Welcome to La Casa Norte’s "Under One Roof" Annual report capturing years 2017 & 2018. Inspiration has been a driving force of the journey for La Casa Norte, the inspiration of ending homelessness. Our goal of stabilizing and giving youth and families a place to call HOME continues to be our mission.

LCN has been flexible and persistent in adapting services to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We could never have predicted the ebb and flow of our client base when we opened Solid Ground. We thought we would only house Latino and African American young men from Humboldt Park; who could have predicted that we would also serve refugees, survivors of human trafficking, and homeless youth from all over the city? We have dreamed big from the beginning and now with the opening of a state of the art comprehensive community center with supportive housing, that dream is now realized.

Ultimately, our dream to have all services "under one roof", serve more clients and be an anchor in the community has happened. On December 26, 2018, we moved into La Casa Norte's new home, a home that will serve over 4,000 individuals. 2019 has been a year of activating the building to its full potential and we hope that you'll stay the course with us under one roof.
Our mission is to serve youth and families who are confronting homelessness. We provide access to stable housing and deliver comprehensive services that act as a catalyst to transform lives and communities.

Since 2002, La Casa Norte (LCN) has been empowering homeless and at risk populations, particularly youth and families, through culturally appropriate programming focused on helping families and youth with housing stability and increasing economic self-sufficiency.

Who we are

We dream of a world where all people have dignity, communities thrive, and everyone belongs.

Our Vision

We value the belief that when we:

- Work COLLABORATIVELY
- Demonstrate EMPATHY
- Cultivate MUTUAL RESPECT
- Provide access to RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES
- Create a JUST EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PEOPLE

The result is that people have the POWER TO CREATE CHANGE within themselves, their families and their communities.
What is the problem/What are the needs?

Homelessness is an epidemic that has very real consequences. People who experience are people who do not have a fixed, regular and adequate place to sleep or regularly spend the night in a shelter or similar institution or a place not meant for human habitation according to the federal government.

According to the Point in Time, (PIT), count, which measured homelessness on a single night in January, 2017 5,657 people were identified as homeless in Chicago.

Youth and families who experience homelessness face myriad obstacles on the street each day. People who experience homelessness live on the subway and sleep on the street People who experience homelessness trade sex for a place to stay or other needed resources People who experience homelessness live in cars, sleep in parks, abandoned building or other public areas

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, emergency shelter beds funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development cost $8,000 more than the average annual cost of a Section 8 Housing Certificate. The societal costs of homelessness are significant as they include the over utilization of publicly funded services such as; hospitals, emergency and inpatient services, police and the correctional system.

39% are certain they could come up with $2000 if an emergency arose next month

24.3% of American families have no saving at all

$4,220 The average American family saving account balance

19% of American families have no health insurance

*2018 Humboldt Park Mount Sinai Report & 2017 Work your way up report
Since opening, LCN has served over 30,000 individuals in our programs. Our agency philosophy is steeped in meeting clients where they are and moving them along a continuum of increased stability. We provide a continuum of housing and social service programs. In housing we provide emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing programs. In social services we provide drop in centers for youth, rapid rehousing and housing locator assistance, information and referral assistance, homeless financial assistance prevention, clothing, bus cards, and food and nutrition education.

In 2018, LCN served over 3,000 clients. La Casa Norte has extensive experience in successfully providing support services to youth and families experiencing homelessness. We provide case management on site or at our offices, conduct benefits assessments and help clients access cash and non-cash benefits to which they are entitled, provide access to health care benefits including substance abuse treatment. LCN services utilize trauma-informed, strength based and harm reduction approaches. Supportive services increase the likelihood of permanent housing retention and promote greater self-determination.

Our clients are extremely low income individuals living below the federal poverty line. Most of the individuals served by LCN are unemployed.
Serving over 2300 individuals and families with housing and support services in 32 Chicago Neighborhoods.

At La Casa Norte we believe that housing and supportive services are critical to ending homelessness. Our programs include life-skills and technology training, education support, employment-readiness, case management, therapy, food, clothing, and transportation assistance.

OUR CITY WIDE IMPACT
A NEW HOME FOR HOPE

To address the growing needs of Chicago’s families and youth threatened by homelessness and poverty, La Casa Norte aims to develop and build a vibrant, centralized, housing and community center to be filled with human capacity-building services delivered by qualified bi-lingual and culturally competent staff. La Casa Norte will provide integrated and comprehensive services that overlap and treat people from a holistic perspective. Located at 3533 W. North Ave., the new housing and community center facility will become an anchor of redevelopment for Chicago’s west side community and the North Avenue corridor, creating jobs and standing as a beacon of hope on one of Chicago’s most blighted streets.

VISIT OUR HOME

Come take a tour of our new state-of-the-art Community Center.

Contact Jessica Rodriguez at jessica@lacasanorte.org or call (773)276-4900 x212

State-of-the-art comprehensive community center and supportive housing project

Nutrition Center

Encompasses a fresh market style pantry and a community cafe which will address the nutritional needs of the Humboldt Park community, an area affected by stark food scarcity. Clients will be able to shop in the grocery-style Fresh Market in partnership with Lakeview Pantry, have a healthy warm meal in the the community cafe, and receive valuable nutrition education all in one centralized location.
Health Center Drop-in Center

Casa Corazon Drop-in Center for youth ages 16 to 24 offers clients a safe space to engage with mentors, access resources to support them in reaching personal goals, and provide them with access to food, case management and mental health services.

Pierce House

Will offer 25-units of supportive housing for youth & youth families. Case Managers will work with them to ensure barriers to maintaining stable housing are removed.

Our Health Center in partnership with Howard Brown offers services to clients while providing access to healthcare for community members.

Casa Corazon Drop-in Center for youth ages 16 to 24 offers clients a safe space to engage with mentors, access resources to support them in reaching personal goals, and provide them with access to food, case management and mental health services.

Health Center

Drop-in Center
ARIANA

Ariana was referred to La Casa Norte when she was 19 years old. She had a detailed history of trauma, abuse, and neglect growing up.

At the time, she had no home and was staying with family members in an overcrowded apartment with her partner.

When she attempted to live on her own with her partner, she became pregnant and he became increasingly abusive. A Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigation was opened and forced her partner to relocate, leaving Ariana with the burden of being a single parent, along with rent and expenses she could not afford on her own. She made attempts to reconnect with member of her family, only to be put back in other abusive and unsafe conditions.

Ariana was fortunately able to connect with our Housing Advocate who assessed her situation, identified housing programs she was eligible for, and have been working with her and other member of her family to ensure that she and her son have a safe place to live.

 PALANTE SCATTERED-SITE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Provides high-quality permanent supportive housing to the most vulnerable homeless youth and their families. Families are provided with an on-going housing subsidy and case management services to assist them in maintaining residential stability, increasing or maintaining their income and increasing their self-determination. Additional supportive services are provided through partnerships with community agencies.

 RAPID REHOUSING

Is a program that helps families who are homeless obtain housing. This innovative program assists participants in locating affordable market rate housing and provides a short term rental subsidy. Case managers work with youth to ensure barriers to maintaining stable housing are removed.

 YOUTH IN COLLEGE

Provides a secure foundation of housing and supportive services to youth who are experiencing homelessness and committed to being full-time college students and receiving their 4-year degrees. The program provides supportive housing and ongoing case management.
SOLID GROUND

Is a supportive housing program that provides housing and comprehensive services to male-identified youth between the ages of 16 and 21 years old. The goal of the program is to provide residents with supportive services to enhance their ability to access and maintain stable housing and be contributing members of their communities.

CASA CORAZON

Provides safety, connection, and skill-building to youth between ages 16 and 24, through a combination of low-threshold emergency shelter and drop-in services, case management and supportive services.

YOUTH AND FAMILY HOUSING ADVOCACY

Clients are youth aging out of State of Illinois custody and families who have children at risk of being placed in State custody or who cannot return home from custody due to inadequate housing. We provide housing location, placement and support services.

SHAWN

Shawn was confronting homelessness after being injured in a car accident. He had been staying with family members due to his injuries and inability to work. After he was displaced from his home due to injuries and the inability to work, he stayed with family members.

At La Casa Norte, we provided Shawn with employment assistance, therapy, case management, clothing, access to a telephone and fax machine. In addition, Shawn says that staff have also supported him in increasing his motivation to achieve his goals.

While Shawn has confronted a series of challenges in his life and in experiencing homelessness, he feels that he is a leader in his community. He's even taken on leading activities for his peers in our drop-in center.

He also says that with the tremendous support of La Casa Norte, he has learned to have short and long term goals in life. Through our work with him, he has been able to secure employment and looks forward to continuing to grow his passion of helping others.
Volunteers are a vital part of LCN's work. Each year over 1,200 volunteers help us to do the extraordinary. Volunteers bring a breadth of skills and experience to help us in every aspect of our work, including direct service, support projects, professional services, and office help. We host individual volunteers and groups from various schools, corporations and faith based organizations. By volunteering with La Casa Norte you can affect the change you want to see in your community. Some of the organizations that have volunteered their time and talent this past year include; Boston Consulting, Deloitte, Missouri State University, UIC Volunteer Group, Instituto Academy, DePaul University, Chicago Cares.

An enormous amount of work gets done by our amazing volunteers. In 2017 we worked with over 1,500 volunteers who do everything from organizing our clothes closet to cooking meals for our clients to wrapping Christmas presents for children. Volunteers give their talent, time and attention to our mission 365 days a year.

DEPAUL VINCENTIAN DAY

Every year we partner with DePaul to bring students out to clean our drop-in center and emergency beds facility. This year we partnered with them and Red Cross to install fire alarms for community members in Humboldt Park.

PRAYING PELICAN MISSION

aims to give mission groups the opportunity to make a long-term, genuine impact on a local community. When their team joined us for their mission trip, they assisted in preparing desserts for each of our locations, on 4 separate dates, and by four different groups. In addition they helped clean the drop-in center, the emergency beds, and our neighborhood. Group Team 4 loved the volunteer work and our mission so much that they even collected monetary donations for our organization.
Our inkind donors provide vital resources to our youth and families. Each year over 200 donors help us equip our clients for success. Donors bring endless possibilities to help our case managers in every aspect of their work; from everyday office supplies, furnishing clients homes, professional work attire for our youth, and food for clients who access our programs. Many groups host various drives from schools, corporations and faith based organizations. By donating to La Casa Norte you too can affect the change you want to see in your community. Some of the organizations that have hosted drives for La Casa Norte in the past year include: Bank of America, Cars Outlet, Northwestern University, Kenilworth Union Church.

Every day, around the globe, #BofAVolunteers are helping improve communities, whether mentoring youth, advancing better money habits for individuals or building affordable housing for working families. Their employees donate generously to causes that they care about, from disaster relief to education and other community needs.

At Baird & Warner, giving back to the communities that have helped them thrive over the past 163 years isn’t just good business, it’s part of their DNA. The results are substantial: company-wide in 2018, Baird & Warner real estate agents, loan officers, and employees volunteered nearly 1,000 hours at nonprofits across Chicagoland including LCN.
Get Involved

Your contribution is worth more than you think. We work with several funders who provide challenge grants which require matching funds. This means that your donation helps us to secure additional “matching” funding from our foundation partners. So every dollar donated to La Casa Norte is worth more than its face value.

Here are other ways to give today.

- Cleaning out your closet and donate to our community clothing closet.
- Pick up extra rolls of toilet paper or cleaning supplies and donate them to support clients settling into their new homes.
- Volunteer to cook a warm meal for youth in our shelters.
- Instead of birthday gifts, host a birthday fundraiser for LCN.

*For a full list of our supporters please visit our website: www.lacasanorte.org