To all our Families & Supporters,

At the onset of the pandemic, a World Bank report issued an urgent call to action, warning that the weakening of early childhood development and foundational learning could mean lower learning trajectories for a generation. While the scale of the challenge couldn’t be greater CentroNia’s commitment to high quality and success over the past years have made it clear to me that our holistic response to the personal and collective circumstances that impact our children will continue to be the right path.

That’s why the recent return of partners and volunteers back into our centers to provide early intervention support, health screenings and dental exams, and more was so important. Parents are doing their part as well: popular workshops and events are bringing families together to cook and garden, to learn new skills and to share resources with each other. We were also thrilled to celebrate in person the achievements of our Child Development Associate Training & Scholarship Program graduates who, armed with new skills and credentials, will help children from all backgrounds at centers and schools across DC.

Children don’t respond to “quick fixes”, so the multifaceted approach you’ll see reflected in this report focuses on five pillars of child wellbeing: early learning, teachers equipped to respond to individual child needs, engaged and supported parents, healthy food and lifestyles, and comprehensive services that include health and early intervention. Together, these pillars strengthen our programs and services and help our community remain resilient in the face of challenges.

Donors, too, have responded to the need in so many ways, from donating toys and food baskets to raising funds to cover critical services for migrant newcomer families. Thank you for continuing to support CentroNia programs and partnering with us to make our young children, their families, and our community stronger.

Mil gracias,

Myrna
CentroNía’s Pillars

Early Learning
Comprehensive Services
Healthy Food & Lifestyles
Parent Engagement & Support
Trained & Resourced Workforce

Early Learning
Who We Served in FY2022

Race
36% BLACK 35% BI-RACIAL/MULTI-RACIAL 17% CAUCASIAN
10% OTHER 1% ASIAN 1% NATIVE AMERICAN

Ethnicity
65% LATINO

Dual Language Learners*
74%
*Primary language other than English

Primary Language
59% Spanish 26% English 14% Amharic 1% Other African Languages

124 Pre-K students graduated from CentroNía ready for success DC, Montgomery County and Prince George’s County schools.

92% of CentroNía’s graduating Maryland Pre-K students achieved school-readiness across developmental domains, together with 89% of graduating DC Pre-K students.

875 children aged 0-10 served over the 2021-2022 program year (cumulative enrollment).

89% Low-Income Families
The CentroNía Institute codifies our experience and success working with young children, families and teachers by:

1. Presenting and disseminating research on best practices for educating young children and responding to the needs of low-income, special needs, and culturally and linguistically diverse children;
2. Offering professional development workshops and trainings to center faculty, leadership and support staff;
3. Providing embedded coaching to teachers and staff in classroom settings.

The Institute’s objective is to prepare teachers for successful professional careers and help centers achieve Early Head Start levels of quality and beyond.

The CentroNía Institute is now the District’s largest CDA Training and Scholarship Provider for the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education.
CIRPA Research Project: Thanks to the Comis Foundation, CentroNia Institute has begun a multiyear project to study the impact of the CentroNia Institute Reflective Practice Approach (CIRPA) across 30 DC classrooms. CIRPA was designed to improve teacher’s Instructional Support scores under the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) used by most states to assess center quality. The Instructional Support measure reflects teacher ability to sustain the quality teacher-child interaction that research shows promotes child learning and development, particularly among young children at risk of lower educational outcomes.

Bilingual Special Education Module: As CentroNia serves a population largely comprised of culturally and linguistically diverse children, we have seen firsthand the need to support English Language Learners with a developmental delay or disability. The data confirms that young children from low-income households, children who are English language learners, and children exhibiting atypical developmental demonstrate significantly lower rates of school readiness compared to their peers (Maryland Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, 2022). In response, CentroNia Institute has developed a 45-hour Special Education and Dual Language Learners training module to equip educators to distinguish between the impact of limited English proficiency and that of developmental delay, and to apply effective instructional strategies in each case.

“The big thing I got from CentroNia was with my oldest—at the time, I didn’t know how to give him directions and or what to do when he was frustrated. I didn’t know how to help him. CentroNia showed me the path and process.”

- Nuamin, CentroNia Parent
“Because of CentroNia 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.”
- Christelle, CentroNia Parent

548
take-home kits for families to continue the learning at home and spend time together, with all the materials and step-by-step instructions provided.

169,500
Diapers distributed to CentroNia parents, along with $38,963.88 worth of infant formula and child and adult hygiene products.

147
community members trained through Safe Food Handler and Food Manager courses.

680
children received holiday toys and 50 at-risk families received Thanksgiving baskets.

Comprehensive Services

110 children received free onsite dental checks through partnerships with the DC Health School-Based Oral Health Program and Maryland Smiles.

Children’s National Mobile Unit visited CentroNia centers to provide 68 children with physicals, lab exams, immunization.

2022 was the final year of CentroNia’s onsite COVID-19 services. Over the course of this initiative in partnership with Montgomery County DHHS and Mary’s Center, 2,117 community members were tested and 168 were vaccinated.

Healthy Food & Lifestyles

NiaCentral provided catering for 16 centers and schools (4 of which are CentroNia centers), representing a total of 1,082 children. NiaCentral prepares 58,926 meals each month.

CentroNia continues to promote local Farmer’s Markets and provide food relief through market vouchers, distributing over $14,000 in vouchers in 2022.

457 children received meals through CentroNia’s participation in the DC Summer Meals program.

The program distributed record numbers of CSA bags: 1,007 bags over the 2021 Spring/Summer CSA cycle and 1,042 over the 2022 cycle. Each CSA bag has 10-15 pounds of local produce and a $40 value.
Myrna Peralta, President & CEO, and Ignacio Bravo, CFO, at the White House for Hispanic Heritage Month with Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

Highlights Gallery

Fall Farm Activities at CentroNia Upshur

Holiday baskets and gifts from CentroNia donors made the end of year even brighter for children and families!

CentroNia children performed songs and presented artwork to the 3rd District Washington Metropolitan Police Department to thank them for community-building efforts in Columbia Heights.

Mr. Ruben’s class celebrated Día de la Canción Criolla through national dress, singing and dancing, and a surprise parade!

CentroNia partnered with the Special Olympics of MD and Kennedy Krieger Institute to host the Healthy Young Athletes Pediatric Screening in July 2022, which covered health components such as biometrics, vitals, hearing/vision, nutrition, sleep, and health history, and more; 26 families participated and received $25 vouchers to the local farmer’s market.
Meet a CentroNía Family

Jean and his wife Idrisse moved to the United States from Cameroon and have four young children. After friends in the community referred them to CentroNía’s Takoma Park center, they enrolled their son Lucial and daughter Idrisse in Pre-K, and their infant Ismaila in Early Head Start. And they quickly saw the impact on their children’s development. Jean shares, “With my second daughter, before she started taking classes there was a lot of reading, counting that she was still having a little trouble with… now she knows all those things very well.”

When Jean’s wife Idrisse fell ill and he had to take a month off from work to care for her, he was anxious about the opportunities available to his children. “Without CentroNía, I wouldn’t be able to afford putting them in school, like they are now… CentroNía helped me a lot, a lot, a lot.”

The family has continually progressed together, with Jean and Idrisse participating in CentroNía family workshops on parenting, nutrition, and financial literacy. CentroNía also helped them enroll in English classes and car seat programs, and the family benefited from center distributions of diapers, food, and other necessities.

Jean knows all too well that families need access to high-quality early childhood education and family support services. “Hopefully schools will keep up with the same method of education that CentroNía has, because sometimes when you cannot afford it, you do your best with what you have.”

The support of our funders and donors makes all the difference by providing children in our community with the quality learning opportunities they need to reach their full potential, and families with the wraparound services that help them thrive.

Financials

Fiscal Year 2022 Overview

CFO Statement

CentroNía is grateful for the federal, state and donor support that allowed community-based organizations like ours to continue providing child care and family services throughout the pandemic. Now, we must shift our focus from crisis response to laying the foundation for longer-term sustainability.

Access to high-quality childcare benefits children, their parents, and the economy. In fact, Nobel-prize winning economist James Heckman found that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education pays off more than nine times over in benefits to society. As CentroNía prepares to open new centers in DC and Maryland, a pressing consideration is our ability to continue to support staff in the face of society’s chronic undervaluation of teachers and caregivers. With the help of like-minded partners and funders, CentroNía will continue to invest in the people, the spaces, and the services necessary to implement our holistic child care model with more families across the region.

- Ignacio Bravo, CFO

Expenses

Support & Revenue

For complete audited 990 Forms, please visit our Guidestar page: https://bit.ly/CentroNia
Special thanks to some of our friends & supporters:

Individual Donors

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Ignacio Bravo, CFO
Rosalina Burgos, Senior Director of Early Childhood Programs
Cynthia Mercado, Senior Director of Operations & Administration
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Maryland Director

Get Involved!

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