




  
**LA AMISTAD**
  
 .....
   
**ANNUAL REPORT**
  
 .....
   
 July 2018-June 2019



**Our Mission** is to prepare Latino students and families for success through academic and life enrichment programs.



**Our Vision** is that Latino students and families achieve life-long self-sufficiency.

**Dear Supporters,**

Thanks to your contributions – be they in form of time, financial support or advocacy – LaAmistad experienced a successful 2019 program year. Your generosity enabled us to continue having positive, life-changing impact on the students and families we serve. In the coming pages, you'll see data and read stories that illustrate the achievements of students in our various programs. These successes are a result of a collaborative effort on the parts of our educational partners, local churches, corporate allies and, most importantly, our incredible team of volunteers.

Our core values reflect those established by our founder nearly two decades ago. We continue to distinguish ourselves by our investments in people, employing a holistic approach that considers the wide range of factors that impact the educational experiences of school-age and adult students.

We leverage the most current data and research available to inform our decision-making, paying close attention to emerging trends and best practices in our fields of service.

Finally, we judiciously and carefully manage the resources that have been entrusted to us, striving to create the best possible outcomes for students that our means allow.

As you read coming pages, we hope that the triumphs of our students and families fill your heart with joy as they do ours every day. These triumphs are only possible because of people like you. With your continued support, we intend to celebrate many more victories for the community we serve in the years to come.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cat".

**Yours in service,**  
Cat McAfee  
Executive Director



Total Individuals Served

.....  
2019  
**1,325**  
.....

2018  
**1,342**  
.....

2017  
**1,507**





## A Legacy of Service

LaAmistad's vision for the success of Atlanta's Latino community is driven by the efforts of its volunteers. This past year, more than 1,300 volunteers contributed over 18,000 hours of service. The difference they make for our Afterschool students is life-changing, and the boost they give our adult language learners is extraordinary. Throughout our history, the single most significant factor in student success has been investment from compassionate people who take joy in giving of themselves. In many cases, the knowledge that a volunteer cares about a student's success and well-being is itself enough to produce increases in academic performance, language fluency, and overall quality of life. Volunteers often report that they learn as much as, or more than, their students during their service. Our students thank you, our community thank you, and we thank you. Your impact is real, and our gratitude eternal.

On April 29, 2019 LaAmistad hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to recognize Volunteers of the Year and celebrate all our volunteers for their remarkable work. Special thanks to Atlantic Capital for sponsoring this event.

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**1,341**  
VOLUNTEERS  
**GAVE**  
**18,069**  
HOURS

### LaAmistad Volunteers of the Year

#### LaAmistad Afterschool

Harriett Swennes	Peachtree Presbyterian Church
Kelsey Morrow	Peachtree Presbyterian Church (Teen Center)
Sara Davila	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Susan Bennett	The Cathedral of St. Philip
Jeff Davis	Honeysuckle Park
Kathy Scheiblin	Clairmont Presbyterian Church
Jerry Barnes	Trinity Anglican Church
Trinity	Centro Católico, the Mission of Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Clare Jones	Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Sherry Cross	

#### LaAmistad Animate

Robert Carter	Animate Summer Academy
	The Westminster Schools
Stephany Coble	Animate Summer Academy
	St. Martin's Episcopal School
Glenda Matute	Estrellitas

#### LaAmistad ESL

Gloria Irvin	South Cobb Recreation Center
Roderick Prior	Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Miguel Montoya	Yells Community Action Café
Romero	Trinity Anglican Church
Karen Lee	Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Michael Tinsley	

We are grateful for all of our exceptional volunteers!





## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

### Community Supporters

ALPFA  
Alpha Kappa Psi  
Amerigroup  
AT & T Hacemos  
Atlanta Community Food Bank  
Atlanta Fire Station 21  
Atlanta Hawks  
Aware Wildlife  
Big Brother Big Sister  
Blue Heron Nature Preserve  
Boy Scouts of America (Atlanta Area Council)  
Breakthrough Atlanta  
Buckhead Christian Ministries  
Carl Sanders YMCA  
Day Maker  
Delta Phi Lambda  
Deloitte  
First Data  
Food Corps  
GA Safe Routes to School  
Resource Center  
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials  
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
Grounded Yoga  
Hands on Atlanta  
High Museum of Art  
Hispanic Health Coalition  
Junior League of Atlanta  
Knit Whits  
La Unidad Latina  
Latin American Association  
Lighthouse Foundation  
Macy's  
MALDEF  
Mercy Care  
Mexican Consulate  
Most Valuable Kids  
New Covenant Presbyterian  
Order of Malta  
Peachtree Presbyterian  
Preschool  
Phi Beta Phi  
Power Up  
Ser Familia  
Ser National  
Slalom Consulting  
Sin Fronteras  
South Cobb Recreation Center  
Student Press Law Center

Sweet Water Kids  
The Gym at Peachtree  
The Latin American Association  
Two Men and a Truck Collier Rd  
United Way of Greater Atlanta  
Wells Fargo  
Westside Yoga  
World Chamber of Commerce  
YELLS Community Café  
Xandr

### Corporate Supporters

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The Atlanta Braves  
The Atlanta Hawks  
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UPS Crecer  
Vision Source Insight Eyecare  
**Faith-Based Supporters**  
Brookhaven Presbyterian  
Centro Católico

Church of the New Covenant  
Clairmont Presbyterian Church  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
Passion City Church  
Peachtree Presbyterian Church  
Shallowford Presbyterian Church  
The Cathedral of St. Philip  
Trinity Anglican Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

### Partners in Education

Atlanta Classical Academy  
Atlanta Public Schools  
Briar Vista Elementary School  
Cary Reynolds Elementary School  
DeKalb County Schools  
E. Rivers Elementary School  
Emory University  
Fulton County Schools

Garden Hills Elementary School  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Georgia State University  
Hawthorne Elementary School  
Holy Innocents' Episcopal School  
Kennesaw State University  
Lake Forest Elementary  
Marist School  
North Atlanta High School  
Oglethorpe University  
Pace Academy  
Sarah Smith Elementary School  
SCAD  
St. Martin's Episcopal School  
Sutton Middle School  
The Galloway School  
The Lovett School  
The Westminster Schools  
University of Georgia  
Warren T Jackson Elementary School

## The Suzanne W. Schirber LaAmistad Scholarship



### Jose Perez

An embodiment of the benefits of afterschool tutoring, Jose Perez was selected as a recipient of the 2019 Suzanne W. Schirber LaAmistad Scholarship. He will enter his freshman year at Oglethorpe University this fall. Having attended Afterschool for nearly his entire academic career, Jose credits LaAmistad with encouraging him to reach his full potential. "When I had doubts, LaAmistad was always there to remind me how important my education was." There was a time, following a series of family hardships, when Jose wasn't sure if he would pursue higher education. A time when he romanticized dropping out of school and following the path of some of his peers. "I would tell my mother that school just wasn't for me," he recalled. LaAmistad refused to give up on this remarkable young man. With the help and support of volunteer tutors and community leaders, Jose is now college-bound. A gifted athlete, Jose will lace up his cleats for the Stormy Petrel soccer team as he pursues his degree in business.



### Alondra Juarez

Alondra Juarez was a LaAmistad Afterschool student from 2005–2012. She attributes her desire for higher education to the values instilled in her by her family, particularly her mother, as they often worked side-by-side throughout her upbringing. "I get my work ethic from [my father] a construction man and [my mother] a self-employed housekeeper," Alondra wrote, "the last thing I wanted to do on a summer day is wake up at 7 in the morning [...] [my mother] brings me along to show me what quitting school really looks like." Fiercely ambitious, Alondra never lost sight of her goals, "I always take a peek at the home office to see their degrees. I remind myself that maybe one day I will be able to own a house like this, and be able to provide my children with the same education that was granted to me." Alondra will attend Loyola University New Orleans this fall.



**A Holistic Approach to Afterschool**

The benefits of afterschool tutoring for students from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds are consistently reinforced by hard data. Nationwide, the most successful programs are those that effectively integrate elements of mental and emotional education with traditional afterschool tutoring and academic support. According to a study published in the Journal of Health Education & Behavior, outcomes for students correlate positively with holistic afterschool program attendance. "Youth who received more components [...] reported more psychological empowerment and prosocial outcomes." There is more to learning than memorization and test-taking, and LaAmistad Afterschool is committed to enhancing all aspects of its students' educational experience.

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When the approach expands to include families, schools, and whole communities, results improve even more. LaAmistad's Parent Partnership program aims to sustain the engagement of families by offering workshops on a variety of topics from financial management to providing a healthy diet. We are proud to connect families with other local organizations that specialize in areas like health insurance, scholarships, domestic violence, and financial services. Additionally, LaAmistad staff members themselves serve as advocates for students in the Atlanta, DeKalb, Fulton, and Cobb school systems, actively helping to raise awareness about the needs and challenges facing Latino youth.



**Volunteer Spotlight**

**Janet Kennedy  
Clairmont Presbyterian Church**

In the time she's spent volunteering with LaAmistad Afterschool at Clairmont Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Janet Kennedy has quickly emerged as a student and staff favorite. **Her dedication to the students she works with on Tuesdays and Thursdays is a testament to the idea that a single person can have a profound impact on future outcomes for students.** Committed to LaAmistad's holistic approach to education, Janet's consistent investment in her students helps build their confidence and improve their classroom performance. LaAmistad is lucky to have such a gifted educator working with its Afterschool students.



Reading fluency scores improved by an average of **85%**



Math scores improved by an average of **368%**



Unique Students  
**306** (2019)  
**280** (2018)  
**347** (2017)



Afterschool Locations  
**8** (2019)  
**8** (2018)  
**10** (2017)



## Student Spotlight

### Juan Rosales

When Juan first enrolled in the kindergarten program at Briar Vista Elementary in 2015, neither he nor his mother spoke any English. With the help of an interpreter, his teachers discovered that Juan had never been placed in a school environment before, and thus helping him to reach the proficiency level of his classmates would be an uphill battle. After about a year of working with the ESOL team, Juan's communication skills improved enough for him to be promoted to first grade. It was then that his mother decided Juan could benefit from the academic support and remediation of an afterschool program like LaAmistad. Now, Juan is greeted every Tuesday and Thursday at Clairmont Presbyterian Church by volunteers who are invested in his success. **One-on-one tutoring is making a noticeable difference in his academic achievement.** Juan's reading fluency has improved steadily since he entered the program, and the support of specialists and volunteers continues to help him grow and develop as a student. LaAmistad is committed to being with Juan every step of the way on his academic journey, and to providing him and his family every advantage possible to succeed in school and life.



## Partner Spotlight



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### Emory University School of Medicine

This year, LaAmistad students at Clairmont Presbyterian Church had the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest young minds our great city has to offer. As part of a program aimed at bridging cultural gaps between medical professionals and the communities in which they practice, a team of medical students from the Emory University School of Medicine served as tutors and mentors to Afterschool students each week for an entire semester. This partnership represented more than simply getting students to help with their assignments.

**The real-life examples set by these Emory med students were invaluable, as they showed students firsthand what can be achieved through perseverance, commitment, and early investment in the future.**





**Building Opportunity One Student at a Time**

The goal of LaAmistad’s English for Successful Living program is to provide members of our community with convenient, practical, affordable English language classes to improve employability, social interaction, and overall quality of life.

Learning a new language can be daunting, especially without moral support and encouragement from teachers and peers. LaAmistad ESL strives to foster an environment in which adult language learners feel comfortable enough to speak loudly, make mistakes, and build their confidence together.

English for Successful Living continues to rank as one of the largest community-based adult ESL programs in Georgia, with over 350 unique students taking part in the last year. We have established new partnerships with like-minded organizations who believe in our mission and desire to offer the immigrant population in their community the opportunity to become self-sufficient and learn English through LaAmistad ESL.



ESL Student Spotlight

**Veronica Dias**

Veronica Dias was exceptional long before she ever set foot in the United States. A legal professional by trade, she emigrated from her native Brazil less than one year ago in hopes of greater opportunity and a higher quality of life. “Most people don’t consider this,” Dias

remarked, “but it’s always a challenge when you come to the US from abroad. We need to survive. Many Brazilians come and are too busy working [to take English classes].” When she arrived in Atlanta with her nine-year-old daughter, Dias had difficulty finding work as a result of her, then limited, English fluency. Her mother, who had taken the LaAmistad ESL course and always spoke highly of its benefits, advised her that enrollment in the program would make finding work easier and allow her to be more comfortable in her new surroundings. “I live in Woodstock,” Veronica laughed, “No one really speaks Portuguese here, so to be understood I felt like I needed to get better with my English.”

“

**“I’m so glad you have this program,” she beamed, “please keep doing this beautiful work.”**

”

With some English already under her belt, Veronica began ESL at level 4 and was surprised by how supportive and understanding people were when she told them she was taking classes. “If I were shy I think it would be harder,” she said, “but now I know that people can understand me, and they tend to understand and tend not to judge.”

Crediting the hard work and conversational focus of her instructor at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, Veronica now feels she has the language tools she needs to take her next step. “I’m so glad you have this program,” she beamed, “please keep doing this beautiful work.”



## ESL Volunteer Spotlight

### Barbara Gebert



Barbara Gebert has been changing lives in metro Atlanta for decades. A teacher for over 30 years, her passion for education did not end with retirement. "The LaAmistad program fits me because I feel like I am still really teaching." In August 2017, Gebert began volunteering in LaAmistad

ESL and has since logged over 400 hours helping adult learners improve their English fluency, confidence, and employability. "I want [my students] to learn as much as possible every time they come to class. Most of my students have put in long days of work before they come to see me, and I want them to feel like coming to class is worth all the time and effort they put into it and that they are making good progress."

“

**In addition to being dedicated, Gebert is a true advocate for her students and the ESL program at large.**

”

"I like that students are tested and then placed at the best level for them. I think the program is comprehensive and well-paced with enough time to review previous lessons. The teacher's edition is helpful. The student books are well designed for classwork and homework. The testing component helps to keep all of us focused on what is important and gives valuable feedback."

Volunteers like Barbara are the reason LaAmistad has been so successful in teaching language skills to adult learners, and we could not be more grateful to have such an impactful educator supporting its mission.

## Partner Spotlight

### The South Cobb Recreation Center

LaAmistad's newest ESL location operates out of the South Cobb Recreation Center.

Conveniently located in Austell, Georgia, ESL at The South Cobb Recreation Center is a reflection of LaAmistad's core values. Its partnership with Communities in Schools infuses the location with relevant principals like targeted group support and individual case management. Its facilities allow for a classroom environment that champions personal growth.

**The volunteers who frequent the location are unwavering in their support for the program, our mission and, most importantly, their students.**

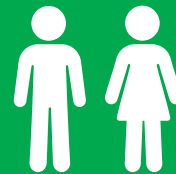


While the main office for the ESL program remains at its original location, faithful stewardship and a thoughtful, layered approach make ESL at the South Cobb Recreation Center a program to watch.

Student's Final Exam  
Grade average

**85%**

(based on spring 2019 final grade)



Unique Students

**360**  
(2019)



ESL Locations

**6**  
(2019)



## LAAMISTAD'S ANÍMATE SUMMER ACADEMY

### Learning and Fun in the Sun

Beginning as a partnership with The Westminster Schools in 2012, the goal of LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy is to provide students the opportunity to continue their academic growth while school is not in session. Studies show that the "summer slide" (a phenomenon signified by the loss of the academic gains of the previous school year) disproportionately affects minority students and students from low-income families. LaAmistad's Animate aims to provide participants with a summer camp experience on par with that of their higher-income peers.

Today, LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy continues to thrive. Our longtime partners at The Westminster Schools graciously donate the use of their campus and encourage the service of their students as counselors and mentors for Animate campers. Our newest location at St. Martin's Episcopal School grew again this year, helping nearly 50 students to hold onto their progress and have fun doing it.

Students in LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy split time equally between academic lessons and summer camp activities. Mornings are spent on a variety of proven curricula in both English and Spanish, while afternoons are filled with swimming, arts, games, and confidence-building activities.



### Volunteer Spotlight

#### Ellen McGrail

She is beloved by students and staff alike. She walks the halls of St. Martin's Episcopal School for the second consecutive summer, renewed in her dedication to the students who depend on her. In her fifth year of service with LaAmistad, she arrives each day as if it were her first. She's devoted, and a fan favorite to say the least. "She is a loving, caring person. A dedicated person," said Linda Spitzer, Camp Director at St. Martin's, "She's someone we can always count on." In LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy, Ms. Ellen is a champion. A critical player in the fight against the dreaded "summer slide," which disproportionately affects students from low-income households. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer educator helping summer students thrive.



## Student Spotlight

### Regina Venegas

When she arrived in the Atlanta area less than one year ago, seven-year-old Regina spoke little to no English. She was quiet. Understandably reserved in a new place surrounded by new people. Luckily, Regina's family found her the academic support and developmental understanding she needed in LaAmistad Afterschool at Centro Católico. Regina thrived.

**Her academic improvements this year were on full display in LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy at St. Martin's Episcopal School, where she flourished in her favorite subject - math.**

Regina continues to build confidence with every meaningful interaction she has with students, volunteers, and teachers. When she is not excelling in the classroom, Regina enjoys spending time with her younger siblings. She hopes to one day become a veterinarian.



## Partner Spotlight

### Soccer in the Streets

Founded in Atlanta in 1989, Soccer in the Streets is a not-for-profit organization that works to develop young leaders so they may lead rich lives and cultivate healthy communities through sports-based youth development. We were fortunate enough to have a team from Soccer in the Streets join our Animate Summer Academy this year at The Westminster Schools, and we sincerely thank them for their efforts to educate our students in teamwork, sportsmanship, and life.



Reading fluency scores improved by an average of

**41%**



Math scores improved by an average of

**35%**



Unique students

**125** (2019)

**112** (2018)

**116** (2017)



**LaAmistad Annual Gala: Celebrating Atlanta Heroes**

LaAmistad Annual Gala: Celebrating Atlanta Heroes (Insert sponsor/Host committee panel seen below from 2018 Gala) On September 29, 2018, over 200 guests gathered in celebration at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta. Community champions, Belisa Urbina, Founder and Executive Director of Ser Familia, Wells Fargo, generous providers of financial literacy programming for families, and Peachtree Church, faithful stewards of LaAmistad since its inception, were honored for their important work on behalf of the Latino community in Atlanta.

The Annual Gala is LaAmistad’s largest fundraising event of the year and the proceeds benefit all aspects of the organization’s work. Through the generosity of donors and sponsors, over \$123,000 was raised through the Gala to carry LaAmistad’s work further in the community.



— HOST COMMITTEE —

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MS. DIANA BALDWIN          | MR. AND MRS. ALAN HAMILTON  |
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| MR. AND MRS. SPENCER CAGLE | MR. AND MRS. JON NAPHIN     |
| MR. AND MRS. HOWARD CLARK  | MR. AND MRS. VINCENT ODDO   |
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- MR. AND MRS. SCOTT STALEY



**LaAmistad Estrellitas**

Established in 2007, Estrellitas (“Little Stars”) is a Junior League of Atlanta (JLA) program whose mission is to educate, empower, support and inspire young Latina girls by teaching them life skills, equipping them to be confident decision-makers, and encouraging them to reach their full potential.

After identifying a lack of programs in the Atlanta area that address the high numbers of Latina teen pregnancies and high school dropout rates, the JLA created this educational program to offer support to Atlanta’s Latina girls during the critical period of transition from adolescence into early adulthood. It comprises a series of workshops coordinated by JLA volunteers built on maintaining the young woman’s sense of identity, which is grounded firmly in an understanding of their cultural heritage. Program topics include self-esteem, education/ career planning, and leadership development. In 2013, Estrellitas merged with LaAmistad, Inc. and now leverages the support and expertise of both organizations.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS,**



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The Coca-Cola Company



**Diana Baldwin**  
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**Johanne Jean**  
ESL Director



**Marcus Laing**  
Community  
Engagement  
Manager



**Leigh Ann Griswold**  
Business Manager



**Alba Nuñez**  
Parent Educator



## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2019

### Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 525,217
Grants receivable, net	279,000
Prepaid expenses	13,742
Equipment, net of depreciation	15,638
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$833,597</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 57,785
Deferred revenue	38,569
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 96,354</b>

#### Net assets:

Unrestricted net assets	\$ 65,496
Temporarily restricted net assets:	
Afterschool Programs*	581,503
All Other	90,244
<b>Total temporarily restricted net assets</b>	<b>\$671,747</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$737,243</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$833,597</b>

\*LaAmistad's Primary Program

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

FYE June 30, 2019

## Revenue, Gains and Support

Donations (including in-kind)	\$ 827,183
Grants and Awards	663,232
Special Event Revenue (net of expenses)	64,940
Program Fees and Other Revenue	147,170
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,702,525</b>

## Expenses

Program	\$ 1,172,257
General and Administrative	189,858
Fundraising	95,511
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,457,626</b>

## Change in Net Assets

\$ 244,899

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## BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD EXPENSES

