



conexión
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Latino Families. Promoting the Social, Economic & Civic
Integration of Latino Families.
Economic & Civic integration of Latino Families.
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Casa Azafrán: Creating Community, Empowering Families

Casa Azafrán marks a bold beginning to many more years of empowering families in Middle Tennessee.

Marisol Suárez and her family laid the first bricks at the April 2012 groundbreaking of the Casa Azafrán Community Center, the nonprofit collaborative Conexión Américas opens Dec. 1.

It was a moment of celebration and symbolism, a nod to how far we, as a community and as an

organization, have come in a decade and how much more we are ready to accomplish.

The Casa Azafrán Community Center, envisioned since 2005, has been constructed during the organization's 10th Anniversary, marking an end to a decade that has seen exponential growth in the Latino and immigrant population.

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“Casa Azafrán will function as an economic hub of a growing area. It will provide critical services to a population who must succeed if our city will continue to thrive.”

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean,
April 2012 Groundbreaking
Ceremony.

Annual Report 2011-2012



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But, the center also marks a bold, new beginning to many more years of empowering families in Middle Tennessee.

Standing at the gateway to Nashville's most international and ethnically diverse neighborhood, the \$5 million center will be home to Conexión Américas and six other nonprofits whom we are proud -- and grateful-- to call our partners:

- American Center for Outreach
- Family and Children's Service
- Global Education Center
- Justice for Our Neighbors of Tennessee
- United Neighborhood Health Services
- YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

OPPORTUNITIES

The 29,000-square-foot center, just three miles from downtown -- created and managed by Conexión Américas -- will offer opportunities and services in health, education, entrepreneurship training, volunteerism and community building. The center also will have a commercial kitchen for food entrepreneurs and global cooking classes, an art gallery, and a studio for multicultural music, dance and other performing arts.

It is a true center, a heartbeat and welcoming, gathering place for all Nashvillians, from the native-born to the newly arrived.

We believe that in community with our participant families, and in partnership with other agencies, we can create better opportunities in the quest for the American Dream for all Nashville residents.

Conexión Américas is deliberate in its mission to create

a welcoming community that engages all Nashvillians and, specifically, to empower Latino immigrants to build better lives for themselves and their families -- benefiting generations of Middle Tennesseans to come.

BENEFITS

The Casa Azafrán Community Center represents an unprecedented \$5 million private/public investment in the economic development, cultural vitality and community-building efforts of Nashville's International District.

- First large scale collaborative effort to increase the social capital of Nashville's immigrant communities by providing a central place of gathering, learning and engaging
- Nonprofit collaboration that will increase coordination of services and operating efficiency among nonprofit groups
- Self-sustaining social enterprise through which Conexión Américas will lease office space and commercial kitchen to support the center's operating costs

Like no other place in Nashville, Casa Azafrán will offer opportunities for meaningful interaction and cross-cultural exchange among Middle Tennessee's immigrant and native-born residents through the visual, performing and culinary arts, among other offerings.

FUNDING

We have raised \$3,352,000 million as of October 2012 from individuals, corporations and government, through our ongoing Capital Campaign.

We are extremely proud of the fact that Conexión Américas

is bringing to Nashville a \$2.1 million investment from the federal government for small business and economic development.

The largest gift has been a \$1.3 million economic development grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration to support entrepreneurs and small businesses.



In October 2012, Conexión Américas also was granted \$789,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Community Economic Development, which will fund, in part, the commercial community kitchen, where food entrepreneurs will receive training and grow their businesses in a space that also will welcome locals to cook, taste and enjoy global foods -- from places such as Mexico, Somalia and Kurdistan -- around a common table.

Other gifts have come from long-time supporters of Conexión Américas and in the form of both generous and modest gifts from participants and new friends who believe in the agency's mission of integration and empowerment of our newest neighbors.

As Conexión Américas enters the second decade in a new home, and with a dedicated group of partners and supporters, our staff and our Board of Directors are looking forward to many more years of rewarding work and a strengthening community.



Artist Jairo Prado and "Migration."

Casa Azafrán Partners

American Center for Outreach

Information, education and empowerment of the Muslim community

Conexión Américas (Lead Partner)

Programs and advocacy promoting the social, economic and civic integration of Latino families

Family and Children's Service

Culturally competent mental health counseling services for children and adults

Justice for Our Neighbors

Immigration legal services for low-income immigrants

United Neighborhood Health Services

Primary health care clinic for low-income families and children

YWCA

Girls, Inc. after-school program for middle school students



"Migration" Mosaic Mural: Be a Piece of History

"Migration" is a 30-foot by 12-foot mosaic mural that will crown the façade of Casa Azafrán. Its colorful tiles have been cut and put together by artist Jairo Prado, pictured above, and volunteers. It is a project built by Nashville for Nashville.

The project is funded by the Tennessee Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts, and by generous individuals supporting public art.

To donate, please visit conexionamericas.org.

Casa Azafrán Institutional Supporters

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 Caterpillar Financial Services
 The Joe C. Davis Foundation
 The Dollar General Literacy Foundation
 The Frist Foundation
 The HCA Foundation
 The Memorial Foundation

The State Farm Foundation
 The Tennessee Titans Foundation
 The Cal Turner Family Foundation
 Nashville Electric Service
 National Endowment for the Arts
 Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County
 Tennessee Arts Commission

U.S. Department of Commerce | Economic Development Administration
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Community Economic Development
 Tennessee Valley Authority

*as of Oct. 15, 2012

Conexión Américas' Programs Focus on Promoting Social, Economic and Civic Integration



More than 700 Latino adults attended our annual Avance! Family Day, including 465 children and youth, to participate in educational workshops and activities.



Conexión Américas' Enlaces information and legal advocacy, in 2011 - 2012, connected more than 450 people to information, resources and assistance necessary to address an immediate need.



Our Conversemos Language Exchange Program helped 114 individuals improve their conversational English and Spanish.

Conexión Américas Supporters 2011-2012

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The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
The Dollar General Literacy Foundation
The Frist Foundation
The HCA Foundation
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The Memorial Foundation
The Scarlett Family Foundation
United Food and Commercial Workers Local
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
Internal Revenue Service-Taxpayer Advocate Program
Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission
Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office.

Nearly 450 Latinos between 2011 to 2012 increased their understanding of the U.S. tax system and their responsibilities as taxpayers through our Taxpayer Outreach and Education Program.



Our Negocio Próspero/Prosperous Business teaches the ins and outs of business to micro-entrepreneurs. Economic programs reached more than 700 participants.



Arts workshops through our Parents as Partners program this year reached more than 180 Latino youth, ages 3 to 17. Four of our social integration programs reached 822 participants.



Janet Murguia, NCLR President and CEO, spoke at our 10th Anniversary Celebration.



Trained parent facilitators help teach the Parents as Partners workshops.

FAST FACTS

For more details and financial information about Conexión Américas, visit Giving Matters: <http://bit.ly/PQD6JA>

Latino population increases

Thirty (30) percent of all Nashville kindergarten students are Latino.

The future face of Nashville

Latinos are expected to be the largest minority population in Nashville by 2040.

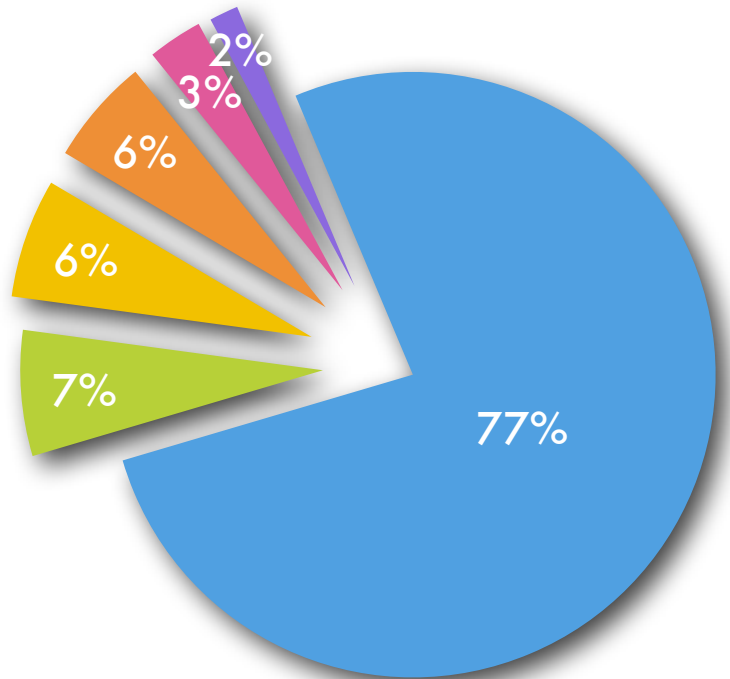
Deferred Action Assistance

When President Barack Obama, in June 2012, announced the deferred action initiative, offering temporary protection from deportation and a work permit to undocumented youth, Conexión Américas, with support from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, joined with Justice for Our Neighbors and the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition to deliver information to local immigrants. Staff members also were trained to help immigrants fill out forms. Through the summer, and into the fall, Conexión Américas has been working steadily, assisting young people in paperwork and holding informational workshops. The order immediately affects an estimated 5,841 undocumented youth between the ages of 15 and 30 in Tennessee.



More than 39,000 Latino individuals in Middle Tennessee learned about the dangers of drinking and driving through our ¿Manejar Borracho? ¡No Seas Tonto, Muchacho! campaign.

Participants by Top 6 Countries of Origin



- Mexico
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Nicaragua

This chart represents a sample of 629 participants between 2011 and 2012. Other countries of origin represented: United States; Peru; Costa Rica; Ecuador; Venezuela; Argentina and 15 represented as "other" from Latin American countries.



241 Latino parents participated in Parents as Partners at five different schools in Middle Tennessee to learn about, and get involved in, the school system to help their children succeed.

Thirteen Latino families purchased homes in 2011-2012 through our Puertas Abiertas/Open Doors Homeownership Program.

The recent economic crisis has hit the Latino community the hardest. Latino families saw the largest decline in wealth of any racial or ethnic group in the country during the latter half of the last decade: from 2005 to 2009, their median wealth fell by an astounding 66%.

However, Latinos continue to dream: 32 families in 2011 to 2012 completed our homeownership counseling sessions and 30 individuals completed the 8-hour Homebuyer Education Class.



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2011-2012

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Conexión Américas assists Latino families to realize their aspirations for social and economic advancement by promoting their integration into the Middle Tennessee community.

Annual Report 2011-2012



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with a special update on the



Casa
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community center

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