Dear CentroNía Family,

Founded in 1986, CentroNía was founded in response to the lack of affordable and accessible quality childcare for low-income, working immigrant families in the region. Today, CentroNía 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 CentroNía’s accomplishments made possible because of supporters like you.

- CentroNía published the *Theatrical Journey Playbook: Introducing Science to Early Learners through Guided Pretend Play* which introduces early learners (ages 3-5) to science themes through hands-on, multi-sensory guided pretend play called “journeys.” The book includes theoretical foundations, methodology, materials, techniques, rubrics, references, and 23 journey scripts.
- We are excited to share we saw significant gains in pre- and post- testing of school readiness goals for Pre-K early learners (ages 3-5) during the 2017-2018 school year. Most impressive of this data was an incredible 295% growth for early learners who met or exceeded proficiency in the ‘Literacy’ category.
- CentroNía partnered with Taquería Local, a new restaurant located at 1627 K Street NW. As part of the partnership, the restaurant donates a percentage of its yearly profits and provides discounted meals for staff events. Executive Chef Giovanni Orellana was a parent at CentroNía previously so this partnership is his way of giving back to his community.
- The first annual ¡Buen Provecho! A Taste of Columbia Heights welcomed more than 200 guests to the Columbia Heights neighborhood where more than 12 local restaurants welcomed attendees to sample signature dishes and drinks at their businesses. The event raise more than $20,000 for the CentroNía community.

CentroNía will continue to be an anchor for low-income, working families in our region. We are committed to working with city and government officials and donors 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

The early learners at CentroNía are...

Female, 46%
No Response, .4%
Male, 54%

Pre-K growth toward school readiness goals for 2017-2018 school year

Social Emotional 81% to 97%
Physical 75% to 87%
Language 60% to 95%
Literacy 22% to 87%

What languages do our families speak at home?

- Spanish, 54%
- English, 19%
- Amharic, 15%
- Not Reported, 10%
- Other, 2%

613,087 healthy meals served.
CentroNía is excited to announce a partnership with Taqueria Local, a new restaurant located at 1627 K Street NW. The fast-casual eatery includes a delicious lineup of tacos, tostadas, burritos, salads, sides, soups, and desserts.

Partners Arman Amirshahi and Antonis Karagounis have joined forces with their longtime chef Giovanni Orellana to run Taqueria’s kitchen. For Chef Giovanni Orellana, a native of El Salvador, owning his own restaurant was his dream since he began working in a kitchen. His most significant professional desire was to create a restaurant that shares easy to eat, homemade food that brings people together.

Giovanni was a parent at CentroNía where his son completed CentroNía’s Early Child Education program. As a way to give back to his community, Taqueria Local will donate 1% of their yearly revenue and additional support throughout the year to the children and families of CentroNía. CentroNía is so grateful to Giovanni and his partners for inviting CentroNía to be a recipient of their generous contribution. Next time you find yourselves around downtown DC make sure to stop by and check out their delicious menu and while you enjoy your meal remember that you are impacting the lives of the children and families at CentroNía!

“It feels amazing knowing that I will be able to give back to a community that has given me so much,” says Giovanni Orellana, “I sent my son to CentroNía for six years, so I know the incredible impact they have. Cooking food I love and sharing part of this success with them means the world to me.”
Meet A CentroNía Family
Nicole & Ismael
Nicole and Ismael are high school sweethearts with a beautiful family of 8—which grew from six with the birth of their twins Kalimah & Safiyah, who are now two-and-half years old. When their older children were born, they decided that Nicole would stay home to care for them. Now with a larger family, Nicole wanted to work to keep up with household expenses. When Kalimah and Safiyah were born, Nicole and Ismael began their search for a place where their children could learn and grow while they were at work. Their search led them to CentroNía.

When their children were accepted into the program, Nicole and Ismael believe their family has been blessed. Having grown up in Columbia Heights and as a family from different cultural backgrounds, it was important for Nicole and Ismael that her children learn and develop in a diverse, multicultural environment. CentroNía is the perfect place for their twins and they are excited to see them growing more and more each day.

Kalimah and Safiyah were very shy on their first day at CentroNía. Today, the twins interact with fellow early learners and easily make new friends. Nicole and Ismael were very impressed to see that both of them could recite numbers one through ten in both English and Spanish. The twins also love to sing and read with their teachers (and at home).

“A lot of our families and friends had enrolled their children in CentroNía and everyone said wonderful things about the program,” Nicole said.
Nicole and Ismael are very appreciative of the love and support the children have received from their teachers and staff at CentroNia. In fact they have now decided to be active participants in the community and volunteer for events and activities held in the classroom and CentroNia Family Center. Nicole currently leads the CentroNia Family Book Club where families read stories, share quality time together doing art or activities, and have a chance to meet other CentroNia families!

They are excited to see their daughters complete their time at CentroNia and know that they will be ready for their next educational chapter. At the same time, Nicole and Ismael have decided to go back to school and complete their Bachelor’s degree.

“This wouldn’t have been possible if my children didn’t have a place where they can learn while my wife and I work,” Ismael shared. “The fact that my wife is able to work is allowing us to not only provide for our children but also invest in our careers.”

(Pictured below) Ismael with his daughter at CentroNia’s Family Book Club, a program that fosters early literacy at home by inspiring families to read at home and build their home libraries.
While most families come to CentroNia in need of high-quality early childhood education for their children, when they arrive they find much more. Sebawit and her two children, Efrata and Faith, walked into CentroNia with the hope of finding a welcoming, high-quality child care center. She wanted to find a place where she was confident in the teachers and that her children would thrive. As an immigrant and single mother, she also found the support she needed to establish herself and find a career that could sustain her and her children.

Sebawit was born in Ethiopia and was one of six siblings. At CentroNia, she immediately felt a familiar sense of family among the staff and teachers. Because Sebawit was new to the U.S. and D.C., she was connected to CentroNia’s Family Center to seek community resources and support. Little did she know this referral would change the course of her life. Sebawit enrolled in CentroNia’s Child Development Associate (CDA) Training program. While taking classes, she also joined CentroNia as a part-time teacher for infants and toddlers in order to earn the required instructional hours to receive her CDA certification. At this time, Sebawit’s passion for educating young children blossomed and she envisioned a clear path for her future career.

After receiving the CDA certification, Sebawit then went on to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Development. Now she is part of an exciting new project at CentroNia. The greater Washington area has the country’s largest concentration of Ethiopians, with 35,000 residents, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Knowing this, CentroNia started the first CDA Training Program taught entirely in Amharic and Sebawit will be instructing the 25-30 CDA candidates expected to enroll.

“I learned so much about the theories of child development and teaching from my instructors. Esteban Morales, Heriberto Velasquez, and Rosa Moraes became my mentors and helped me succeed in the class,” Sebawit said.
For Sebawit, this opportunity to return to CentroNía was very exciting. She believes the impact this will have on Amharic speaking immigrants working in the childcare industry is even more groundbreaking. Previously, courses were only available in English and Spanish so those who spoke Amharic were forced to take it in a language they did not completely understand. Candidates also had to take the certification exam in English, which proved to be a barrier for many aspiring educators. Through partnerships with the DC Office of the State Superintendent and the Council for Professional Recognition, CentroNía is now able to offer the course in Amharic for the first time AND they will be able to take the exam in Amharic.

This opportunity gives Sebawit hope for the future of Amharic-speakers seeking a career in ECE. As an instructor and mentor, Sebawit now positively impacts the lives of many more children and families. In the Fall of 2018, she began coursework at the University of the District of Columbia to complete a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. With the advice and support from CentroNía’s Family Center, Sebawit is grateful and happy to be where she is today—personally and professionally.

“The energy at CentroNía is so positive and I can’t wait to be back here doing what I love,” said Sebawit. “CentroNía is a multicultural center and this new CDA course in Amharic is a testament to their commitment to ALL children and families. This is about everybody thriving.”
CentroNía's First Annual
¡BUEN PROVECHO!
A TASTE OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
On October 18, 2017, CentroNía hosted the first ¡Buen Provecho! A Taste of Columbia Heights, where nearly 200 friends enjoyed a three-hour self-guided tasting tour of Columbia Heights restaurants. It was an incredible evening of fun, delicious food, exploring and tasting! In partnership with District Bridges, CentroNía brought together 13 restaurants and businesses along 14th Street, Irving Street, Park Road, and the 11th Street corridor in Columbia Heights to showcase delicious food and drinks.

Thanks to the support of sponsors, partners, and participants, CentroNía sold out the event and raised more than $20,000 in support of CentroNía’s high-quality, affordable early childhood education programs and support services for low-income, working families.

At the event, all attendees visited participating restaurants for tastes of select food and/or drinks from their menu. Restaurants included: &pizza, The Coupe, El Tío Tex-Mex Grill, The Good Silver, Letena Ethiopian Restaurant, Los Hermanos, Lou’s City Bar, NíaCentral Catering, Willow, Odd Provisions, RedRocks Columbia Heights, Tynan Coffee & Tea, and The Wonderland Ballroom where we celebrated the success of the evening with a VIP After Party featuring local talent Monadisa and the Mad Hatters.

We are grateful to everyone that joined us in celebrating CentroNía’s first home, Columbia Heights. Thank you to all of the sponsors, benefactors, partners, restaurants, volunteers, and patrons who made this event such a success!

We hope CentroNía’s ¡Buen Provecho! 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 tasting, an investment in early childhood education is an investment in our future.
FINANCIALS
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Revenues

- 70.1%, Government Grants & Contract Revenue
- 6% , In-kind Contributions
- 4%, Catering Service Fees
- 7.4%, Parent Fees
- 4.7%, Net investment gains
- 6.3%, Rental Income
- 18.6%, General & Administrative

Expenses

- 80%, Program Services
- 1.4%, Fundraising
- 6% , Grants & Contributions
- 6.3% , Rental Income
- 4.7% , Net investment gains
- 70.1% , Government Grants & Contract Revenue

For complete audited Form 990s, please visit our Guidestar page: https://bit.ly/2GWmiPH
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.

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