



# *Centro Latino Americano*

*Dedicated to the empowerment of the Latino community of Lane County since 1972*

Nov. 23, 2016

Dear Friend of Centro,

This year is closing with many of us rising to a unique challenge. Yes, we may be struggling with what the 2016 elections means for us and our neighbors. And most of us understand that the struggle for equitable, inclusive, and safe communities will be as difficult as ever. But what has surfaced from the election's aftermath is a life raft of hope: Community members coming together to reaffirm our unity and collective power in the face of turbulent waters.

This is the message that Centro has always tried to impart on the Latino and immigrant community. It is the kind of message that can get lost. If we allow that to happen, we lose our grasp of that hope. Since 1972, Centro has been a safety net and backbone support to the community members, and this year has been no different. This is what I'd like to have you consider as the year comes to an end.

Here at Centro we are clear about our mission. We will build on the successes of the years past and press forward in our work to make sure that the Latino community in Lane County receives equal access to basic services, fair treatment in their everyday lives, and opportunities to thrive.

The path to access and opportunity for community members often begins with our social service case managers. These front-line workers receive our most struggling community members. This last year they documented 2,833 visits, or 11 appointments per day. They helped distribute 1,287 affordable bus passes, and assisted 531 times with applications for emergency health insurance, Oregon Health Plan enrollments, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan food vouchers, or immigration relief applications.

Just since July 1, case workers Adriana Monge and Beatriz Hernandez have served 315 households, touching the lives of 1,001 people. Adriana and Beatriz build hope and opportunity for community members who earn an average of \$1,425 a month and 41% of whom have an average monthly income of \$1,000 or less. To survive in Lane County, a single person needs to earn \$1,525 and a family of four must make \$4,543.

Adriana and Beatriz' work is critical, and we are proud of their work because it is the most demanding and challenging. They do this day in and day out. And they succeed. Since July, 653 of the 710 visits they worked resulted in clients getting their critical need met. This is 92% success. We cannot provide this safety net without you.

**Your support remains vital to us.** I ask you to consider making **a tax-deductible gift of \$50, \$75, or \$150** with a check or through our 'Pay Pal' link located on Centro's website homepage at [www.centrolatinoamericano.org](http://www.centrolatinoamericano.org). Your tax-deductible gift today ensures that Centro can provide appropriate and necessary assistance for Latino children, adults, and families into the future. Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

David Sáez, Executive Director