

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Mothers' Club  
Family Learning Center

# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT



It is our core belief at Mothers' Club Family Learning Center that **every individual has something to share and something to learn**. We have relied on this mantra since we began serving at-risk Pasadena families in 1961 and have continued to do so for **55 years!**

Families come to us to receive education, but Mothers' Club learns from them as well. We are a **learning organization** that flexes and grows to meet the interests and needs of our families and community. By doing so, we remain pertinent and responsive despite changes in our environment.

Over the past 55 years, we've influenced thousands of parents and children by

providing early childhood education, adult/parent education, and English as a Second Language classes. In addition, we offer individualized support and case management for every family that walks through our doors. We serve as a **resource center** for families in need. Parents come to our center suffering from isolation, poverty, and limited education. At Mothers' Club they find a welcoming environment, a helping hand, and a way to access the services they need to improve their lives.

**While children learn from our teachers, parents learn too.** They participate in parent education, leadership training, healing arts classes, and wellness workshops. They volunteer in the classrooms and learn from our teachers. They cook healthy meals for the children as part of our nutrition program. They receive mental health services right at our center and have family crisis counseling during stressful situations. Whatever our families need, Mothers' Club is there to help. This holistic, **two-generation approach** is critical to the success of our families and our organization.

At Mothers' Club, everyone is important and everyone matters – children, parents, teachers, staff, board members, donors, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we celebrate our 55th year of service and look forward to our exciting future.

Hector LaFarga, Jr.  
Executive Director

Judy Brown  
Board President

# WHO WE ARE

## MISSION

- ▶ Mothers' Club Family Learning Center prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.



## VISION

- ▶ Families will work together and be active and contributing members of their local community and of the larger society.
- ▶ Parents will be welcomed into our community as partners, life-long learners, and their child's primary and most influential teacher.
- ▶ All children will be nurtured and educated to enter kindergarten ready and able to learn.

## PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

We provide free education programs and social services to disadvantaged families with children ages 0-5.

- ▶ Our core **Two-Generation Learning Program** consists of both a morning session and an afternoon session. Both sessions contain the following components: Early Childhood Education, Parent Education, Adult Education, Mental Health Support, and Leadership Training.
  - ▶ Our morning session is offered Monday-Friday from 8:30am-12pm and serves 67 children and their parents.
  - ▶ Our afternoon session is offered Monday-Friday from 1:00-4:30pm and serves 54 children and their parents.
- ▶ Weekly **Teen Parenting Program** on Thursday afternoons
- ▶ Weekly **Fathers' Support group** on Thursday evenings
- ▶ **Early Readers' Book Club** one Saturday morning a month



# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS



## WHO WE SERVED

Of the families we served in 2014-2015:

- ▶ **79%** live at or below the federal poverty level
- ▶ **45%** of parents do not have a high school diploma
- ▶ **31%** have less than a 9th grade education
- ▶ **85%** speak a language other than English at home
- ▶ **43%** live in overcrowded, shared households (more than one family)

## OUTCOMES

Across our programs, children and parents met or exceeded their learning benchmarks, demonstrating children's readiness for school and parents' ability to support their children's education, as well as their own personal development.

- ▶ **100%** of infants & toddlers demonstrated appropriate developmental growth
- ▶ **84%** of children entering kindergarten possessed school readiness skills
- ▶ **66%** of adult learners showed gains in their English reading skills
- ▶ **99%** of parents took on a leadership role at Mothers' Club
- ▶ **95%** of families maintained a home library of at least 25 children's books

## STRATEGIC PLAN

As we move into the next phase of our organizational development, we have evaluated the opportunities and challenges of our current environment and outlined our strategic vision. The capacity needs we identified have informed our **2015 Strategic Plan**. In the coming years, we will be focusing on the following overarching goals: ensuring the sustainability of our organization both financially and programmatically; strengthening our Two-Generation Learning Program; maximizing the number of families served; and raising the public profile of our organization and two-generation approach both locally and nationally.

# LEADERSHIP & STAFF



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS

Cindy Alvarado  
Denisse Barrera  
Marina Bendy  
Judy Bustamante  
Alejandra Chavez  
Celeste Colerick  
Maria de la Cruz  
Gabriela Flores  
Martha Hernandez  
Micaela Martinez

Sandra Mora  
Margarita Morales  
Daisy Pedraza  
Isabel Ramos  
Nydia Rivero  
Josefina Rodriguez  
Veronica Soto  
Ximena Toro  
Susana Rivera

Hector LaFarga, Jr., Executive Director  
Silvana Casalegno, Program Director  
Julie Espinoza, Director of Education  
Mara Leong-Nichols, Development Director  
Sarah Hilbert, Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Berit Anderson, Development Associate  
Martha Murillo-Spangler, Office Manager  
Andrea Huicochea, Program Coordinator  
Nabeela Hanna, ESL Teacher  
Christian Marulanda, ESL Teacher  
Maria Vargas, Nutrition Coordinator  
Rosa Martinez, Kitchen Aid  
Guillermina Bucio, Kitchen Aid  
Jose Amezcua, Maintenance



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# FINANCIAL POSITION

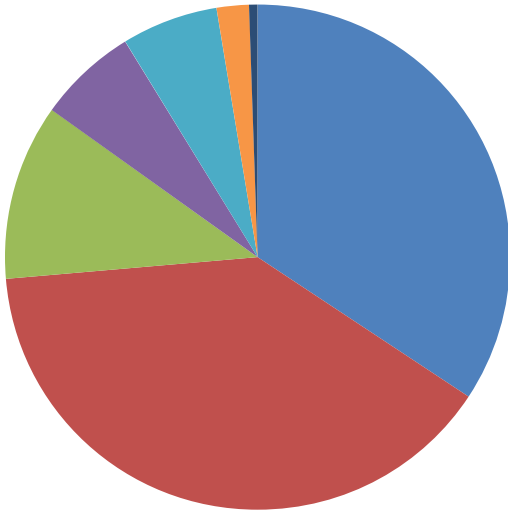
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

ASSETS	2014-2015
Cash	\$220,149
Investments, at fair value	\$1,569,028
Grant receivables	\$91,761
Property and equipment, net	\$5,406,733
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$7,287,671</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$52,955
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$6,536,014
Temporarily restricted	\$438,233
Temporarily restricted – Capital maintenance reserve	\$100,000
Temporarily restricted – Kujawa staff development	\$36,969
Permanently restricted	\$123,500
Total Net Assets	\$7,234,716
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$7,287,671</b>

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

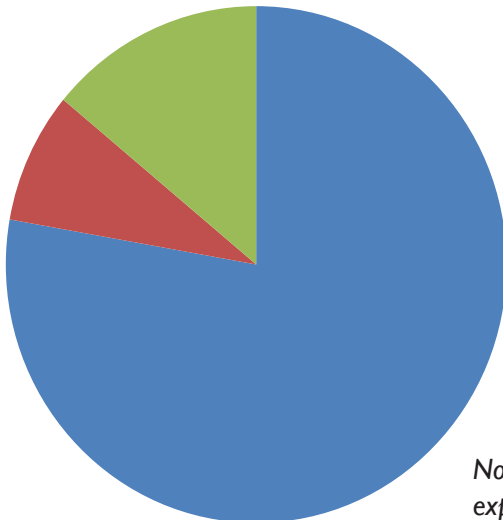
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

## REVENUE: \$1,606,553



- Government - 34%
- Foundations - 39%
- Individuals - 11%
- Special Events - 7%
- In-Kind Services - 6%
- Investments - 2%
- Corporate/Other - 1%

## EXPENSES: \$1,846,625



- Program Services - 78%
- General/Administrative - 8%
- Fundraising - 14%

*Note: The variance in revenue versus expenses is primarily due to depreciation and unrealized loss on investments.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Gifts & Pledges Received  
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015



## **Benefactors (\$100,000+)**

LAUP  
Pacific Clinics

## **Founders (\$50,000-\$99,999)**

Ahmanson Foundation  
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Tikun Olam Foundation

## **Patrons (\$10,000-\$24,999)**

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Every effort was made to ensure accuracy and proper acknowledgement of gifts we received. If you find an error, please accept our apologies and call our Development Office at (626)792-2687 ext. 122.

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Mary Yui  
Debbie Zemitis

We also want to thank the hundreds of individuals who made donations less than \$199 to support our work with families!

## A FAMILY'S STORY



My Name is Monica Gutian Muñoz. I was born in Pasadena and graduated from John Muir High School. I am 21 years old, married to Armando Muñoz and have a beautiful baby boy, Armando Jr., who is 18 months old. My husband and I met at 16 while in high school and were married at 19 when I found out I was pregnant.

As a new mother, I have a simple wish for my baby: I want him to crawl and walk so I can walk with him to the park. This wish may sound simple, but six months ago it seemed impossible. I had a regular pregnancy and enjoyed waiting for my baby. My husband and I were excited to begin our life as a family. He comes from a large family and so do I.

As young parents we looked forward to little Armando's birth. When the nurses first brought him to me, I fell in

love with him. He just lay in my arms. He seemed very calm and I thought how lucky I was to have a calm baby. By the time Armando was six months old, I noticed that the internet showed babies sitting, grabbing their feet, and babbling. Armando was not doing any of that, instead his tongue was always sticking out from his mouth and he drooled a lot. I felt the fear growing as I saw my nieces and other babies, but I didn't want to think the worst.

Armando and I thought that little Armando just needed to be around other children. He suggested I contact Mothers' Club; I called to apply. I had to wait almost a year before there was a space, which was very hard, but finally I received the call that there was room for Armando.

The minute I walked into Mothers' Club I felt calm. It was clean, modern



*Monica shared her family's personal story with 250 people at our Fall Food & Wine Festival in October 2015.*

and the staff was very encouraging. Within two weeks of school, the teachers and staff began confirming what I had felt before, that my baby needed help. I know I should have felt sad but instead, I was in a place that wanted to help, that had resources for my baby. I had so many questions and the teachers were ready to direct me and make me feel secure. I even saw little Armando smiling more often.

I was directed to contact the regional center to have Armando evaluated while the staff helped me keep learning how to stimulate Armando while we waited. I learned to talk to him, explain things to him before I did them. This really helped because before I would just wipe his mouth or pick him up and he would cry. Now I let him know what I'm going to do and he isn't startled.

Finally, the regional center diagnosed that Armando has delays in his physical abilities, language development and some cognitive delays. A physical therapist visits our home 3 days a week and comes to Mothers' Club once a week. They are teaching Armando to develop his fine motor skills and to crawl.

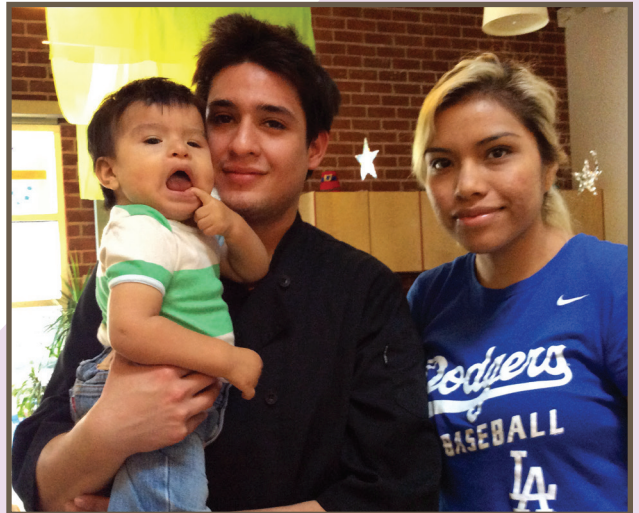
I am so happy! The other day Armando was sitting near a box of

wipes. He started taking all the wipes out – he was acting like a normal baby.

Mothers' Club is a miracle place. They helped a very scared mother with a lot of questions and no resources. I do not know how to express how grateful I am for their support and guidance. But I do know that my simple dream of walking with my baby to the park is now closer.

*- Monica Gutian Munoz  
Mothers' Club Participant*

*Since sharing their story, the Muñoz family has continued to see progress. Armando is now learning to walk! His fine motor skills have also developed, allowing him to play with toys and communicate his needs. A physical therapist continues to work with them at home and at Mothers' Club. The family is now able to enjoy time together at the park.*



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# Mothers' Club

Family Learning Center

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[www.mothersclub.org](http://www.mothersclub.org)

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## 2015 Annual Report

Editor: Mara Leong-Nichols

Mothers' Club Family Learning Center is a

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