Since 1995, The Family Center/La Familia has served as Larimer County's only early childhood and family resource center. As one of 32 family resource centers in the state, TFC/LF provides high quality early childhood education (ECE) to over 100 children annually whose parents work and attend school, extensive crisis response and family support services as well as leadership and policy opportunities to more than 400 families annually. With over one third of the staff at TFC/LF being immigrants and native Spanish speakers, and over half being bilingual, TFC/LF is a trusted and safe place for immigrant and Latinx families and is looked to by the Fort Collins and surrounding community as a leader in culturally attuned work. The early childhood center, El Nidito, was opened in 2000, in response to the community's desire for affordable and accessible early childhood education and remains one of only two nonprofit ECE centers in the County for children ages 0-5.

A TRUSTED, SAFE PLACE
OUR MISSION

Working alongside diverse families we provide high quality childcare and supportive services, with an emphasis on cultural attunement with the Latinx community.

Our Values
This work is done with an explicit vision of creating a community in which all families are safe, supported, and thriving. In addition to the mission and vision, there are six core values that guide the work and are clearly defined as follows:

Trust - Inspiring confidence and mutual respect creates a foundation for reliable support and good stewardship.

Compassion - Every person has inherent dignity and is worthy of respect and empathy.

Diversity - Non-dominant cultures, identities, perspectives, and experiences are celebrated, embraced, and inform direction.

Equity - The structural, cultural, and relational inequities experienced by oppressed groups must be courageously recognized and dismantled.

Inclusion - All people feel welcome, valued, and empowered to contribute to, and participate in, community.

Love - Loving, healthy relationships are critical for children in the first five years of life and benefit the child, the family, and the entire community.
Early Childhood/El Nidito

The Family Center/La Familia’s Early Care and Education Program is dedicated to providing safe, stimulating and nurturing education for young children. Our program, known as El Nidito, or “The Little Nest,” is a state licensed, Colorado Shines Rated, School Readiness site. With our curriculum we encourage learning through exploration and discovery, and we enable children to develop confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills that will support them throughout their lives. We utilize the evidence-based assessment tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD, which shows children’s progress in all learning domains and all age groups. El Nidito provides a truly unique, multi-cultural, bi-lingual experience for children and families. We are dedicated to providing high-quality care and education for infants, toddlers, and pre-school-age children.

Family Support Services

Our bilingual team provides home and community based services and education opportunities support the whole family.

Some of our services include:
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) home and community-based family education
- Adult education programs with onsite childcare
- Collaborating with families to develop goals that promote well-being
- Bilingual support to navigate community resources
- Emergency assistance funding and supplies to meet diverse array of needs

Mi Voz

Beginning in 2018, after two decades of providing direct services, The Family Center/La Familia began to address the upstream causes of the struggles for which so many families seek support - with initial focus on housing stability in mobile home communities. With the average home price approaching $500K in Fort Collins, and limited land also at a premium, residents making below area median income have very few options for housing and those that do exist are at extreme risk for redevelopment. MiVoz began with a small group of community leaders and has grown to over 20 over the past tow years, influencing both internal neighborhood practices and external municipal policies. The community designed slogan is: “By working together with our neighbors, we can solve issues and reach our community’s goals and dreams.”
Demonstrated growth in El Nidito children, in accordance to the Teaching Strategies Gold standards:

- **Language** - percentage of children meeting standards went from 82% to 87% and those exceeding standards when from 11% to 21%
- **Cognitive** - percentage of children meeting standards went from 89% to 92% and those exceeding going from 9% to 21%
- **Literacy** - percentage of children meeting or exceeding standards went from 83% to 85%
- **Mathematics** - percentage of children meeting or exceeding the standards went from 63% to 79%

- **Recipient of a Colorado Shines Level 3 Rating**
- **Integrated referrals for mental and emotional well being support for children, families, and staff implemented this year.**
- **Over $60K awarded in sliding scale scholarships**

In collaboration with Summitstone Health Partners’ Early Childhood Program, TFC/LF is providing social-emotional support for children and families through:

- Classroom consultations
- Child-specific consultations
- Reflective Supervision for leadership staff
- Facilitating Teacher Chats in classrooms, providing a safe space for teachers to reflect on their teaching experience
- Implementing the Pyramid Model training
26 families received support through Group Connections

Nearly 100 families received information and referral services to external resources

65 new families enrolled in ongoing Family Support Services

245 existing families received supportive services for housing, transportation, rent and utility assistance

In total 470 Larimer County families (1,250 individuals) benefited from The Family Center/La Familia services this year.

32 families participated in the Parents as Teachers program

60 families attended Car Seat Safety Classes taught in Spanish through a partnership with UCHealth

30 families accessed healthy living, nutrition, and exercise programs. Cholesterol screenings were also provided through a collaboration with the Health District of Northern Larimer County
Three pillars that guide and inform the work of Mi Voz:

**Community-Led**
Utilizing community-led principles, work is informed and guided by community leaders. Issues and solutions are community-based, amplifying the strengths of the community.

**Advocacy**
Working alongside community members to shape the community around them through engaging with elected officials, participating in public input, and mobilizing voices for change.

**Leadership Development**
Providing and connecting community members to leadership development opportunities to support community work.

Mi Voz successes include:

- Community input surrounding preservation and protection of mobile home parks, anti-displacement, equity, and inclusion incorporated into Fort Collins City Plan
- Mobile Home Park Preservation and Resident Protection adopted as City Council 2-year priority (2019-2021)
- Built environment improvements: left-turn arrow, additional city park lighting, road repavement for safety.
- Community leaders prepared to mobilize during COVID pandemic to meet the needs of the greater community
- Mobile home park improvements, including safety lighting and tree trimming
- Hotsing quarterly meetings with City, County, School Board, and other elected officials in response to community identified goals
- Training for members on how to set agendas, make requests, and advocate priorities
FUNDRASING EFFORTS

The Family Center/La Familia operates with the financial help of three large-scale annual fundraising events. This year, our fundraising efforts produced a grand total of $166,401 in donations.

This in person celebration event was held in September 2019. Donations included ticket sales, in-kind cash, auction items and auction bids for a total of $44,550.

Our end of the year giving campaign took in online donations, as well as donations from sales with local business partner Dandelion Toys/Clothes Pony. This campaign raised over $70,000 of support.

The BELONG breakfast fundraiser moved to an online giving forum due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even with this last minute change, we were able to secure $49,485 in donations, in addition to $2366 of donations from our event sponsors.
FINANCIALS

SCHOLARSHIPS
- 36 children received assistance during the 2019-2020 school year for an estimate of $63,660 in sliding scale scholarship support **(Please note that this number is lower than normal due to the COVID pandemic. Some funds were shifted to cover other needs within El Nidito)

ENROLLMENT
- El Nidito, our early childhood education center, had a yearly enrollment of 80 children during the 2019-2020 school year.

ESTIMATES FOR FY 2019/2020
COVID-19 has impacted our organization, our sector, and our community like nothing ever before. Despite having to close our Center for 10 weeks, we remained connected to families and provided ongoing support and resources during this crisis. As a united team we were able to:

- Secure a $260,000 PPP loan to keep staff paid and supported through the closure
- Distribute over 6,000 masks in partnership with other immigrant-supporting organizations
- Rapidly respond to the overwhelming rent assistance requests from our community by both helping Neighbor to Neighbor better serve Spanish-speaking families and secure an additional $42,000 of direct rent assistance funds to distribute
- Apply for and receive a $10,000 grant to help bridge the digital divide in the Spanish speaking community and create a library of tablets and hot spots to loan. Staff also provided significant training on the use of Zoom, Google Classroom and other digital platforms for families
- Obtain over $35,000 in additional grants to re-open El Nidito strong with additional supports for staff and children
- Support Mi Voz leaders in mobile home communities distribute up to 800 restaurant-prepared meals to their neighbors
- Continue meeting with children and families to provide virtual education and support

We are strong together!