



# CentroNía

## FY2023

# Annual Report

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## PAVING THE WAY TO SCHOOL READINESS: OUR PRESIDENT & CEO'S REFLECTIONS ON INNOVATION, GROWTH, AND RESILIENCE

To all our Families & Supporters,

Much of the work we do at CentroNía is marked by growth and change: the children in our care develop new skills in response to their expanding interests and opportunities, their families continuously adapt to shifting circumstances, and our programs and services evolve with them in response to the needs and opportunities that arise in our community.

Over the past year, CentroNía dived into pre-opening activities for two new centers: a center at Washington DC's Bunker Hill Elementary School scheduled to open in spring 2024 and the Martha Gudelsky Child Development Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, scheduled to open in fall 2024. Renovating, purchasing furniture and supplies, and expanding our teacher workforce has given us plenty of opportunity to reflect on the path towards children's wellbeing and school-readiness, and how we can equip centers to best support families on that path.

Supportive interactions and instruction, safe and developmentally-appropriate learning environments, and nourishing food are all essential components for children's optimal learning and development, especially during the critical first five years of life when the brain's network of neural pathways are developed and strengthened. To that end, CentroNía's model includes healthy meals prepared in-house from fresh ingredients, health and wellness programming, professional development through CentroNía Institute, and a family and community engagement and support services.

We are so grateful to our individual donors and funding partners for supporting the programs and activities included in this report. Thank you for making it possible for CentroNía to expand the breadth and reach of our programs and services and for supporting our shared mission to support the education and wellbeing of children and families in our community.

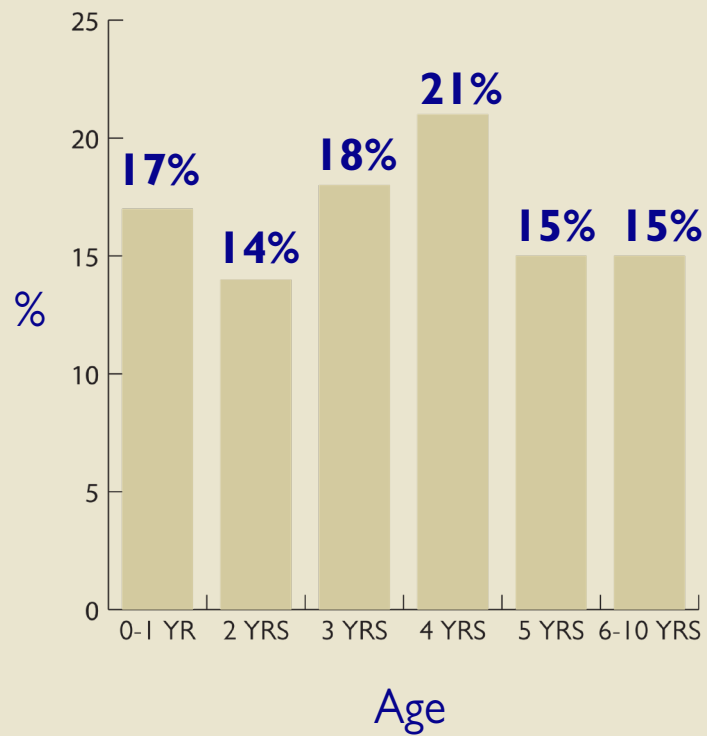
**Myrna Peralta,**  
**President & CEO**



# WHO WE SERVE

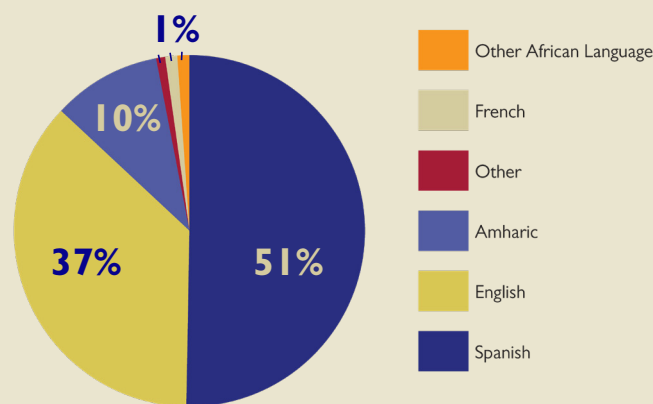
## Number of Children Served

Cumulative Enrollment 8/1/22-8/30/23



## Dual-Language Learners

Languages Spoken (Primary & Secondary)



# 919

Total Children served

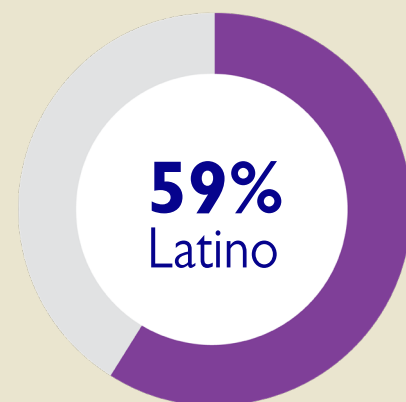
# 36

Pregnant Women served (EHS)

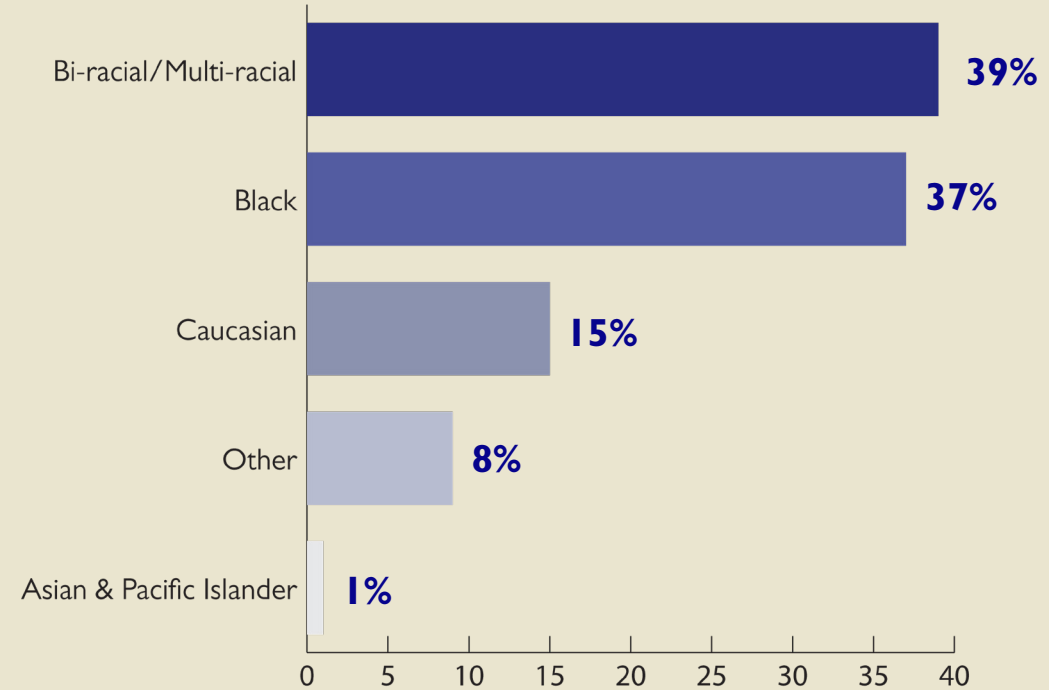
# 75%

Children Speaking Primary Language Other Than English

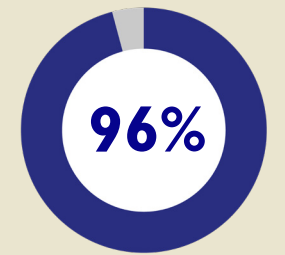
## Ethnic Background



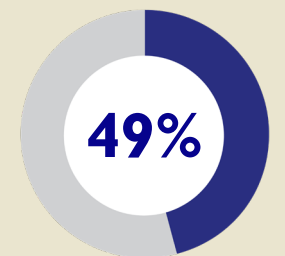
## Racial Demographics



## Low-Income Families



## Single Parents



# IMPACT BY NUMBERS

## NíaCentral Catering

58,700 meals prepared monthly and 14 non-CentroNía served

**58,700**  
meals prepared monthly

## Professional Development

CentroNía Institute's Child Development Associate (CDA) Program served over 310 Prospective & Current Educators.

**310**  
educators

## Necessities

176,175 diapers distributed, along with other infant necessities.

**176,175**  
diapers distributed

# CHRISTELLE AND VICTORIA: A FAMILY'S JOURNEY WITH CENTRONÍA



Spring has arrived, and for CentroNía, nothing encapsulates this season of renewed hope and growth more than watching children and families flourish! Take, for example, CentroNía mom Christelle and her daughter Victoria.

Originally from Cameroon, Christelle came to CentroNía on the recommendation of her caseworker. Christelle's daughter Victoria has attended CentroNía from when she was 2 years old through pre-kindergarten, learning new skills along the way. "She learned Spanish there, she's fluent in Spanish and she does more than other children of her age," said Christelle.

With Victoria in a safe, caring environment, Christelle was able to advance her own schooling. CentroNía's wraparound services also improved the family's wellbeing by providing some everyday necessities. As Christelle explains, "CentroNía has helped me with diapers, providing diapers for [my] children.... Because of CentroNía I was able to have my baby learn, she's more advanced and she's doing well. And for myself, I was able to go back to school and get my certificate. I went through IT training."

Victoria's journey to kinder-readiness reflects the positive effects a structured day of playing, learning, and growing. "She talks about the activities that they do and she talks about her friends and what happened at school with the teachers and her friends. What happened on the playground. What her friends say. She never forgets anything," Christelle shares.

Christelle and Victoria look forward to Victoria's pre-kindergarten graduation and the start of their next chapter. "I am going to miss them, it's a really good program. The teachers there really care, and they do everything to help children and they do their best for the children. I am so happy that my daughter goes there now, she speaks very well and she also learned Spanish. I am scared when she gets to kindergarten, I am scared because I know she's going to forget about Spanish. I am definitely going to miss CentroNía."



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Zumbathon

We held our annual Zumbathon fundraiser event and welcomed donors and supporters to some exciting zumba fun.



## Field School Visits

Students from The Field School visit CentroNía throughout the school year to spend some time with our early learners!

## Summer Camp

Every year CentroNía has a summer camp from June to August. Our most recent camp's theme was Diver-sea-ty, celebrating diversity in the sea.



## PreK 1

CentroNía Pre-K 1 students enjoying some tasty lunch prepared by the NíaCentral team!



## PreK 1

CentroNía Pre-K 1 students drawing with their teacher Ms. Jeanette.



## Pre-K Graduation

Our Pre-K Graduates celebrated their accomplishments with a nice graduation ceremony at CentroNía Columbia Road, with families and friends.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## PreK 2



CentroNía Pre-K 2 class during their circle time.



## Mother's Day

CentroNía Cardozo early learners celebrating Mother's Day by gifting them beautiful roses to say thank you for all that they do!



## Toy Distribution

CentroNía Stevens students receiving holiday presents from Santa during our Toy Distribution event.

## PreK 2

CentroNía Pre-K 2 students participating in a volcano theme Theatrical Journey.



## Fall Activities

CentroNía Upshur students enjoying fun fall activities such as getting to see the inside of pumpkins and meeting farm animal friends!



## BHM Classroom Activities

CentroNía Cardozo students celebrating Black History Month by having story time and listening to a reading of Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by inaugural poet Amanda Gorman.



## Teacher Appreciation

CentroNía Stevens teachers celebrating Teacher Appreciation week.



## Pre-K Graduation

CentroNía Maryland Pre-K students celebrating their big accomplishment with their families and friends.



## BHM Activity

CentroNía Maryland students celebrating Black History Month by learning about different important Black history figures.



"Mi niña estuvo ahí estoy muy orgullosa mi niña salió bien educada y aprendió mucho."  
 Translation: "My little girl was there I am very proud my little girl came out well educated and learned a lot." - **Former CentroNía Parent Ashlyn**

# HIGHLIGHTS

“My son has developed skills such as being independent, always willing to learn, and the teachers are lovely with each child.”  
**- CentroNía Upshur Parent**

## Family Fun Day

Every year CentroNía Maryland holds a family fun day event where families can enjoy some tasty food, face painting, learn about helpful community resources that are available to them, and more.



## Garden Volunteers

CentroNía Maryland parent volunteers and Crossroads Community Food Network helped build our garden for our early learners to enjoy!



## Children’s National Hospital Heart Activity

For Heart Health Month, our friends at Children’s National Hospital lead an activity with our families and taught our early learners all about the matters of the heart!



## National Reading Month

CentroNía Maryland celebrated National Reading Month by having some fun story time with parent volunteers!



## Thanksgiving baskets

CentroNía Maryland parents receiving thanksgiving baskets donated by our friends at Telemundo 44 and NBC4.



## Holiday Breakfast

CentroNía Maryland families celebrate the holiday season with a holiday breakfast.



## Fall Activities

CentroNía Maryland families enjoy exciting fall activities such as painting pumpkins and a Theatrical Journey where students learned how pumpkins are made.



## Teacher Appreciation

CentroNía spotlighted our teachers during teacher appreciation week with their own red carpet!



## St. Patrick’s Day

CentroNía Maryland students wearing their best green clothes to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with their friends!



## UMTerps & Adele’s Circle

Volunteers from Adele’s Circle of Women from the University of Maryland taking the time to visit our Takoma Park center and help clean classrooms, furniture, and help organize the outside of our center.



# FINANCIALS

Dear CentroNía Community,

I am writing to provide an update on CentroNía's recent financial report and share some exciting developments regarding our operational improvements.

Firstly, I'm pleased to report that CentroNía has maintained a neutral yearly net assets change in our latest financial assessment. While we didn't experience a deficit, we recognize the importance of transparency and want to keep our community informed about our financial position.

One notable change reflected in our financial report is the significant decrease in our investment balance. This decrease was strategically utilized to pay off outstanding loans at market debt rates. Given the current economic climate and inflationary pressures, this decision aligns with our commitment to prudent financial management and long-term sustainability.

In addition to addressing financial matters, CentroNía remains dedicated to operational excellence and continuous improvement. We are actively managing our teacher-to-student ratio to ensure optimal learning environments for our students. Furthermore, we have expanded the number of classrooms we serve, allowing us to reach more families in need of our services.

While we continue to navigate external challenges and economic uncertainties, I want to reassure you that CentroNía remains steadfast in our commitment to fulfilling our mission and serving our community with excellence.

Looking ahead, we are focused on diversifying our revenue streams, strengthening our fundraising efforts, and implementing sound financial management practices. These initiatives will not only support our mission-driven work but also ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our organization.

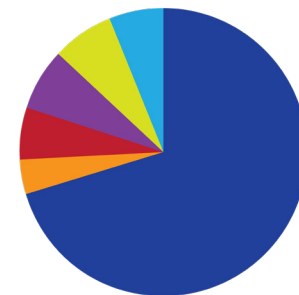
We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support, dedication, and belief in our cause that each of you demonstrates. Your commitment empowers us to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

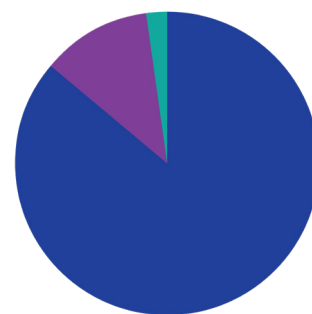
-Ignacio Bravo, CFO

## FY24 Overview

### Support & Revenue



### Expenses



# CENTRONÍA FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS:

## Special thanks to some of our friends & supporters:

### Individual Donors

Julie Veach  
Chelsey Christensen  
Lisa Rosenstein  
Jorge Felix  
Rebecca Mimmall  
Myrna Peralta  
Carole Rogentine  
Jace Oleson  
Adam Possner  
Sujata Bhat  
Naomi Watson  
Julia Howell Barros  
Rachel Joseph  
Jennifer Brown Lerner  
Patrick-Spencer Salami  
Ariana Quinones  
Joy and Gerald Choppin  
Anne Theisen  
Nanette Paris  
Rita Regino  
Sherman Robinson  
Molly Lynch  
Beth Molesworth  
Jose Colon  
Fonda Davidson  
Alina & Alvaro Giorgetta Thouyaret  
Shelley Robinson  
Susan Reddish  
Hanley Desinord  
Margarette Wasow  
Tatiana Tijerino  
Marlyn  
Silva  
Carla  
Colon  
Cesar  
Huaman Trinidad  
Beatriz Otero  
Judy Bauer  
Morgan Musselman  
Susannah Perkins  
Patrick Eworuke  
Kathleen Conley  
Laurie Davis  
Lillian Kraemer  
John and Margaret Hauge  
Gail Kohn  
Antonio Peralta  
Dennis Davison  
Martha Ullman West  
Linda Lord

Michael Hatcher  
Carmen Barros Howell  
Carol Balassa  
Jonathan Willen  
Robert Hirsch  
Mary Ann Nyamweya  
Louise Shelley  
Sandra Scioville  
Jonathan Genn  
Alexandra Rankin Macgill  
Sarah Widor  
Diane Kuhla  
Ruth Anna Stolk  
Curtis White  
Elizabeth Patterson  
Manville Fund  
Gretchen Ellsworth  
Rebecca Murday  
John O'Mahony  
Phyllis Armstrong  
Jo Ann Scott  
Carlos Velasco  
Janet Courtemanche  
Carole Rogentine  
William Maloney  
Stephen Wege  
Sarah Spell  
Karen Leu  
Cait DeBaun  
Melih Kutluer  
Jonas Lee  
Steven Royster  
Dianna Thaxton  
Isabel Friedenzohn

Telemundo 44  
NBC 4  
Greenberg Traurig  
PNC Bank  
Savills  
United Bank  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Giant  
Diane and Nworman Bernstein  
Foundation  
John G. & Jean R. Gosnell Foundation  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Homer and Martha Gudelsky Foundation  
Jed Herrmann and Meg Sullivan Donor-  
Advised Fund  
The Comis Foundation  
Brendan and Karen Herron Family Fund  
Robert and Mary Eager Charitable Fund  
Mara Bershad Foundation  
Nicole D. Fox and Michael C. Fox  
Charitable Fund  
The Dimick Foundation  
Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation  
George Washington

### Corporations, Foundations, Institutions

School Latino/Hispanic Student Union -  
Edmund Burke School of Law, University  
of the District of Columbia  
Crossroads Community Food Network  
Adele's Circle of Women - University of  
Maryland  
Greater DC Diaper Bank  
Following Francis on the Hill  
FRESHFARM  
Van Metre Companies

FOR COMPLETE AUDITED 990 FORMS, PLEASE VISIT OUR GUIDESTAR PAGE: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/CENTRONIA](https://bit.ly/centronia)

# CENTRONÍA LEADERSHIP

## CentroNía Board of Directors

Tim Foley, Interim Chair  
Dennis Davison  
Phenola Lawrence  
Tonya Esposito  
Gabriela Gonzalez  
Rebecca Murday  
Erica Van Steen  
Jeffrey Voth  
Danielle Fuentes-Johnson

## CentroNía Executive Team

Myrna Peralta, President & CEO  
Ignacio Bravo, CFO  
Cynthia Mercado, Chief Operating Officer (COO)  
Heriberto Velasquez, Senior Director of Early Childhood Programs  
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Maryland Director  
Lisa Rivera, Family & Community Services Senior Director

“CentroNía Has been incredibly supportive to us as new parents. The structure and level of social emotional engagement with our daughter is really showing she loves learning is very curious and is beyond her milestones for her age.”

- **CentroNía Upshur Parent**

# GET INVOLVED

## Mailing Addresses and Center Locations:

### CentroNía, Headquarters

1420 Columbia Road, NW  
Washington DC, 20009  
Phone: 202.332.4200  
Fax: 202.745.2562

### CentroNía, Cardozo

1200 Clifton Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: 202.215.9832

### CentroNía, Takoma Park

1345 University Boulevard E.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
Phone: 301.543.8040

### CentroNía, Upshur Street

1288 Upshur Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
Phone: 202.726.1275

### CentroNía, Stevens ELC

1050 21st Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202.442.5566

### CentroNía @ Martha

**Gudelsky Child Development Center**  
8901 - 8907 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

### CentroNía, Bunker Hill

1401 Michigan Avenue, NE  
Washington DC, 20017  
Phone: 202.688.8809

\*Opening Fall 2024\*

# CONNECT WITH U

## Website address:

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

## Primary Phone:

202-332-4200

## Email:

[communications@centronia.org](mailto:communications@centronia.org)

## Connect with us on our socials!

**Facebook:** @TheCentroNia

**Instagram:** @centronia1420

**X:** @CentroNia

**LinkedIn:** CentroNía

**YouTube:** CentroNía