English levels two and three at Mothers' Club and am currently enrolled at the community education center for level 4-B. My husband is learning about construction materials and wants to get his contractor's license. We had a baby boy, Santiago, who is 1 year old and in the infant room at Mothers' Club. We are working with a lawyer to finalize our visa situation and have hopes that things will work out.

I now know that life is not always what you plan. Crying helps relieve the pain but does not fix things. But having a safe, welcoming place can change your life. I want to thank you for your work in keeping Mothers' Club Family Learning Center open. It is a place where we can improve ourselves, where our children learn, and where the loneliness goes away. I still miss my family but I have found so many wonderful friends.

- Lourdes Ocana
Mothers' Club Participant



Lourdes Ocana shared her family's personal story at our Power of Two dinner in March 2017.

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2016 Annual Report

Editor: Mara Leong-Nichols

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