“Fostering academic success for every Latino student through parent and community involvement”
The mission of Para Los Niños de Highline (PLN) is to foster academic success for every Latino student through parent and community involvement. From birth and beyond, PLN supports and empowers the entire Latino family through early learning, literacy and other academic skills development, summer enrichment, as well as social justice parent leadership programs. PLN believes that all Latino children are capable of excellence, and we achieve that goal by building culturally relevant programs upon a foundation of love and respect, supported by a community leadership model that recognizes the talents and skills of each individual person. We believe in the inherent value of all Latino children, and help create a world that celebrates the beauty and brilliance of our community.

Para Los Niños de Highline (PLN) serves growing Latino immigrant and refugee children and families from Mexico and Central and South America who speak Spanish and other Indigenous Latin American languages. These families live in South King County, with concentrations in the Highline Public Schools area (Burien, SeaTac, Tukwila).
Growing and celebrating together in 2022

“I don’t like fake people. I always like to help without expecting anything in return. I don’t like injustice; I consider myself a “warrior” woman and want to continue learning in order to improve myself. I study English and computing in PLN at the moment, which I know will be a great benefit to help my family and community since I love being attentive to what my family and community need.”

- Cecilia Morataya, PLN Leader

Watch our Legacy Video
“I came to the United States with many dreams and in order to help my family in Mexico. I am motivated to improve myself for my family, although I have found the language barrier a great challenge, though I do not view it as an obstacle. I like to fight against inequality and injustice. I would like to work in the community to advocate for security, hunger and for more opportunities to exist for equitable and fair lives for all.”

- Maribel Perez Tena, PLN Parent Leader
In 2022, Para Los Niños de Highline supported four individuals to complete their certification in the Community Health Worker Basic Core Competencies program provided by the Washington State Department of Health and Public Health of South and King County. These individuals serve as trusted community leaders within the Latino community and continue providing and advocating for the health needs of the Latino community. One of these graduates started to work at PLN as a community health worker and has been able to expand opportunities for health care access and COVID-19 prevention resources to the Latino community in South King County.

PLN has continued to provide **pop-up vaccine and dental clinics** in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health and Public Health of South and King County. At these clinics we are able to provide families with personal protection equipment like masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes as well as inform them of the latest COVID-19 updates.

We conducted **workshops on COVID-19 prevention and treatment** in community meetings with partners including King County Public Health’s Con Confianza y en Comunidad and connected families to other healthcare partners, including SeaMar. Our list of collaborators continues to grow in 2022 as we were able to work with great organizations like Molina Healthcare and Community Health Plan of Washington.
At PLN we are grateful to be able to serve the families of the Latino and Spanish-speaking community in the Highline area through our Family Resources Office, providing them with information on the different programs that we have at PLN as well as assistance with the needs they have for themselves and their children.

Through this office we have the opportunity to interact closely with families from different cultures, customs, and traditions, which allows us to identify with some shared experiences and learn from others as well.

Speaking Spanish unites and creates empathy so we can better identify and understand our community’s needs and help them feel confident in achieving their objectives. We have also helped families apply for support programs for Latino immigrants.
Para Los Niños de Highline has many strong community partners who collaborate with us to make our programs successful and share our collective vision for uplifting the voice and power of the Latino community, especially our children. One of our emerging partnerships in 2022 was with Public Health Seattle and King County Access and Outreach, who provided a mobile dental van that visited the PLN office every three months on a Saturday to provide dental services for our communities.

We continued working with and deepening our longstanding partnerships with the Highline School District, Highline Community College, City of Burien, Heritage Museum and LATINX Health Board, WAISN and Highline Area Food Bank to provide programs and services. We also refer families to partners in Alimentando El Pueblo, a food resource available for Latinos in South King County, and other PLN partners and programs.

We are building on partnerships with King County Public Health, Latinos Promoting Good Health, SW Youth and Family Services, REMITLY, Seahawks Latin America Booster Club and the White Center Community Development Association to develop information and coordinate outreach strategies to best reach the Latino community.
Our program continues to be very successful as it integrates the learning and development of parents and children. Parents increase their knowledge of the English language while children receive academic, emotional support and find their different skills in arts and crafts through fun activities, taking place in a safe, pleasant and culturally appropriate place.

The program consists of 2 groups of parents and 5 groups of children, both the groups of parents and children are led by trained personnel in a location where Covid-19 safety protocols can be effectively followed.

“What I have found in PLN is support. While parents study, PLN supports us with the children’s homework. In the organization I have studied English, technology and Leadership Academy which has helped me a lot. I want to thank everyone who supports PLN, since that gives us more opportunities to study and overcome obstacles.”

– Maria Pineda, AJ Participant

After 2 years of not carrying out our summer program due to the pandemic, in 2022 we had the opportunity to offer it and it was a complete success. We were able to care for and serve 50 children of different ages and cultures giving them once again the opportunity to interact and have fun together in person. They also were able to develop skills that strengthened their relationship to culture, emotions and academics.
“I got to know PLN when I was in the 2nd grade and enrolled in the Aprendamos Juntos program. While my parents attended English classes the teachers and assistants helped me with my homework. Now I support other children in this same program and participate in the Latinx Youth program. PLN has also had a great impact specifically on my family, as well as on other families, so it is important to support the organization to continue supporting the community.”

– Perla Ocampo, Latinx Youth Program

During 2022 in the Early Learning program, the children had the opportunity to be in person with their classmates engaging in different playful activities where they learned the basic rules of coexistence and developed control of their movements by reinforcing their motor skills. It was wonderful to see the interaction of parents and children in the classroom. Each class reinforces the idea that parents and family caregivers are children’s first teachers. They take home games and tools they can use to stimulate their little ones’ development in safe and fun ways.

Latinx Youth Program

We revamped and expanded activities in our Latinx Youth Program in 2022. As a result, more young people participated. We offered different activities depending on the day of the week. For example, one day we focused on academic support and positive personal growth, and on another day we led community-building, creative art, and games. This has allowed for a stronger bond between youth organizers and youth, leading to a higher attendance rate. The space we provide our youth allows them to feel comfortable and safe, making them excited to come back every week.

Our youth know they have this safe space for any of their questions or concerns to be shared. The biggest accomplishment we always strive to reach is allowing the space for our youth to go from shy to confident beings. It feels as if with every new participant we get, that accomplishment is easier to achieve. Every single one of our students shows some sort of individual growth in each session attended.

Early Learning Program

During 2022 in the Early Learning program, the children had the opportunity to be in person with their classmates engaging in different playful activities where they learned the basic rules of coexistence and developed control of their movements by reinforcing their motor skills. It was wonderful to see the interaction of parents and children in the classroom. Each class reinforces the idea that parents and family caregivers are children’s first teachers. They take home games and tools they can use to stimulate their little ones’ development in safe and fun ways.
PLN Programs

PLN’s Parent Leadership Academy is a year-long investment in the leadership development, confidence, skills, and civic engagement of Latino parents, 90% of whom are women. After an intensive training course, the PLN graduates practice what they have learned by engaging in political advocacy and community organizing activities in the Latino community. PLN supports their leadership growth by helping them integrate into different committees and taking on various leadership roles. 160 immigrant leaders have graduated from our program.

“The biggest challenge that I have had to overcome in this country, apart from the language, is having left my relatives in Mexico and starting a new life from scratch. What motivates me the most to improve myself are my children. What I would like to change is the inequality in terms of educational, health and employment opportunities for the Latino community.”

– Benita Mendoza, PLN Leader

Community Organizing

During 2022 we initiated the Workforce Development Program. We focused on understanding the specific needs of Latinx workers ages 18 - 60 years old. We did this by talking to workers about their current lives and understanding their ambitions within the workforce and encouraged their leadership to empower them as workers and as community leaders. These one on one community member conversations guided the program and will help us plan for the future. The mission of the Workforce Development Program will be to lessen the barriers our community faces in the workforce and to further enrich their lives.
Programming Club is a program where 9th through 12th graders have the opportunity to learn how to program for free. They began by taking our level 1 course and graduated to our level 2 course. After only a year, our number of youth participants as well as class engagement has increased. Our average attendance rate was higher than 80%. To conclude a successful year, our youth had the opportunity to tour Google and build connections with software engineers. Though we provide our youth the opportunity to gain a new skill, the real accomplishment is seeing them develop a genuine career interest in programming. They always came to class excited to learn and grow.

Our computer class for adults is one of the popular programs here at Para Los Niños de Highline. Part of the reason for the popularity of this program is that we have childcare, which makes the class more accessible for adults with children. Our computer classes are divided into two different levels, level one, and level two. We opened our new course in September with twenty-two students, and by the end of 2022 we still had twenty adults attending the program, plus a waiting list of registered students who are interested in joining our program in 2023. Level one students started the course with the most basic material such as getting acquainted with the parts of a computer and learning how to use the mouse and keyboard.

By the end of the year, they knew how to create, send, and reply to emails. This includes special features like attaching images and documents within the emails. Even though level two students already knew a little about the function of Google Docs, we began in September by going more in depth on how to use the different tools that this word processor offers.

Throughout the rest of the year, these students also learned how to create and present material on Google Slides. They also learned how to save documents and images on Google Drive and on a portable USB. This program is addressing inequities and disparities in technology for communities of color.
Since I learned about the programs, I began to socialize with more people. I told them about the programs and training that I attended, took my children to and talked about the benefit they will obtain for their future. I am motivated by wanting to learn and being able to share what I have now learned with the PLN community.

– Marilu Acosta, Health Promotora

Promotoras de Salud

This program trains Latina Community Health Workers to provide multilingual, culturally relevant health and COVID-19 prevention information and resources to low income Latino immigrant families in South King County. We work in partnership with Seattle King County Public Health and other providers to supply Promotoras leaders with ongoing support and training regarding a broad range of healthcare topics, including vaccines, COVID-19, asthma, cancer prevention, oral health, and mental health.

Our Promotoras play a key role as trusted community leaders to educate and support the Latino community to advocate for their needs with healthcare providers to lessen the impacts of health disparities in our community. In 2022 4 health Promotoras completed trainings and certification as Community Health Workers.

“Since I learned about the programs, I began to socialize with more people. I told them about the programs and training that I attended, took my children to and talked about the benefit they will obtain for their future. I am motivated by wanting to learn and being able to share what I have now learned with the PLN community.”

– Marilu Acosta, Health Promotora
After two years of running a virtual event, Para Los Niños de Highline was very excited to have our annual fundraiser gala back in person this year with the theme “Progreso”. It was very special to bring together our PLN families, supporters, community partners and volunteers for a celebration of our work and impact. Our Keynote speaker was the new Highline Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Ivan Duran.

Together, we raised $67,846 to support our programs and services to continue assisting over 1700 Latino households with food assistance, COVID-19 information and vaccines, rental assistance, school, sports, and art supplies, and cultural educational activities through our seven different programs.
We also heard from one of our Para Los Niños de Highline leader’s Concepcion Saaverdra, who was born in the city of Mexico and completed her Bachelors in Business Administration. She worked in public and private institutions for many years. In 2017, Concepcion and her husband Roberto decided to move to the United States so they could give their two children better opportunities. After researching, she found PLN and enrolled her children in the Summer programs where they made new friends and Concepcion had the opportunity to support her community by volunteering.

“I eventually started a volunteer relationship at PLN as an assistant to the instructors. Later I attended the different programs offered by the Organization. As they are: the English classes that are important to be able to communicate everywhere. The Health Promoters program where we contribute to the dissemination of information on preventive health care. Leadership Academy Program where we learn to recognize the needs that we have as individuals and as a community, as well as the way in which we have to organize ourselves and work together to achieve changes and improve our lives. I was a helper in Computer Classes where adults and the elderly learn to use the computer and different programs. I have also had the opportunity to develop personally within PLN by participating as an Instructor in the Aprendamos Juntos class where children develop their abilities and strengthen their skills in order to have a better personal performance.”
Our Finances

PLN is growing every day, serving more families and responding more fully to the community’s strengths and needs. We offer our deepest gratitude to the individuals and foundations who contribute to our success, from PLN families to community allies. We would like to give special recognition to the monthly donors, our Madrinas and Padrinos! Thank you, we depend on your support to do our work.

**Funding Sources**

- Individual: 21.4%
- Special Events: 3.5%
- Government: 4.8%
- Foundation: 70.3%

**PLN 2022 Expenses**

- Management: 6%
- Promotores/CHW: 8%
- Early Learning: 5%
- Computer Lab: 5%
- Summer Programs: 8%
- High School Youth: 14%
- Leadership Program: 20%
- Fundraising: 27%
- Aprendamos Juntos: 7%

**Salary Increase Over the Years**

- 2017: $705,136
- 2018: $801,321
- 2019: $818,530
- 2020: $1,280,361
- 2021: $1,296,282
- 2022: $1,578,335

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**2022 Total Income**

$1,331,467

**2022 Total Expenses**

$1,205,734
Thank you PLN Funders
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