



ANNUAL
REPORT
2015



PROVEN SUCCESS

*Investing in our families
and communities*



MISSION

To promote a just and inclusive society by strengthening low-income, primarily Latino families through skill building, access to critical resources, advocacy and collaborative action.

CORE VALUES

Affirm the dignity and capacity of all persons to reach their fullest potential

Strengthen the voice of the disenfranchised

Embody a spirit of service and respect

Promote social change by forging creative solutions

Dear Friends:

We can't say enough about the proven success Erie Neighborhood House has achieved over our 146-year history—success that has resulted in stronger, more vibrant communities across the city of Chicago. Because of Erie House, thousands upon thousands of immigrants have received access to the vital support and resources they need to thrive as individuals and provide a better life for their families.

As you reflect on the past year with us, you will find proof of this continued success. Our innovative, award-winning programs educated children, empowered adults, and supported the wellbeing of the entire family, creating opportunities to learn and lead for more than 5,000 individuals.

This level of success doesn't happen by chance. **It's the result of an inspired vision—to work for a more just, inclusive society—that has been carried out through hard work across generations.** Time and time again, we have met challenges with perseverance; social issues with creative solutions; and injustice and oppression with empowerment. This year was no different.

No doubt challenges will continue to arise, and we understand that now is not a time we can rest on our laurels. But we are also able to approach whatever comes our way with confidence, grounded in a track record of proven success that will continue to change the lives of our participants for generations to come.

We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge Celena Roldán and John DeCarrier, who transitioned out of their respective roles as executive director and board president this past year. Their leadership served to strengthen the vision of Erie House and expand our impact in the neighborhoods we serve.

On behalf of the entire Erie House family, I want to thank you for the role you have played in bringing this vision into focus; by investing in our families and communities, **you are making a real, sustainable impact in Chicago's immigrant community and beyond.**



Patricia Perez
President
Board of Directors



Kirstin Chernawsky
Executive Director



TO CELEBRATE CELENA'S LEGACY AND GET TO KNOW KIRSTIN,
PLEASE VISIT [Eriehouse.org/AnnualReport](https://eriehouse.org/AnnualReport)

11 CORE PROGRAMS

benefiting

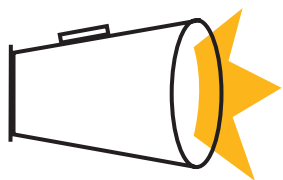
ADULTS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES



COMMUNITIES

West Town • Humboldt Park
Little Village

When we invest in the lives of individuals and families, we're investing in something that is much, much bigger. The return on providing access to education, employment opportunities and other resources is a safer, healthier, more vibrant community. We're proud to say our impact can be observed in each of the 5,000 participants we serve annually in Chicago's West Town, Humboldt Park and Little Village neighborhoods—and beyond.



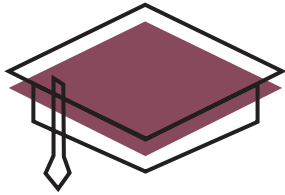
ADVOCACY

Leadership Development
Community Organizing • Strategic Partnerships
Voter Registration

We seek to empower our participants with a voice themselves, because we know that if we want to see true social transformation, those impacted—children, adults and families—must also have a place at the table, working for change. Voter registration drives, call-in campaigns, partnerships with other organizations, public rallies and demonstrations all serve to enlist members of our community in the day-to-day work of democracy.



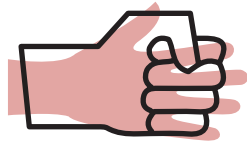
Real, meaningful, sustainable impact



EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education • School-Age
YOU • Health & Leadership • Proyecto Cuidate

Education has been at the heart of our mission from day one. At Erie House, education ranges from childcare and afterschool programs for kids ages 2-18 to technology, English as a Second Language (ESL) and job skills training for adults. We're also engaged in teaching children and families about healthy living, walking alongside youth as they aspire to graduate from high school and earn a college degree, showing them how to believe in themselves and equipping parents with skills vital to raising their children.



EMPOWERMENT

Buen HOGAR • English as a Second Language
Community Literacy • Technology
Citizenship & Immigration
Workforce Development

Our participants are resilient, and we tap into this asset by equipping them with the tools necessary to achieve a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. Whether we're providing participants with access to affordable housing, skills to advance their careers or assistance navigating our country's immigration system, our hope is to do whatever we can to enable them to thrive.



SUCCESS STORIES

HIGHLIGHTS



Maria Jesus Alonso

Maria Jesus Alonso, or Maja, as her friends call her, moved to Chicago on a fiancée visa last year from Malaga, Spain. Adapting to a new culture and language—coupled with being a newlywed with a teenage daughter—has proved difficult, but things started looking up when she found Erie House.

Maja was paired with Barbara Reed, a volunteer tutor in the Community Literacy program at Erie House. “My English is growing with Barbara as my teacher,” Maja says following a group tutoring session. “She is very intuitive and adapts to my needs as a student.”

She has already improved from Level 2 to Level 3 on the Basic English Skills Test and is gaining confidence as a result. Still awaiting her green card, Maja volunteers at Erie House to help others who are learning English as well. “I am a person who needs to do lots of things,” she explains. “When I have the opportunity to work, I will have the skills necessary to succeed,” she says.

Leo Martinez

Whenever we educate and empower someone, it warms our hearts. But we really know that our vision is coming into focus when this impact comes full circle, as it has with Leo Martinez.

Now a TEAM mentor, Leo and his two sisters grew up down the street and spent their childhood at Erie House. “We’ve been involved for as long as I can remember,” he says. He participated in the TEAM program while in high school, and was determined to give back to Erie House after graduating from Indiana University.

He began volunteering with TEAM four years ago and finds mentoring youth a challenge at times, but always rewarding. “Once you do make that breakthrough and gain their trust, they start believing in their own potential,” observes Leo. “That’s where we can make a difference.”

Leo is also a difference maker as an Erie Associate Board member. For Leo, the role has been meaningful. “We’re ambassadors,” he says with pride. “We’re spreading awareness of who Erie House is and the services it provides.”





Elizabeth Yelen

When Elizabeth Yelen first came to Erie House for clinical experience while engaged in PhD studies, she immediately knew she had found something special. “To be part of something which allows kids the opportunity to receive mental health services...is just incredibly powerful,” says Yelen, citing the shortage of treatment available to low-income families. Erie House was confronting that reality, and Yelen saw the potential for change.

That was in 1998. Eighteen years later, she is still providing this valuable service to the Erie House community. Dr. Yelen oversees a clinical program that includes a team of masters-level students, addressing the socio-emotional needs of more than 100 children and youth annually.

“The overarching goal is to help our kids feel safer and stronger in the world,” she says. In spite of threatening factors such as immigration issues, violence and poverty, she observes the tremendous impact therapy can have in the life of a child. “The word I like is ‘transform.’ Through therapy, they become healthier people, they feel safer, they feel more confident, their self-esteem is more developed. It’s all about transformation.”

Ed Wehmer

As president and CEO of Wintrust, Ed Wehmer is responsible for the wellbeing of a company holding more than \$23 billion in assets. His role extends well beyond the bottom line, though:

“We’re a company that was built for this area—by people who are from this area—so we believe in supporting organizations and efforts that help make it a better place,” says Wehmer, sounding as much like George Bailey in *It’s a Wonderful Life* as he does the head of Chicagoland’s second largest regional bank. “This is our home.”

Wintrust has demonstrated this commitment through civic engagement in addition to showing generosity to community organizations, including Erie House.

“Erie House’s approach to providing support for the entire family unit is something we find especially appealing,” explains Wehmer. “The resources the organization provides work to level the playing field for families who may not have started out with all the essential tools at their disposal.”

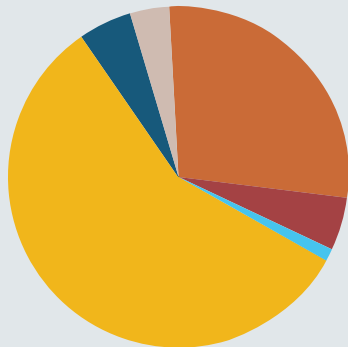
Visit our online feature to learn about the award Ed received at the 2016 Future of Promise dinner.



**TO READ MORE, PLEASE VISIT
Eriehouse.org/AnnualReport**

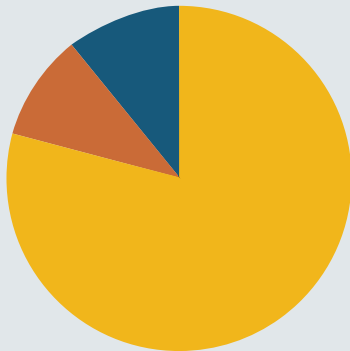
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

WHERE FUNDS COME FROM



- 57% Government
- 28% Private Contributions
- 5% Program Service Fees
- 5% Special Events
- 4% Other Sources
- 1% United Way

HOW FUNDS ARE USED



- 78% Program
- 12% Fundraising
- 10% Management & General

Complete Fiscal Year 2015 audited financial statements are available at www.eriehouse.org/donate

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2015 & JUNE 30, 2014

REVENUE	2015	2014
Private Sources		
Foundation, Corporations and Trusts	\$ 857,104	\$ 791,912
Individuals & Board	1,664,235	105,949
Congregations	39,980	23,465
Special Events	461,145	401,981
Donated Goods & Services	336,872	287,249
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	100,000	100,000
Government Fees/Grants	5,143,801	5,189,567
Program Income and Program Fees	460,090	425,845
Interest and Dividends	95,602	80,891
Unrealized and Realized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(111,993)	343,424
Miscellaneous Income	2,877	14,329
Total Revenue	\$ 9,049,713	\$ 7,764,612

EXPENSES

Program Services		
Child Care	\$ 3,087,055	\$ 2,989,144
After School	781,043	757,142
Youth	448,859	435,123
Adult	1,089,406	1,056,068
Workforce	533,277	516,958
Health, Leadership & Advocacy	185,727	180,043
Total Program Cost	\$ 6,125,367	\$ 5,934,448
Supporting Services	-	-
Management & General	790,504	760,831
Fundraising	932,614	912,997
Total Expenses	\$ 7,848,485	\$ 7,608,306

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

	\$ 1,201,228	156,306
Net assets – beginning of year	\$ 5,046,367	\$ 4,890,061
Net assets – end of year	\$ 6,247,595	\$ 5,046,367

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2015 & JUNE 30, 2014

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash/ Cash Equivalents	\$ 817,368	\$ 824,285
Investments	2,652,453	2,747,182
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	1,669,776	137,140
Due from Government Agencies	777,690	952,349
Prepaid Expenses	33,936	19,116
Property and Equipment, Net	1,117,423	1,176,303
Total Assets	\$ 7,068,646	\$ 5,856,375

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 151,532	\$ 205,487
Accrued Expenses	189,149	193,476
Deferred Revenue	276,275	48,164
Fiscal Agent Liabilities	5,095	128,090
Line of Credit	199,000	234,791
Total Liabilities	\$ 821,051	\$ 810,008

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 4,061,634	\$ 4,143,914
Temporarily Restricted	1,685,961	402,453
Permanently Restricted	500,000	500,000
Total Net Assets	6,247,595	5,046,367
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,068,646	\$ 5,856,375

THE CONTRIBUTORS

who keep us going

We extend our appreciation to the friends and organizations that support Erie Neighborhood House through generous gifts. They have played a significant role in transforming Erie Neighborhood House from modest beginnings 146 years ago to a first-class organization.

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1701 W. Superior St.
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