

## ¡Hola, hola!

As I reflect on the past two years, I realize we have accomplished so much. Working with the organization's Board of Directors and colleagues, we reviewed systems and procedures, fundraised, grew our team, and ensured that growth was consistent with the organization's *cultura* and values. 2020 pushed the organization toward one of my main goals: to be even closer to the Latinx community—the heart of Conexión Américas. We faced a devastating tornado, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the urgent need to find our collective societal responsibility in the fight for racial equity, the 2020 election, the Christmas Day bombing, and damaging floods.

“...In the following pages, you'll get a glimpse of the work we did together in this fiscal year, meet our resilient program participants, and the Conexión Américas team who makes it possible.”

As Conexión Américas has done for the past 19 years, we rose to the challenge. Together with local and national partners, we distributed meals, financial assistance, and vaccines. We created a new system to recruit, train, and work with volunteers who contributed 1,132 hours of service to the organization and helped with events ranging from distributing food boxes to immigrant-origin families to translating documents into Spanish. We adapted and strengthened our core programs in a virtual setting and joined with school leaders, teachers, and students to ensure families had the tools, knowledge, and human connection to face the 2020-2021 school year. We took steps to address racial inequality and equity not just in our community, but in our own



organization, learning from community experts in the fields of education, social justice, social work, and voting rights. And, we witnessed history as our country voted to change paths and we began to reimagine our future possibilities.

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As I step down, I do so knowing that the work of the past two years has shown that we have the best team in Tennessee, and that Conexión Américas is financially stable, programmatically strong, and committed to our mission. I will be joining you, as part of the Nashville community, supporting and championing our beloved Conexión Américas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliana".

Juliana Ospina Cano  
Executive Director