The past year taught us the need to listen to each other and also helped us realize that not everyone can navigate challenges in the same way. We have witnessed devastating and heartbreaking scenes that desperately call for social justice and peace worldwide. Thanks to a multi-level leadership structure, our center has grown stronger! First, we would like to recognize all of our families who face multiple challenges on a daily basis and they manage to provide food, clothing, and education while gaining the strength to stay positive. To all those natural leaders we thank you for placing your trust in us and letting us be that support that allow you to continue on your path.

Thanks to our educators and all of our staff, our Early Childhood Education, Family Development, and Community Leadership pillars continue to support our community. Through participatory processes we have maintained the programs that promote family strengthening. Under the early childhood education pillar, we have achieved the Colorado Shines Level 4 qualification, which affirms our commitment to providing a high-quality early education. Under our last pillar, Community Leadership, we continue to advocate for better living conditions in our mobile home parks along with our community partners.

Recently, our center purchased three farm shares with the intention of creating an equitable food system where families can benefit from collaboration with local farmers to access their traditional produces. In July 2022 following exhaustive research, our center migrated to the new Apricot platform with the aim of creating a culturally appropriate database. With this approach, we wish to honor the origin and culture of the families that make up our community and reflect them in all the programs offered through our family resource center.

At the organizational level we continue to support our staff to assume leadership roles and develop managerial skills. This is how we ensure the continuity of our mission and strengthen the commitment to implement the best equity, inclusion, and diversity practices. We want the new generations to value our legacy and recognize this collective effort!

It is a privilege for me to continue serving La Familia for another year. I am deeply grateful that there is not a single day when I do not learn something new from our educators and our families. A few months ago, a mother approached me and said, "I want to thank La Familia for these learning opportunities they offer us, since I take them as an apprenticeship to be better every day."

To all of you, our donors, your generosity is reflected in closer-knit families and children developing in a positive environment. We would not be here without your support.

Enjoy the annual report and feel free to visit our center to learn more about our impact!

With gratitude,

Gloria Kat (She/Ella)

Executive Director
Since 1995, The Family Center/La Familia has served as Larimer County’s only early childhood and family resource center. Our center provides high quality early childhood education (ECE) to children whose parents work and attend school, extensive crisis response and family support services as well as leadership and policy opportunities to families annually.

**El Nidito**

El Nidito, TFC/LF’s state-licensed, Colorado Shines level 4 rated, early care and education program, providing a multicultural and bilingual experience for up to 75 children and families every day. TFC/LF partners with Poudre School District to provide the Colorado Preschool Program and Larimer County’s only center-based option for Early Head Start.

**Family Support**

Bilingual home and community-based services utilizing a strengths-based family-centered approach and education opportunities to support the whole family. Through the Colorado Family Support Assessment 2.0, our culturally competent Family Specialists work alongside families to identify their strengths, areas of opportunity, and readiness to change. Services include parent education, car seat safety classes, Mental Health First Aid, advocacy, and connection to community resources that families may not be able to access due to barriers such as language or lack of technology.

**Mi Voz**

Mi Voz, a leadership development program funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Health Equity, is dedicated to making positive changes in mobile home parks and the North College corridor by utilizing community strengths to create community-led solutions. Through civic engagement and advocacy, community members shape the community around them through engaging with elected officials, participating in public input, and mobilizing the community’s voices. In 2021, the Leadership Lab launched in partnership with the Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) to offer a program designed to strengthen participants’ leadership and collaboration skills, with the purpose of creating more inclusive communities where families can thrive.
Our Future Leaders

Early Childhood Education Program

Despite the many challenges of the last year, El Nidito's amazing team worked tirelessly and increased their rating from Level 3 to Level 4! The Colorado Shines rating of Level 4 demonstrates El Nidito's commitment to quality and continually improving services. It also reflects El Nidito's efforts to support children's health and safety, ensure staff are well-trained and effective, provide a supportive learning environment, and help families be active in their children's learning.

Our curriculum builds stronger hearts and minds.

75 children representing 62 families were served in 2021-2022

In the Fall of 2021 El Nidito received a Colorado Shines Level 4 award

The Pyramid Model

In June of 2022, El Nidito's Early Childhood Mental Health Support Specialist, completed a nine-month facilitator certification in the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children, offered through Health Child Care Colorado. This is a great professional achievement and a great asset for our center!
Through a partnership with the Children’s Speech and Reading Center, preschool year, nine qualifying El Nidito preschoolers received free weekly supplemental enrichment sessions in pre-literacy and reading skills development. These sessions focused on five main language skills that can affect development and success: articulation, receptive language, expressive language, social language, and voice/fluency skills. Each week they worked on new skills through play to support kindergarten readiness.

What's to come?

Universal Pre-K

In April of 2022, Governor Polis signed HB22-1295, the universal preschool bill, into law. With this bill, beginning in fall of 2023, Colorado families with 4-year-olds will have access to 10 hours per week of tuition free preschool in public school classrooms or private settings, such as child care centers, churches, or homes licensed to provide preschool. As the local response develops, El Nidito continues to work closely with the Larimer County ECE community to ensure readiness for the program in 2023. At the meantime we are planning center-wide capital improvements and we are securing funding to build a new infant patio and other improvements to our built environment. We want staff and children to belong through the creation of inclusive spaces!
Our Impact in 2021

- 36 Individuals received cholesterol screenings
- 100+ Participants attended Behavioral Health Sessions provided in Spanish
- "We do more than provide a resource or phone number. We listen to our families and help them achieve their goals." FSS
- 16 Families graduated from our 14 week The Incredible Years Program
- 74 Households enrolled in a Family Development Program
- 40 Car seats were distributed to families in the community
- 200+ Families received utility assistance
- 100K To offset the cost of energy in our county
- 30 households accessed discounted passes for recreation programs
Our Community Leaders

Community Hub
Mi Voz continues to work alongside with community members and the City of Fort Collins Urban Renewal Authority to help facilitate conversations pertaining to the creation of a Latinx Community Hub in the north of Fort Collins. Local residents have openly voiced the desire for an indoor/outdoor community-owned and recreational space that would facilitate cultural programing, educational opportunities, community resources and recreation for residents of all ages. The community advisory team has now begun the process of identifying possible official names for the project and will be hosting multiple resident-led events to raise awareness and capture the community's voice.

Promotoras
This past year we offered our third Promotora cohort training. One of the Promotoras is currently working in leadership at the county level through public health and has expressed her gratitude for the training opportunity. Mi Voz’s in house Promotoras have been instrumental in the canvassing of communities and coordination of events both at The Family Center and at the mobile home parks, such as Know Your Rights training and 101 Legal Clinics.
Although the 2022 Legislative session passed relevant bills such as HB22-1287 that included additional protections for mobile home residents, unfortunately the proposal to prohibit a landlord from increasing rent on a mobile home lot "by an amount that exceeds the greater of inflation or 3 percentage points in a twelve-month period" was removed off the bill. Families continue to see rent increases while their income is not keeping up with the cost of living. Mi Voz has now engaged with resident leadership at various parks and is currently hosting one on one meetings with the support of Colorado Poverty Law to give the residents the opportunity to organize and address their concerns.

Last Spring, our center along with other community partners formed the Mobile Home Park Coalition to continue elevating the voices of MHP residents, with the goal of working with our elected officials and ensuring that the land use code is reviewed to prevent the displacement of our community members living in parks of unincorporated Larimer County.

### Mobile Home Park Protections

- Increased community engagement by MHP Leaders becoming more equipped to lead their communities
- Decrease in toxic stress by community members gaining knowledge and confidence by attending 'Know Your Rights' meetings
Mi Voz has taken new steps this year in entering into the conversation regarding food equity within the regional food systems. Mi Voz along with Northern Colorado Food Shed, The Growing Project, ReKaivery, Poudre Valley Community Farms and the CSU Food Systems have come together under the umbrella of the Poudre Food Partnership. The team will address food sovereignty, food access, Community engagement, land access and production growth. Mi Voz enters this partnership as the component that will ensure equity and engagement for the Latinx community. Mi Voz has begun the process directly by taking the initiative to introduce CSA or Community Supported Agriculture to the local MHP communities. This began with the purchase of three shares to a local farm.

Mi Voz is building a bridge for the community through experiences and relationship. Concurrently, Mi Voz will be overseeing a working group that will focus on address the current barriers community members face when producing, purchasing, accessing, and advocating for local and regional agricultural products.

Leadership Labs

In partnership with the CSU Extension’s Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI), Leadership Lab Participants completed 10-week course, presented projects in community forum that included presentations on projects at local schools, organizing residents at mobile home parks, and promoting awareness regarding mental health. Upon graduation, the students were excited to continue their projects in their targeted communities and have begun working with The Family Center/Mi Voz with the further development and implementation of their projects.
Last year we raised $1,923,794 to support our programming. As always, we are profoundly grateful and would like to recognize the support received from the State of Colorado, the Larimer County government, the City of Fort Collins, the Poudre School District, as well as public and private foundations, service clubs, businesses, service providers, contractors, event sponsors, and individual and corporate donors. There is no small donation, any amount serves to fulfill our mission! We are grateful we were able to meet in person for our Fiesta and Belong events and look forward to continuing to connect with our community for all future events. Come be in Familia!
The Best Team!

“A I love being the bridge for families and sharing stories or photos of their child. In that moment we get to bask in the love we both have for their child.” ~ Julie

"Working for TFC/LF has taught me that one needs others to make an impact. By working with others, for others we make build a stronger community.” ~ Analia

The children of the families who have joined our events and meetings, have the chance to see their parents be leaders and practice their rights which teaches them at a young age on how to advocate for themselves.” ~ Daniela

"We have been able to create a place where anyone feels welcome, safe and above all listened to with respect and without being judged in order to provide the necessary service." ~ Hilda

A BIG shoutout to Teacher Julie for loving and gathering volunteers to grow the center's garden
Thank You

Amazon Smile
ANB Bank
Anschutz Family Foundation
Blake & Kelly McBartlett
Bohemian Foundation
City of Fort Collins
Delta Dental Foundation
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
El Pomar Foundation
Fort Collins Warehouse Liquors
Energy Outreach Colorado
Ent Credit Union Community Fund
Family Resource Center Association
Colorado Department of Public Health and
Environment
Invest in Kids
JBS Imports
Kaiser Permanente
King Soopers
Kiwanis Poudre Golden K
Larimer County Behavioral Health Services
Larimer County Department of Human Services
My Big Day
Orthopedic & Spine Center of the Rockies
Poudre Valley REA
Realities for Children
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Nappie Project
Together we Protect - Caring for Colorado
UCHealth
United Way of Larimer County
USDA
Poudre School District
Women’s Foundation of Colorado

Thank you for believing in our mission, our work and in our community!
Our Board of Directors

Blake McBartlett
Frankie Cole
Bill Kaufman
Maria Naumburg
Melanie Holzner
Beth Jaeger
Vanessa Fewell
Cyndi Dodds
Emma Goulart
Dan Ordaz
Latoya Noel
Paulina Campis

The Family Center/La Familia
p: 970-221-1615 f: 970-416-7448
info@thefamilycenterfc.org
309 Hickory Street #5 Fort Collins, CO 80524
Tax ID: 84-1318219