



VISIT MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCIÓN AT ONE OF OUR LOCATIONS

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Together

MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCIÓN'S
2020-2021 IMPACT & ANNUAL REPORT



Mujeres Latinas en Acción (Mujeres) has persevered through a time of major shifts in service delivery. 2021 was a year of uncertainty, changes, and hope. In these extraordinary times, there were constants; Mujeres' commitment to the community; the processing of personal grief and struggle; and the long-time support from donors like you—who are there with us each step of the way. What keeps staff and volunteers united and strong is the vision for a thriving community. *Juntos* doesn't just mean together, it is the driving force that keeps us going.



Together in the struggle...

At least 84% of Latina/o/x domestic violence survivors report having difficulty seeking justice - with 39% reporting they fear seeking legal help - due to their immigration status. Over 18% of Latina/o/x survivors said they had trouble accessing advocacy or court services because services were not offered in their language. (SOURCE: Chicago Appleseed)

Mixed status families have been through a lot. There are challenges to helping them understand what assistance programs they do and don't qualify for and how to access them. It is rewarding when despite it all, they find the strength to move forward. They are the ones that are lifting themselves up. Mujeres is just a small, important part of it.

Crystal, Citizenship Advocate

We went through a period of time where I was so overwhelmed. I reached out to my coworker and left a message. I guess they heard in my tone that I wasn't well and she called me right away and said "You're not wrong. It's going to be alright, you got this." It was so important to hear those words in that moment...

Connie, Counselor

Approximately 49.5% of immigrant women experience abuse, almost three times the national average. (SOURCE: National Organization for Women)

I needed to focus differently with tele-counseling services. It sometimes felt like the effort to meet the need was doubled, even tripled... My supervisors were there for me. When I started to feel burned-out, they asked, "how can we help? What do you need?" And their sincerity really helped...

Lorena, Counselor

My clients are children... so much of my work took on skill-building, to get organized for their Zoom classes and create routines. I also work with their parents. The work took on a deeper dimension. Parents were struggling with losses of jobs, struggling to find food... it all became so important, I felt the weight of what families were going through...

Maria, Therapist

Mujeres' data captured the toll of gender-based violence and the pandemic's impact on entire families across Chicagoland. Our Domestic Violence Program served 757 adults in individual counseling, close to 400 of which were Latino/a/x immigrants with no health insurance.

The pandemic shifted people's priorities to make sure their basic health needs were met and that became priority. The prices of the U.S. Citizen naturalization exam threatened to increase, and there was misinformation on what public charge was. People were scared to get on Medicaid because they feared the impact it could have on their legal status. We had to correct so much misinformation.

Crystal, Citizenship Advocate

The court system was a complete mess. We are still seeing the struggles and lack of clarity about procedures. Survivors suffered because of this. We've had to adapt and improvise with how to best support them. Now, it's not uncommon for us to support them setting up computers and smart phones so they can continue with divorce proceedings or petitions for orders-of-protection.

Joel, Court Advocate Supervisor

Mujeres' Domestic Violence Program served 144 children in individual counseling, a 50% increase from projected.



Together in the grief...

It's not going to be the same, it is not going to be normal... we have to find comfort with one another. We are more than just coworkers... It's been so comforting to know my teammates showed up for me and means so much for me to be able to show up for them.

Crystal, Citizenship Advocate

More than half (54.1 %) of essential workers are people of color, compared to 43.9% of all regional workers. Although Latino/a/x workers make up 21% of regional workers, they are especially overrepresented in construction (39.3%) and food service occupations (38.1%). (SOURCE: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)

As of September 2021, 15% of the over 24,000 people we have lost in Illinois due to COVID-19 were Latino/a/x. (SOURCE: Illinois Department of Public Health)

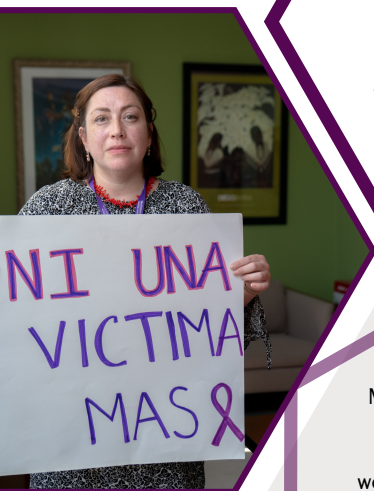
I am beyond grateful for my supervisors...professionally and personally... I felt the heaviness of it all... there was grief, loss and I could be 100% honest with my coworkers... I asked them for help, and they stepped up... to feel their warmth, their calidez really marks 2021 for me.

Lorena, Counselor

Even when were 100% virtual, the way my coworkers & supervisor made space and time for me... my supervisors placed me at the center, they let me know that I needed to be in a good place, so that I could help others.

Maria, Therapist

In February 2021 Mujeres assessed over 600 community members and found that over 61% did not have money pay the rent.



Together, we can heal & reach more people than ever before...

In Empresarias del Futuro, the adjustment we made to the curriculum to deliver it virtually also made us flexible. We reached people across not just Chicago, but across Illinois, as far as Aurora!

Beatriz, Empresarias Advocate

Mujeres' Sexual Assault Program provided 348 individual adult counseling sessions and 50 individual child therapy sessions. And 1,388 individuals received community education to prevent and address sexual violence.

There was this moment in tele-counseling, I could tell the survivor needed to cry. She wasn't saying it but her voice was cracking, and she wasn't on camera, but I could sense something. I simply asked if she had a tissue nearby and, with that, she was able to feel the emotions and cry. It is a moment that really stood out to me because, even if it wasn't in-person, she knew that I was truly there for her.

Lorena, Counselor



I remember having a lot of doubts about how virtual services would work with our survivors. Most don't have a laptop at home or an email account. Yet, at the end of the 15-weeks of counseling sessions they learned our online services, and they were ready for their court dates. I was surprised but I shouldn't have been. Survivors have gone through so much and they have so much resilience.

Erika, Counselor

We've discovered all sorts of ways to reconnect, multiple chat groups, email threads, silly social media groups, just always trying to check-in. It is important to make time for one another because it is so precious. Our lives have changed. We've experienced loss and our conversations feel more fragile, but even more valuable.

Crystal, Citizenship Advocate

As we started our hybrid programming, it was honestly an awkward adjustment... understanding how to do in-person counseling. We wanted to be as safe as possible, and some of the clients really wanted to have that in-person counseling. There were a lot of things to consider, and fortunately Mujeres' team went above and beyond to have staff and the survivors feel safe.

Ana, Counselor



Mujeres' newest component of Empresarias del Futuro, the Survivors' Financial Wellness program graduated 16 participants in the first ever pilot; participants accessed \$12,000 via incentives to support survivor financial stability & mobility.

Court Advocates successfully assisted in securing 100 orders of protection, despite the challenges with the courts.

Together, we are a community.

Mujeres' volunteers are instrumental to our success! Approximately 75 volunteers dedicate their time and energy to Mujeres last year. They are trained and specialized on topics such as medical advocacy for survivors of sexual violence, community education on immigrant rights, grassroots organizing, and most recently, access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

One of my first days back in the office was to prep for a rally to promote our vaccination efforts. I'm not always a touchy-feely person, but after all that time apart, when I finally saw a long-time volunteer and she asked if she could hug me, I yelled: YES! Our volunteers understand the big goals and the friendship we all share.

Crystal, Citizenship Advocate

I'm still excited to get to know more and more of my Mujeres coworkers. I want to know who we all are, our roles. It is such a large family!

Beatriz, Empresarias Advocate

Between April 2020 and July 2021, we have connected families with over \$1,000,000 in direct cash assistance through our own programs and in collaboration with external partners.

Mujeres' Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange resumed in-person services with heightened COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, allowing 48 low-income families to routinely comply with mandated family court orders in a safe, supportive environment.

In working with survivors, there were moments when I began to understand how the spread of the virus could hurt an entire family from one moment to the next. It was difficult to process. What really got me through these times was how grateful each survivor was. They would tell me how that one-hour tele counseling session was a bright spot in their week.

Lorena, Counselor

A client told me she was very grateful and she felt very comfortable with the way I provided services—not only the work—but I made her feel that I was there for her each step of the way. We never had a session in person. It made me realize that I can still provide comfort and quality work even through so much uncertainty.

Joel, Court Advocate Supervisor

In 2020 there was a lot of loneliness, so many structures we depended on were just gone. I feel so lucky now for companions and our team. In 2021, I feel that we appreciate feeling connected, if it virtual or in person, we need that connection.

Connie, Counselor

In partnership with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, Mujeres enrolled 490 people in U.S. Citizenship Naturalization Exam Prep through the New American Initiative (NAI).

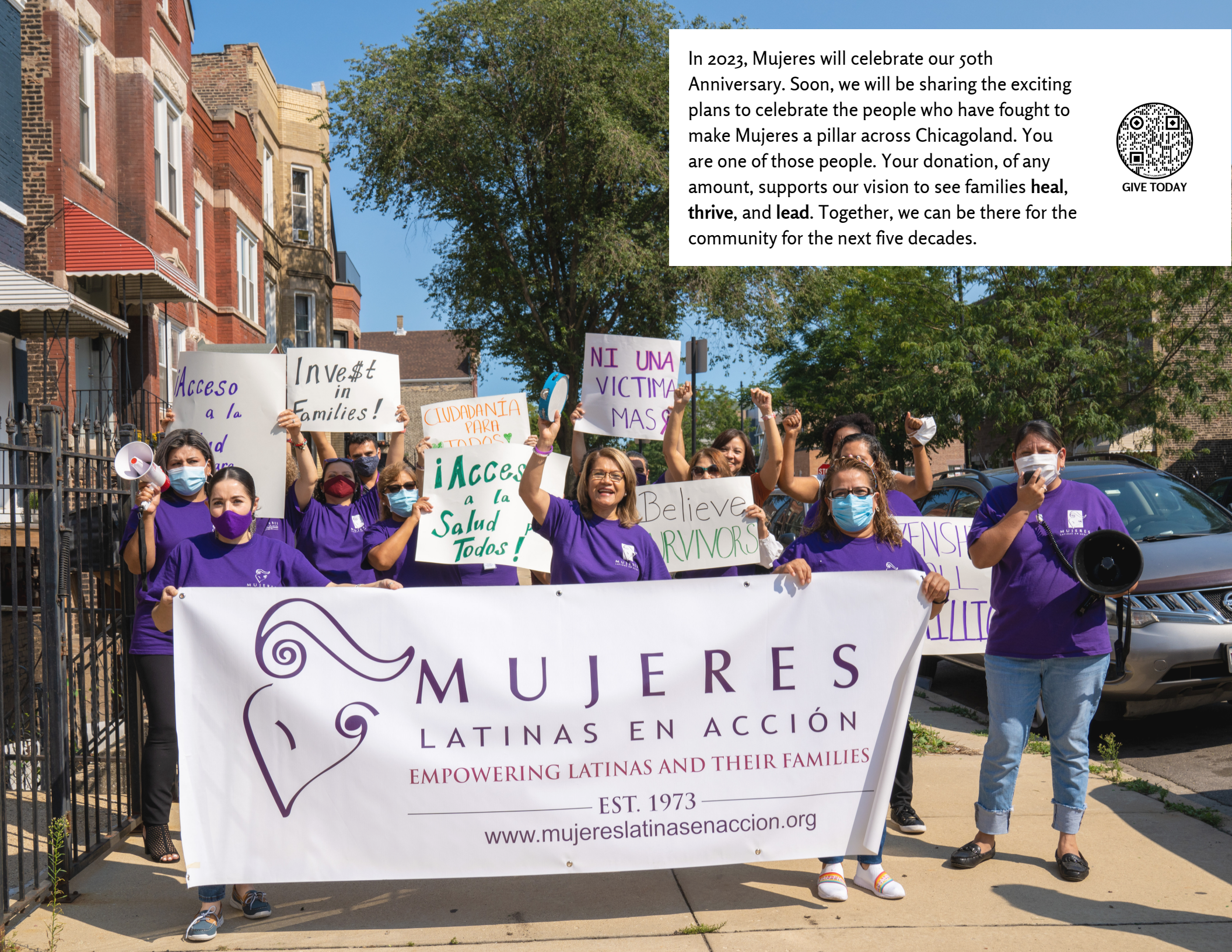


92 Latina Leaders were trained in advocacy with support from our Community Engagement & Mobilization program.

In 2023, Mujeres will celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Soon, we will be sharing the exciting plans to celebrate the people who have fought to make Mujeres a pillar across Chicagoland. You are one of those people. Your donation, of any amount, supports our vision to see families **heal, thrive, and lead**. Together, we can be there for the community for the next five decades.



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ANNUAL REPORT*

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Ewing Marion Kauffman Fund
Greer Foundation
Healthy Communities Foundation
Legal Aid Chicago
MacArthur Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
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Top Government Funders

City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services
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Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women

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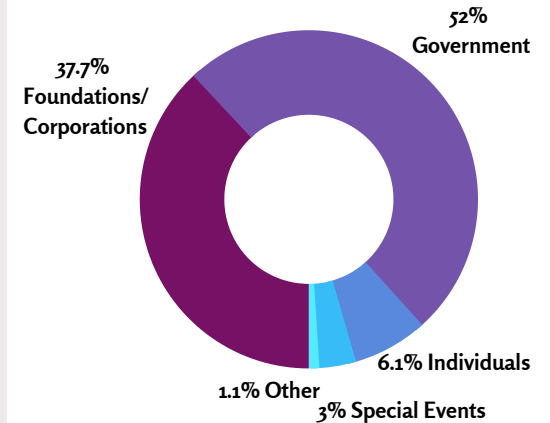
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REVENUE

Government.....\$2,088,236
Foundations/Corporations.....\$1,513,812
Individuals.....\$245,809
Special Events.....\$122,346
Other.....\$46,475
Total Revenue.....\$4,016,678



EXPENSES

Program Direct Services.....\$2,971,232
Administration.....\$628,681
Fundraising, Communications & Advocacy.....\$249,938
Total Expenses.....\$3,849,851

