“Educating children and youth and strengthen families in a bilingual, multicultural environment.”

Dear CentroNía Family,

This year, CentroNía celebrated 30 years of providing high-quality, bilingual early childhood education and supportive services to low-income children and their families in the Washington, D.C. region. Founded in 1986, CentroNía’s mission and values were established in response to the lack of affordable and accessible quality childcare for low-income, working immigrant families in the region. Over the years we have stayed true to serving vulnerable communities, CentroNía currently provides education and support services to more than 2,400 low-income, working families and their children across DC and Maryland. Every day we give thanks to our donors, dedicated supporters, alumni, volunteers, and committed staff for making it possible for us to create a safe place where children and families from all backgrounds can learn and grow together.

We are happy to share with you some of the recent accomplishments made possible because of supporters like you. Please, take a moment to reflect on the impact YOU can have in the lives of our city’s earliest learners.

• In an effort to support young mothers at Cardozo Education Campus, CentroNía opened a center inside the school to provide early childhood education services to students in need of support while they complete high school.

• CentroNía launched a new catering service, NíaCentral Catering, which currently provides nine childcare centers with healthy, delicious meals so every child has the nutrition they need to learn and develop.

• At CentroNía’s 30th Anniversary Gala, together we celebrated three decades of educating children and strengthening families in a multicultural and bilingual environment alongside old and new friends. During the event, we enjoyed great food, lively conversation, an incredible performance by Samantha Rios and our families, and danced a conga line led by NBC4’s Erika Gonzalez through the room while enjoying the beats of Batala.

With your love and support, CentroNía will continue to be an anchor for low-income, working families in our region. Access to affordable early childhood education and support services continues to be a challenge, and we are committed to working with city and government officials to find ways to expand our services to meet growing demands. In doing so, we will always be a space where ALL children and families are welcome and given the equal opportunity to learn and grow together.

THANK YOU for being champions in the education of our children and their families!

Sincerely,

Myrna Peralta, CentroNía President & CEO
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CENTRONÍA IN NUMBERS: Measuring Your Impact

81% of children identified a primary language other than English.

16,480 free, healthy meals and snacks were served to children enrolled at CentroNia and partnering centers.

More than 2,400 children & families were reached through programs and community events held by CentroNia.

More than 3,621 home visits were made via Early Head Start programs in MD and DC.

More than 532 early learners (0-5 years)

More than 380 students (6-17 years)

4 CentroNia locations in DC & Maryland

819 children identified a primary language other than English.

3,000 books were donated to families to help build their home libraries.

Other - African

Amharic

Spanish

English
CentroNíia was a participant of the second cohort of the Measure4Change program, an initiative from the World Bank Group and the Urban Institute designed to improve the performance measurement capacity of non-profit organizations in the Washington, DC, area by providing technical assistance, grant funding, a community of practice, and knowledge briefs. This program helped CentroNíia improve its ability to measure its program effectiveness.

From February 2016 – December 2017, CentroNíia received $70,000 to implement new software, provide training to all teachers in the Early Childhood Education Program, and fund part of the Outcomes Department. The Outcomes Department has been in charge of the implementation of new software like the Child Outcome Planning and Administration (COPA) performance measurement system, which has improved the organization’s ability to produce real-time demographics, attendance, enrollment, and assessment reports. The grant support also allowed CentroNíia to invest in teachers’ professional development through trainings on observational data collection, communicating child’s progress using data, and using this data to individualize instruction. This year, 27 teachers will receive a tablet to easily collect educational assessment data, which will be used in intentional lesson planning to support children’s progress toward school readiness goals.

For many years one of CentroNíia’s biggest challenges has been the required change in organizational culture toward data use as a resource. The technical assistance, trainings, and increased availability of data for teachers and other users have shifted the culture toward one of understanding the usefulness and value in data to support children’s growth and development in staff across all levels of the organization. The community of practice provided opportunities to learn from subject-matter-experts about performance measurement and evaluation topics such as quantitative and qualitative data analysis, visualizations, data walks, organizational culture, survey-design, and target setting. The community of practice also provided valuable networking opportunities with organizations facing similar performance measurement related challenges.

“Thank you World Bank Group and Urban Institute for their invaluable support in improving CentroNíia’s performance measurement capacity through better data use for continuous quality improvement,” says CentroNíia Outcomes Manager “This initiative enabled CentroNíia to implement new data collection skills and software allowing staff and teachers to identify the needs of participants and respond through intentional lesson plans and activities to achieve developmental milestones.”
Meet A CentroNía Family
Miriam & Wood

“As parents our main goal is to give our daughters the necessary tools to accomplish more than we have. Giving them a high-quality early childhood education is already a great start and we could not be more grateful for that!”
When Wood and his wife Miriam became parents, their main priority was to find a place where their newborn daughter could safely learn and grow while they were growing their careers. As immigrants and a working family, providing a high-quality and safe early childhood education for their daughter was really important for them.

One day while walking around the neighborhood, Miriam saw CentroNía’s sign and her curiosity led her inside to gather more information. After talking to the CentroNía Admissions Office, Miriam submitted an application for her 1½ year old daughter Jauline to enroll in CentroNía’s early childhood education program in Takoma Park, Maryland. A month later she received “the ‘yes’ that changed their family’s life.” Her daughter received a spot in CentroNía’s Early Head Start home-visiting program, which enhances the development of infants and toddlers while strengthening families through visits to the participants’ homes and group socialization activities. The home-visiting program implements instructional activities including indoor and outdoor experiences that promote and support emerging communication skills, creative arts, social emotional and physical development and positive approaches to learning. This was a great start for their family and her daughter’s education, but her goal was for Jauline to transition into the full-time center-based program to learn and grow everyday with her peers. After six months in the home-visiting program, Jauline turned two and was eligible to transition into a classroom. Today, she is now a bright, happy 4-year-old enrolled in CentroNía’s Pre-K program.

“I never wanted my kids to stay at home and just watch TV all day. My goal was for them to be in a place where they could interact with other children and learn even at an early age.” says Miriam.

One day while walking around the neighborhood, Miriam saw CentroNía’s sign and her curiosity led her inside to gather more information. After talking to the CentroNía Admissions Office, Miriam submitted an application for her 1½ year old daughter Jauline to enroll in CentroNía’s early childhood education program in Takoma Park, Maryland. A month later she received “the ‘yes’ that changed their family’s life.” Her daughter received a spot in CentroNía’s Early Head Start home-visiting program, which enhances the development of infants and toddlers while strengthening families through visits to the participants’ homes and group socialization activities. The home-visiting program implements instructional activities including indoor and outdoor experiences that promote and support emerging communication skills, creative arts, social emotional and physical development and positive approaches to learning. This was a great start for their family and her daughter’s education, but her goal was for Jauline to transition into the full-time center-based program to learn and grow everyday with her peers. After six months in the home-visiting program, Jauline turned two and was eligible to transition into a classroom. Today, she is now a bright, happy 4-year-old enrolled in CentroNía’s Pre-K program.

“CentroNía gave us everything my daughter needed and they taught her things my wife and I could not,” says Wood. “At 4 she is fully bilingual and knows how to differentiate both languages impressively. She knows how to count and it’s really good with directions. She knows things my wife and I didn’t learn until we were much older.” He adds.
Wood shared how his experience at CentroNia shaped his values as a father and community member. Based on his upbringing, Wood believed a father’s only role was to provide for his family while the mother was responsible for their children’s growth and education. He remembers asking his dad questions and his father’s answer repeatedly would be “go ask your mother”. His father was never engaged in his education and when he first became a father he did not envision raising his daughter any differently. CentroNia changed his thinking. A Family Support Worker invited him to attend the workshops available for parents at the center. After attending several of the trainings, he began to greatly value the importance of family engagement in the success of his daughter’s education.

Today, Wood and Miriam are actively involved in the CentroNia community. Wood serves on the Early Head Start Policy Council and as a liaison between parents and board members on CentroNia’s Board of Directors. He is grateful to have such an important role in the decision making process especially since now he understands more about Early Childhood Education and its role in shaping early learners. Wood and Miriam are hoping their younger daughter Angelica will soon be enrolled at CentroNia as well.

“As parents our main goal is to give our daughters the necessary tools to accomplish more than we have. Giving them a high-quality early childhood education is already a great start and we could not be more grateful for that!”
This spring, ten students enrolled in tutoring as part of CentroNía’s Studio R.O.C.K.S. program had the opportunity to participate in the Peace, Justice, and Inclusion Project in partnership with American University and DC Reads. The Peace, Justice, and Inclusion Project is a pilot program initiated by two master’s students from American University as part of the “Pay It Forward” grant from SIS International Peace Day Competition. The program brought together 24 elementary school students, 24 high school students, and 24 college students to participate in three workshops led by professors from American University. For CentroNía’s students, this was a unique opportunity to meet with peers from various age groups and backgrounds.

The workshops focused specifically on the dynamics of conflict and promoting peacemaking in our homes, schools, and communities. It gave a glimpse into many organizations working hard to inspire peace across the globe. Students also learned about human rights, ethics, and causes people advocate for around the world. For example, one of CentroNía’s students discovered her interest in protecting the environment and helped create better recycling programs in her community.

“This was a unique opportunity for me” says Kayla. “Through this project I was exposed to new ideas and activities. We got to learn about peace and how to be peace makers in our community” she adds.

In addition to being exposed to a college experience at a young age, the Peace Justice and Inclusion Project also gave CentroNía students the chance to visit New York, many for the first time. During the trip, students and chaperones were given tours of the United Nations and visited UNICEF where they learned about their efforts to make peace and provide resources to developing countries around the world. At UNICEF the students heard from three employees about their work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They received an overview on the 17 goals and focused specifically on the fourth goal of quality education and how different education systems look around the world. At night, the students boarded a tour bus to see the lights of Manhattan and learn about the city. Although the rain was relentless, the students enjoyed sitting on the top level of the double-decker bus and taking pictures of the skyscrapers.

CentroNía is grateful to our partners from American University and DC Reads for inviting our students to be a part of this experience. This project allowed them to practice public speaking skills, engage in research, and raise their voice for important causes in their lives.
CentroNía
30TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA
At CentroNia’s 30th Anniversary Gala, we celebrated three decades of educating children and families in a multicultural and bilingual environment alongside old and new friends. We are grateful for those who attended in support of our programs and especially to the generous sponsors and benefactors for the evening. **To those who have contributed their time, talent, and treasure over the years, YOU made this milestone one to remember for years to come!**

During the event, we enjoyed great food, lively conversation, an incredible performance by Samantha Rios and our families, and danced a conga line led by NBC4’s Erika Gonzalez through the room while enjoying the beats of Batala. You created a colorful mural that will proudly adorn our walls, created a mad lib unique to a day at CentroNia, helped stock the shelves of our library, and smiled pretty in our photo booth—all while raising critical funds in support of CentroNia’s high-quality and affordable early childhood education.

CentroNia benefits the children who participate in its programs by setting them on a strong trajectory that ensures they develop a lifelong love for learning. We heard this first hand last night from two of our alumni, Yonis Benitez and Rexanah Wyse. Both of whom enrolled in CentroNia more than 25 years ago during critical times in their lives and credit CentroNia for preparing them to achieve academically and instrumental in their many successes today.

**We hope CentroNia’s 30th Anniversary Gala ignited a fire inside YOU to re-commit yourself to supporting our city’s low-income, working families through high-quality and affordable early childhood education. As we heard repeatedly at the Gala, an investment in early childhood education is an investment in our future.**
For complete audited Form 990s, please visit our Guidestar page: https://bit.ly/2q5McHk
Donate
With your donation, no matter the size, you ensure children, and families in the Washington, DC area have opportunities on a local level. Whether you’re a believer in bilingual education, a caregiver for your community, or a dedicated dreamer, your donation makes this mission a reality.

Volunteer
Every year hundreds of volunteers visit CentroNia and change the lives of our children and families through weekly tutoring sessions, art projects, one-time intensive projects with our facilities team, and everything in between. Time spent and talent shared makes an enormous impact at CentroNia.

In-kind Drives
Receiving critical items through donations allows CentroNia to keep its operating budget as low as possible. From stocking classrooms with diapers and wipes or filling our library’s shelves with bilingual books, in-kind donations make a difference! All donated items are distributed free of charge to the children and families in our community.

Attend Upcoming Events
CentroNia will host events throughout the year that give supporters and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Whether you attend a fundraising happy hour or join us for a special volunteer day, YOU can make a difference for our community! Visit www.centronia.org/events to learn more about future events.
THANK YOU CENTRONÍA FAMILY!

We are so grateful to all our generous supporters! Although a great deal of care has gone into ensuring the accuracy of this donor list, there may be some errors. We apologize for any omissions, misspellings, or other mistakes and welcome your corrections and suggestions.

Individuals

Kate Akalonu
Eduwiges Arciniega
Phyllis Armstrong
Emily Back
Lauren Bailey
Marion Ballard
Maria Baquero
Judy Bauer
Chuck Bean
Yonis Benitez
Fani Cyd & Robert Bettmann
Helen Blank
Abigail Bluestone
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta
Celeste Boykin
Carole Brown
Mannone Butler
Albert Caputo
William Chase
Christine Chase
Jenny Chen
Gerry Clancy
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Louis Cohen
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Gretchen Ellsworth
Juan Estrada
Carlos Estrada
Elizabeth Falk
Jorge Feix
Agustin Ferman
Alexandra Fernandez
Tamar Fishman
Timothy Foley
Nancy Folger
Nicole & Michael Fox
Carolann Fraenkel
Carmen Fraenkel
Alan Freeman
Mary Gabay
Alan Gambrell
Julia Garcia
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Caroline Gaudet
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John Hauge
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Joangelee Hernandez
Eric Hershberg
John Hill
Robert Hirsch
Julius Hobson
Carmen Howell
Julia Howell-Barros
Lynne Hundley
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Nanette Paris
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Antonio Peralta
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Susan Reddish
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World Bank Community Connections Fund
“Educating children and youth and strengthening families in a bilingual, multicultural environment.”