

# ANNUAL REPORT



2018



# A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

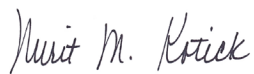
At **Families Forward Learning Center**, the pursuit of growth permeates every facet of our mission. We continue to enhance existing programs for enrolled families, implement new ones to reach our waitlist families, add talented teachers and professionals, and strengthen community partnerships in pursuit of our most important objective: **to empower families.**

**Studies tell us conclusively that when families have a safe, supportive place to learn and grow, the whole community experiences the benefits.** We welcome at-risk families struggling with isolation and poverty into an environment where resources are accessible, social networks are strengthened, and young children receive a quality education that equips them with the building blocks for success.

We believe that an investment in the well-being of families is an investment in the future. It is my privilege to witness the impact of our programs and my joy to share them with you.

From all of us at Families Forward, **thank you for believing in our families** and supporting their transformation.

Sincerely,



Nurit Kotick  
*Board President, Families Forward Learning Center*



# A HOLISTIC APPROACH

## OUR VISION

All children are nurtured and educated during their first five years so they enter kindergarten ready and able to learn.

Parents are prepared for their role as their child's first and most influential teacher and encouraged to become lifelong learners.

Families work together to improve their education, the quality of their lives, and their community.

## OUR MISSION:

**Families Forward Learning Center prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.**

## PROGRAMS AND 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. Each session is offered Monday-Friday for 3.5 hours each day and serves 58 children and their parents. Both sessions include: Early Childhood Education (ECE), Parent Education, Adult Education, Mental Health Support, and Leadership Training.

Additional programming includes:

- Weekly **Teen Parenting Program** on Thursday afternoons
- Weekly afternoon **Homework Clubs** for the elementary-aged children of parent participants
- **Early Readers' Book Club** one Saturday morning a month





# MEANINGFUL IMPACT



**OUR GOALS** Families Forward 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.

## WHO WE SERVED

- **87%** are living at or below the federal poverty level
- **35%** of parents do not have a high school diploma
- **25%** have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education
- **67%** are English language learners
- **38%** live in overcrowded, shared households

## OUR PREVENTATIVE 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

## IN THE 2017-2018 PROGRAM YEAR:

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

## OUTCOMES

**100%**

of families received personalized case management

**64**

referrals were made for families needing housing services, crisis intervention, and more

**89%**

of Preschool students demonstrated appropriate developmental growth

**145**

hours of therapy were provided to adults and children at our center



# LEADERSHIP & STAFF



## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Elva Sandoval, *Acting Executive Director*  
Julie Espinoza, *Education Director*  
Andrea Huicochea, *Senior Program Manager*  
Berit Anderson, *Manager, Communications & Events*  
Paola Rodriguez, *Family Engagement Specialist*  
Sarah Ojeda Kimbrough, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Martha Murillo, *Office Manager*  
Marlene Castillo, *Program Assistant*  
Maria Lupe Vargas, *Nutrition Coordinator*  
Rosa Martinez, *Kitchen Aid*  
Guillermina Garcia, *Kitchen Aid*  
Jose Amezcua, *Maintenance*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS

Lucy Alvarez	Jackie Morales
Marina Bendy	Margarita Morales
Judy Bustamante	Patricia Padilla
Debbie Chacon	Marisela Perez
Lorena Duenas	Daisy Ramos
Denisse Garcia	Susana Rivera
Martha Hernandez	Isabel Ramos
Sandra Lear	Josefina Rodriguez
Micaela Martinez	Rosa Sanchez
Yolanda Martinez	Veronica Soto
Sandra Mora	Ximena Toro

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

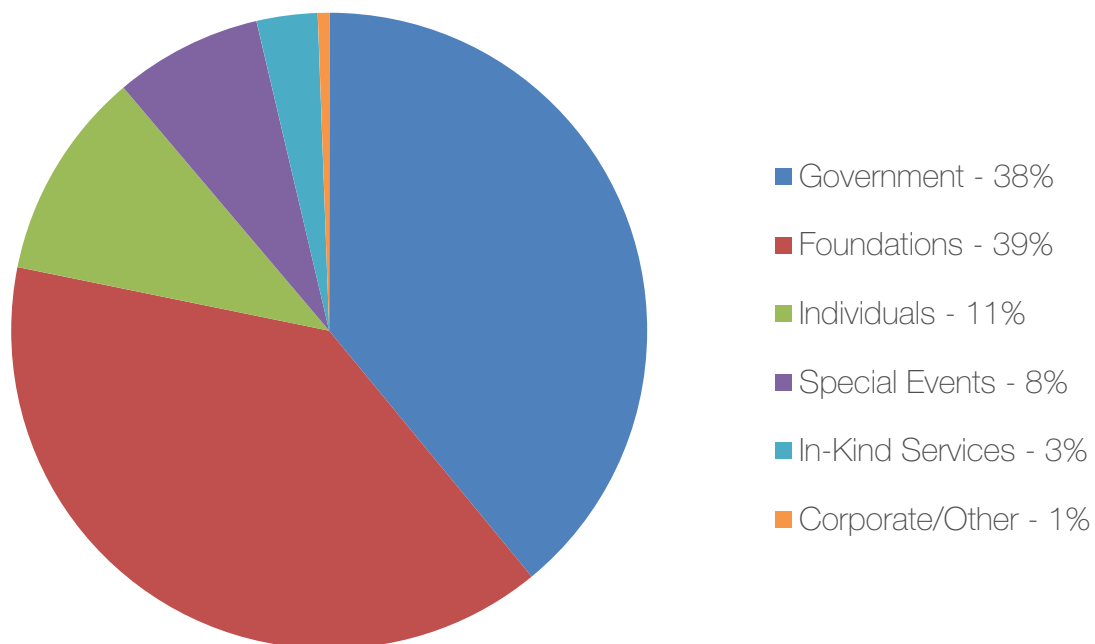
Peggy Adams	Gary Nelson
Sarah Campbell	Victoria Nuevo-Celeste
Elizabeth Carlton	Sylvia Paz
Peggy Coleman	Robin Phillips
Ruth Coyne	Jennifer Quintanilla
Ronald Johnson	Abel Ramirez
Nurit Kotick	Monica Wahl Shaffer
Vanessa Lee	Marc Thomas
Elsa Macias	Julie Ward
Susan Miller	

## COMMUNITY ADVISORS

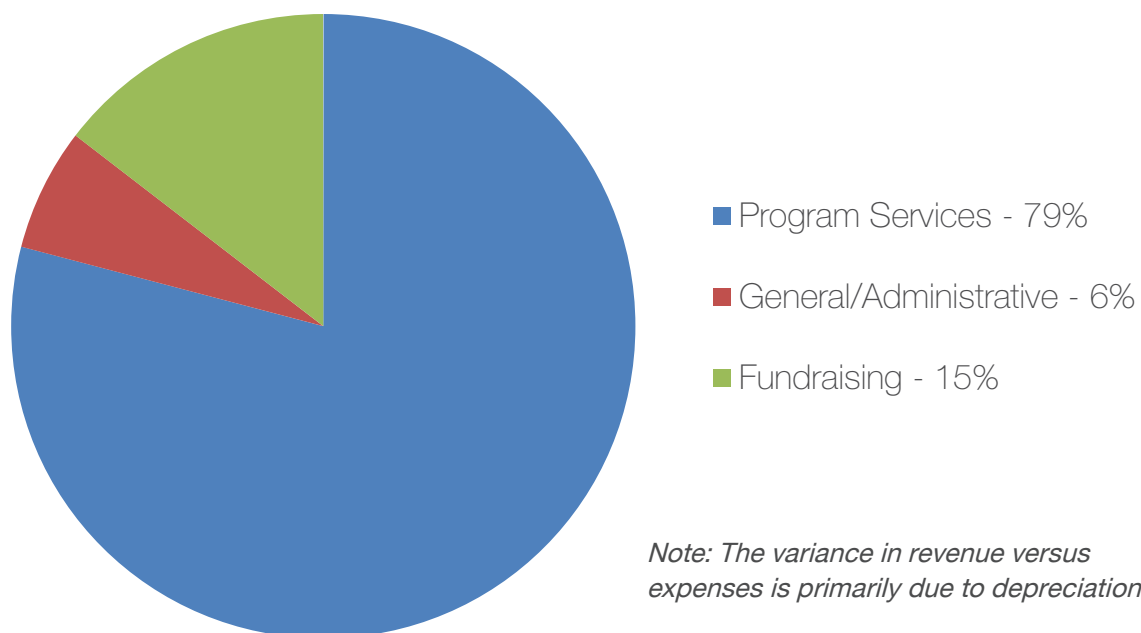
Judith Brown	Ava Maria Megna
Nancy Carlton	Norah Morley
Ann Erdman	Fran Scoble
Ellen Knell	Judith Wilson

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE: \$1,835,912



EXPENSES: 2,012,738



*Note: The variance in revenue versus expenses is primarily due to depreciation.*

# FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2017-2018
Cash	\$199,369
Investments, at fair value	\$1,396,285
Grant receivables	\$230,123
Prepaid expenses	\$2,098
Property and equipment, net	\$5,059,983
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,887,858</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$45,644
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$6,445,819
Temporarily restricted	\$96,149
Temporarily restricted – Capital maintenance reserve	\$100,000
Temporarily restricted – Kujawa staff development	\$37,128
Permanently restricted	\$123,500
Total Net Assets	\$6,998,392
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,887,858</b>

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## Special Thanks to Our Partners

California State Preschool Program  
CDBG City of Pasadena  
Child Nutrition Services - CDE  
Pacific Clinics, Early Head Start  
Pasadena City College

## Benefactors (\$100,000+)

Smart & Final

## Founders (\$50,000-\$99,999)

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The Eisner Foundation

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Jennifer Allan Goldman &  
Matthew Goldman  
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Manie Beheshti & Joan Kho  
Norah Morley & Tony G. Koerner  
Nurit & Ron Kotick  
Learning Works!  
Nancy Hytone Leb & Michael Leb  
Diane Levitt

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Kitty Bergel



## Gifts & Pledges Received July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy and proper acknowledgment of gifts we received. If you find an error, please accept our apologies and call our Development Office at (626)792-2687 ext.122.

Ivna Gusmao & Bruce Beiderwell  
Susan & Richard Biggar  
Adriane Rothstein & Mark Billy  
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Traci Boomhower  
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Brenda Jones  
Janet & John Jones  
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Arlene Kirby  
Jennifer Kowal  
Sue Parilla & Theodore Krontiris  
Susan Kujawa  
Elaine Kramer & Al Latham  
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Samson Lee  
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Kenneth Lewis  
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William Wahl  
The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
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Rondi Werner  
Amy & Richard Wohl  
Philip Wyckoff  
Matthew Yee

**We also want to thank the hundreds of individuals who made donations less than \$199 to support our work with families!**

# A FAMILY'S STORY



My name is Brenda. I was born in Mexico City, Mexico and came to the United States when I was 7 years old. Coming to the U.S. was a challenge for me. I had to learn a whole new language, but no matter how hard it was to adjust myself into this whole new lifestyle, I was grateful because we had something to eat every day. Sometimes in Mexico there wasn't enough money, and my dad would lay out my toys and ask for my brother and I to choose the toys we really liked. After that, my dad would have to go sell our toys to have money for food. This experience has taught me to be grateful and appreciate everything that I have in my life.

I am so thankful that I can be under a program called DACA, which means "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." Being under DACA has opened many doors for me, even though the future of DACA and those in it is uncertain. Before DACA it was difficult – I thought, and felt, like I had no future – but once I received my permit I felt free.

I have always loved school, so much that I would even enroll in the Summer Enrichment

Program through the Pasadena Educational Foundation, which gave me the privilege to go to schools like Westridge, Mayfield, and Polytechnic. I became a mom at the age of 18 and graduated from the high school I attended. My husband John and I have been married for almost five years and have a wonderful son named Matthew. His name means gift from God, because for me, he's the best gift I will ever receive. Being a young mom was tough but it just meant that I had to work harder. It was tough because I was being judged every day throughout my senior year. It's hard to be a mom at any age, but learning to be a mom at such a young age meant I had to learn everything faster.

I became a full time employee at a retail store and really enjoyed it at first. Since I was always working closing shifts, I was looking for a program for my son to attend during the day. My mom actually recommended me to Families Forward because she had attended with my sister and loved every bit of it, especially because she was taking English as a Second Language classes. Matthew and I joined Families Forward for his Preschool year.

That same year, Families Forward launched a new program for parents called "Goal-Getters," where parents met with Andrea, the Senior Program Manager, one-on-one to set and discuss goals. I set three goals, and one was to go back to school. I remember always coming to Andrea feeling stressed out because I wasn't happy with my job. One day, I decided to go back to school and signed up for the full-time dental assisting program at Pasadena City College. Since I did leave my job it was a bit tough at first because it was the



year I had to renew my DACA, which is a very complicated and expensive process. Families Forward helped me buy my books for school, and that really meant so much.

I was very happy to start school, but my schedule was Monday to Friday from early in the morning until the evening, and I wasn't able to drop off my son or pick him up. My husband started to take Matthew to school and throughout the year my husband and son bonded even more. My family also helped me so much through this journey. My program was difficult because it was an intensive 10 month curriculum. I took 16 courses and graduated with straight A's. After graduation, I was hired by the dental office where I was an intern during my program, and now I have a job that I love.

Matthew learned so much from Families Forward. He learned how to be confident in what he does and the decisions he makes. He loves helping others. He is now in

Kindergarten and is doing very well in his first year of elementary school, and he even has some leadership roles in his class. I will always thank Families forward for all the help. Please support this organization so they can continue providing these important programs for other families. Thank you.

*-Brenda*

Families Forward Parent Participant

*Brenda's story was transcribed from a speech delivered at the 2018 Twilight Tasting Event.*

*Brenda's son, Matthew, is flourishing in elementary school and will enter first grade in August of 2019. Brenda is thriving in her career as a Dental Assistant in South Pasadena.*





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***2018 Annual Report***

Editor: Berit Anderson