



LA AMISTAD
Friendship

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Annual Report
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July 2011-June 2012

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a great year we have had at LaAmistad! We saw our organization grow from one after school program in a single location to five total programs, extending our impact to other parts of Atlanta, and beyond the State of Georgia. This has been accomplished while maintaining the highest quality of after school education at our flagship Peachtree Presbyterian Church location and teaching replication partners how to achieve this same level of excellence in their locations.

The excitement of the after school replication activities was matched by the equally exciting expansion of our family programming through LaAmistad's absorption of English for Successful Living. English for Successful Living is the largest community-based adult ESL program in the state of Georgia, having helped adults from more than 40 countries learn English in order to better support themselves and their families.

LaAmistad After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, our original location, had more than 75 students and 300 volunteers. English for Successful Living impacted more than 300 students during this past year with over 4,500 graduates since the program's founding.

We partnered with The Westminster Schools, The High Museum and Instituto de Mexico to begin our newest program, Animate Summer Camp. We were able to serve 48 students from LaAmistad After School and Garden Hills Elementary with a camp consisting of four weeks of academics, sports, arts and fun!

We are thrilled that four outstanding LaAmistad students will attend Atlanta area independent schools on full scholarships! In cooperation with partner organization A Better Chance, we worked with families to explore independent school opportunities for eligible students. Through hard work and dedication, the students navigated independent school applications, studied rigorously for the SSAT and earned the grades necessary to secure enrollment at their top choice schools. LaAmistad students were accepted by Pace Academy, The Galloway School, The Lovett School, and The Westminster Schools for admission in fall 2012. We will continue to work with these schools in addition to The Cottage School and The Howard School to ensure that LaAmistad students receive opportunities to advance their educations and reach their dreams.

This past year was one of significant success and positive change. Your support and contributions continue to enable us to positively impact the lives of Latino children and families. The entire LaAmistad family is truly grateful for your generosity of both time and financial resources.

Thank you!

Cat DaCosta McAfee
Executive Director

Our Vision: For Latino and other first-generation students and families across the United States to thrive in their educational, personal and career pursuits and dreams.

Our Mission: To support the success of first-generation students and families through tutoring, mentoring and programming that promotes academic, physical and personal growth.

LAAMISTAD PROGRAM SUMMARIES

After School Tutoring

LaAmistad offers one-on-one tutoring opportunities, reading and math enrichment, mentoring, sports programs and a variety of personal development programs that support academic, physical and personal growth for Latino students in grades 1 – 12.

English Classes

Our ESL program, English for Successful Living, is the largest ESL program in the state of Georgia and has served more than 4,500 adult students since its introduction. ESL classes are held several days per week at *Peachtree Presbyterian Church* and *Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church*.

Parent Partnership

LaAmistad offers a variety of adult education classes specifically aimed at the needs of Latino families through our Parent Partnership Program. With our partner organization, *Renovacion Conyugal*, we offer year-round workshops designed to educate and strengthen Latino families.



Internship Program

The LaAmistad Internship Program, in collaboration with *Georgia Technical Institute*, *Georgia State University*, *Kennesaw State University* and *Riverwood High School* provides real-world experience for eligible high school and college students interested in education and advocacy. Interns work on a variety of projects, including research and statistical analysis, foundation research and grant writing, fundraising, student tutoring and classroom management as well as general office assistance.

Advocacy

LaAmistad hosts an extensive resource center that provides students and families with information on a myriad of subjects, including health insurance, scholarships, domestic violence prevention and financial services. The staff at LaAmistad also serves as an advocate for its students in *Atlanta Public Schools* and serves as an advisor to help raise awareness about the needs and circumstances of Latino children.

Summer Programs

LaAmistad students participate in a variety of summer programs such as *Breakthrough Atlanta*, *Girl Talk*, *Peachtree Presbyterian's Vacation Bible School* and *Sports Camp at The Gym at Peachtree* aimed at maintaining their academic, personal and physical development during the Summer months.

Preschool

LaAmistad facilitates preschool enrollment for eligible Latino students at *Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool*, which enrolls more than 400 students annually. We believe that a preschool education should be available to every child. Since inception, LaAmistad has sent more than 100 children to preschool, allowing each child to begin their education with a sense of wonder and an enjoyment of learning.

Animate Summer Camp

This year marked our first annual Animate Summer camp held at *The Westminster Schools* in Atlanta. Forty-eight campers spend the majority of their days catching up or getting ahead in school subjects like language arts and math while the rest of their time is filled with fun activities like swimming in *Westminster's* indoor swimming pool or participating in the arts.

LaAmistad After School & LaAmistad English for Successful Living

All current after school or ESL programs are listed here:

- LaAmistad After School at *Peachtree Presbyterian Church* (Atlanta, GA)
- LaAmistad After School at *Church of the Redeemer* (Atlanta, GA)
- LaAmistad After School at *Trinity Baptist Church* (St. Pleasant, TX)
- LaAmistad English for Successful Living at *Peachtree Presbyterian Church* (Atlanta, GA)
- LaAmistad English for Successful Living at *Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church* (Atlanta, GA)

Jorge Cruz-Calderon (The Westminster Schools) A ROLE MODEL FOR OUR STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Jorge Cruz-Calderon is an 8th grade student at The Westminster Schools. This year marks Jorge's first year at Westminster and he is thrilled to be there. Jorge poured endless hours into applying for entrance into the prestigious Buckhead school— writing essays, studying for standardized tests and meeting with different groups of people. Jorge might be new to Westminster, but he has been a part of LaAmistad since kindergarten. "I owe a lot to LaAmistad," Jorge notes. Jorge lives near Peachtree Presbyterian Church with his aunt, uncle and mother who volunteers at LaAmistad whenever she is able.

Jorge went to Sutton Middle School for 6th and 7th grades, where he made A's in almost all of his classes. This past summer, Jorge accepted an invitation to attend Breakthrough Atlanta at The Lovett School for the second year in a row. Jorge was also invited to attend the Junior National Leaders Conference in Washington. Jorge enjoyed playing hockey through a scholarship from LaAmistad and he plans on trying out for Westminster's soccer team next Spring.

Jorge's favorite class may be Spanish, but after filming several events for his family and for school, he says that his dream is to become a filmmaker. Jorge knows the importance of a strong educational foundation, and he is paving his own path for success by working tirelessly in school and implementing the lessons that he has learned at LaAmistad After School. Jorge wanted to give a special thanks to volunteers Mike Joiner and Helen Stimpert as well as his loving and supportive mother.



Gabriela Ortiz
DEDICATION AND INSPIRATION THROUGH PARENTING

Fifteen years ago, **Gabriela Ortiz** came to the United States with her husband in search of a better life for herself and her future family. Soon after, Gabriela gave birth to her first son, Ramiro Juarez, and three years later her second child, Alondra Juarez was born.

When the time came, Gabriela enrolled Ramiro at Sarah Smith Elementary as well as LaAmistad After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Not only did she enroll her son at LaAmistad, but she enrolled herself in the ESL program provided for LaAmistad parents. Later, when her second child, Alondra turned five, she too was enrolled at LaAmistad. Her youngest child Marco Juarez was born shortly thereafter and was enrolled at the Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool. Because of La Amistad, Gabriela's children are well occupied throughout the school year with wholesome activities provided for LaAmistad families: soccer, hockey, gymnastics, dance and Sunday school.

“Not only am I thankful for the great opportunities that LaAmistad provides to me, but also for the opportunities given to my children to succeed in life,” Gabriela explains. “Without LaAmistad I wouldn't be on track to receive my GED or have had the opportunity for two of my children to apply and receive scholarships to attend Pace Academy.”

Gabriela is a great role model for LaAmistad families. Not only has she been there to serve the LaAmistad community when needed, but she is and has always been there for her family as well.



Helen Stimpert ONE-ON-ONE HELP

Four years ago, soon after **Helen Stimpert** began tutoring at LaAmistad, she noticed that a few of her students were falling behind in reading. A family member of Helen's had learning differences so she was familiar with some of the warning signs. While most LaAmistad volunteers come once or twice each week to oversee classrooms and provide individual instruction where needed, Helen comes solely to help those with learning differences. Helen is certified in an instructional approach called Orton-Gillingham.

"It takes longer to see results," Helen explained, "but I could not see somebody struggle and not try to help." The Orton-Gillingham method is a multi-sensory reading remediation technique developed in the 1930s to help kids who have trouble reading. Thanks to Helen, these struggling LaAmistad students receive one-on-one attention each week to help improve their reading ability.

After growing up in New Orleans, Helen attended Vassar College where she studied psychology before working as a banker in New York City. Helen then moved to Atlanta to raise her children, all of whom are in college now. Helen enjoys volunteering at LaAmistad After School because of the flexibility she is offered here. She is encouraged by the many technology-based learning tools that are beginning to emerge for elementary and middle school students and notes that the training program that was required to learn the Orton-Gillingham method was more than worth it.



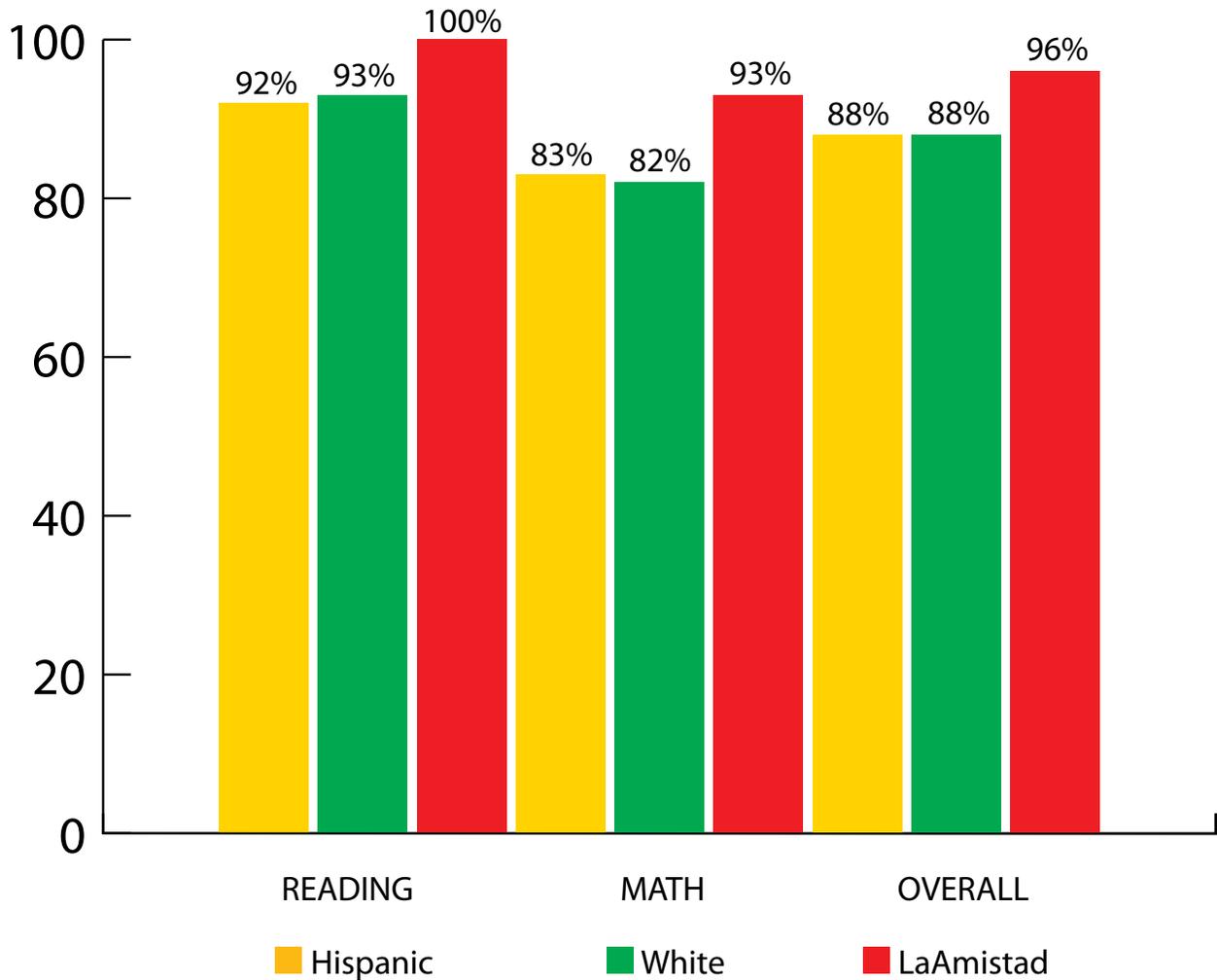


Achieving Beyond Their Peers

92% of LaAmistad students met or exceeded the CRCT math test standards, while 100% met or exceeded the CRCT reading test standards.

GEORGIA CRCT RESULTS-CHILDREN WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARDS IN GRADES 1-8

www.doe.k12.ga.us



Helping Students Reach Their Goals

LaAmistad served about **100 students** from preschool through high school, helping them achieve their academic and personal ambitions.

Strong Bodies Build Strong Minds

The Gym at Peachtree provides recreation for **every student in LaAmistad**. Students are offered gymnastics, dance, cheer, basketball, skating and flag football each semester and one week of camp during the summer.

LAAMISTAD 2011 – 2012 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Working Together in the Community

LaAmistad worked with the Atlanta community to provide tutoring and mentoring to students. More than **375 volunteers** shared a surplus of **7,000 hours** of service as they supported LaAmistad through their time and talent.

Academic Achievement

Our students are able to compete with their peers academically and maintain their **A/B averages**. Most of the students that are in the ESL program in school are able to test out after joining LaAmistad.

Youth Leadership Development

Breakthrough Atlanta, a highly competitive program that provides year-round academic enrichment from 6th grade to college, invited a select group of LaAmistad students to apply to their program. After being recommended by their teachers, selected students submitted an 11-page application and underwent an intense interview process at The Lovett School. **Nine LaAmistad students** now participate in *Breakthrough*.

Summer Academic Achievements

LaAmistad and *Garden Hills Elementary* partnered to send **48 students** to LaAmistad's new *Animate Summer Camp* at *The Westminster Schools* where they took academic classes with certified teachers, played sports and enjoyed the arts thanks to Instituto de Mexico.

English Language Learning

LaAmistad English for Successful Living at Peachtree Presbyterian Church and Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church served more than **300 adult students** this past year alone so that they may acquire self-sufficiency and better support for their families.

Parent Education Initiative

LaAmistad provided parent education classes to **50 Latino parents** in the Atlanta community. The training supported the parents' efforts to strengthen family relationships, develop conflict management skills and understand the importance of education, which in turn empowered them to nurture and communicate with their children more effectively.

Engaged in our Community

LaAmistad continued to build and strengthen its relationships with over **70 community partners**.

Community Supporters

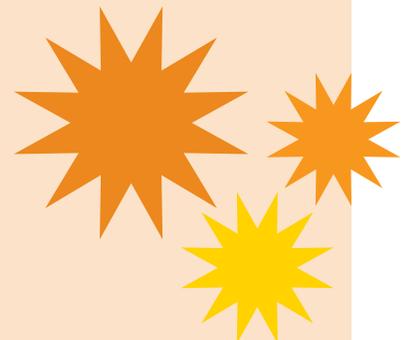
A Better Chance
Al a Carte Foods
Atlanta Children's Theatre
Atlanta Community Ministries
Be Someone, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Atlanta
Big Peach Running Company
Breakthrough Atlanta
Buckhead Christian Ministries
Casa de Cultura
Chick-fil-A
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Cohen Chiropractic Centre
Fast Signs
GALEO
Girl Talk
Hennessy Automobile Companies
InfoPro Inc
Insight Eyecare
Instituto de Mexico
Jack and Barbara Nicklaus
Jump and Slide
Latin American Association
LC Dohn
Microsoft Store
Mr. Doubletalk
Peachtree Presbyterian Church
Photo Ventures
Racing Solutions
Renovacion Conyugal
State Bank and Trust
TalentQuest
The Atlanta Hawks
The Coca-Cola Company
The Cooler
The Gharib Group
The Gym at Peachtree
The Lodge Café
Toney's Trophies
Trinity Social Services
Willis Insurance Services of Georgia

Partners in Education

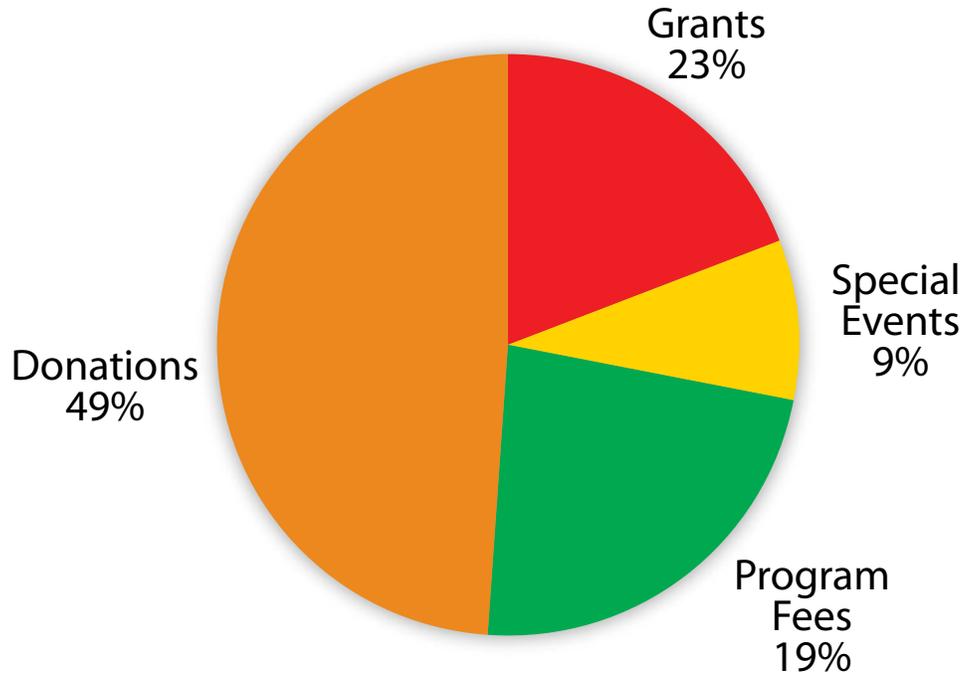
Atlanta Public Schools
Garden Hills Elementary School
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Highpoint Elementary School
Kennesaw State University
North Atlanta High School
Pace Academy
Sarah Smith Elementary School
Sutton Middle School
Warren T Jackson Elementary School
The Galloway School
The Westminster Schools

Foundation Support

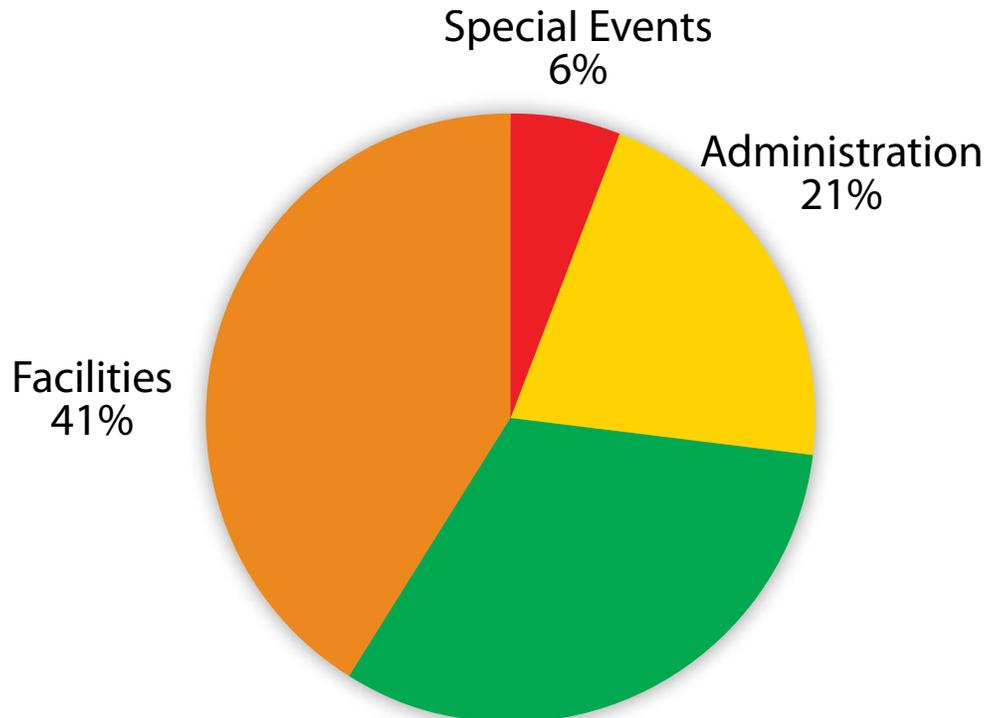
18 Pomegranates Foundation
Atlanta Braves Foundation
City of Sandy Springs
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Episcopal Charities Foundation
Hodges Charitable Foundation
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church
Hume Foundation
Moran Family Foundation
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Peachtree Presbyterian Church
Target Foundation
The Gendell Family Foundation
The Sandy Springs Society
Wells Fargo



BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD REVENUE 2011-2012



BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD EXPENSES 2011-2012



FINANCIALS

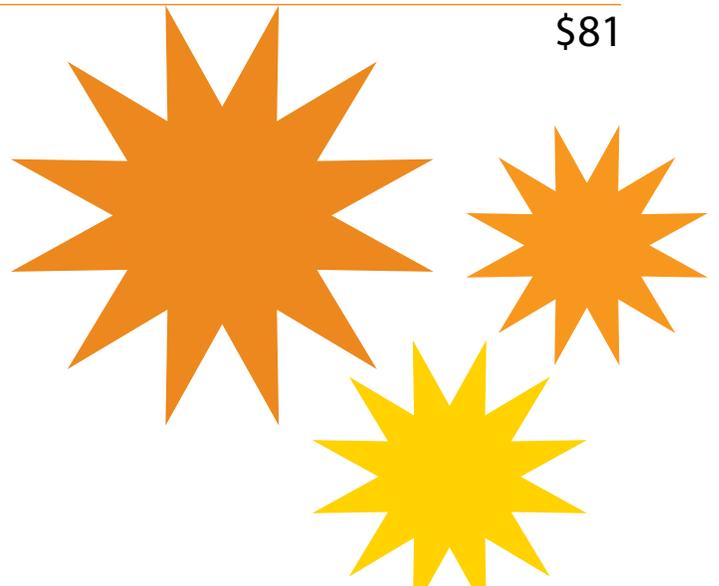
Income Statement

Revenue

Donations	\$214,886
Grants	\$103,640
Special Events	\$39,861
Program Fees	\$83,905
Total Revenue	\$442,293

Expenses

Programs	\$139,722
Special Events	\$27,885
Administration	\$94,605
Facilities (in kind)	\$180,000
Total Expenses	\$442,212
Surplus/(Loss)	\$81





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www.laamistadfriendship.org