



**LA AMISTAD**  
ANNUAL REPORT  
July 2019-June 2020





**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 LaAmistad Family,**

In a year like no other, your contributions of time and financial support have meant more than ever. When the pandemic cut short our in-person programming, your generosity continued to have life-changing impacts on the students and families we serve. They managed to forge on and succeed, educationally and otherwise, thanks to the dedication and selflessness of supporters like you. Through a collaborative effort by our educational partners, local churches, corporate allies, individual donors, and our unbelievable team of volunteers, our mission continues.

Our core principles mirror those established by our founder Bill Maness nearly two decades ago. We distinguish ourselves by employing a holistic approach to education, which considers a wide range of factors impacting school-age and adult students. Our decision-making remains data-driven, as we utilize the most current research and practices to inform the services we provide. Lastly, faithful stewardship of our resources is one of our greatest points of pride. Using these resources to produce positive outcomes for our students and our community at large has been central to LaAmistad's efforts since its inception.

Highlighted in this report are the achievements of the students and families LaAmistad so proudly serves. The victories of our community inspire us every day, and it is our hope that they inspire you as well.

**Yours in service,**

Cat McAfee  
Executive Director



Total  
Individuals  
Served

.....

2020

1,307

.....





## LAAMISTAD VOLUNTEERS

### A Legacy of Service

Forged by the belief that just one person can have a tremendous impact on a student, LaAmistad as an organization owes its success largely to its volunteers. This past year, 1,060 LaAmistad volunteers contributed 14,249 hours of service.

The difference these individuals make for our Afterschool students is evidenced by improved classroom performance and a renewed love of learning. The time and effort they give to adult ESL participants provide the language fluency and confidence necessary to succeed in competitive job markets. Throughout its history, the single most significant factor in student success at LaAmistad has been investment by compassionate people who take joy in giving. In some cases, the knowledge that a volunteer is invested in a student's success is itself enough to inspire gains in academic performance, language fluency, and overall quality of life.



4

**1,061**  
VOLUNTEERS  
**GAVE**  
**14,249**  
HOURS



**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

Bank of America  
Chick-fil-A  
Greenberg Traurig  
Playworks Group  
Sovos  
The Atlanta Braves  
The Atlanta Hawks  
Tower Lights  
Univision  
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



### Gabriela Oliveros

Focused, compassionate, and fiercely bright, Gabriela Oliveros will enter her freshman year at George Washington University this fall. Having attended LaAmistad Afterschool for nearly her entire academic career, Gaby also credits her mother with instilling in her the work ethic and drive that have come to define her success. "She has served as my number one role model," Gaby says. "Seeing how hard she worked every day, as a single mother of four, showed me the importance of a strong work ethic and just how far you can go if you have something driving you." Not only did Gaby thrive academically during her time with LaAmistad, but she also interned at LaAmistad to gain valuable experience and to offer students the support that helped her when she was their age. Gaby showed her deep passion for service throughout her time at North Atlanta High School as a youth board member for The United Way of Greater Atlanta and through other pursuits as well. Gaby's focus, compassion, and intellect promise future success and a fruitful life, no matter what career paths await her.



### Jesus Rojas

Jesus Rojas attended LaAmistad Afterschool in the Teen Center from 2014-2016. The son of two immigrants from Mexico, Jesus remembers beginning his academic career with little to no English fluency and falling in love with math due to its universal nature. "When I began studying math I loved it because it was a language I could understand with ease. I knew I wanted to pursue a career involving math. When I was about 13 years old, my father took me to work with him, and I learned more about myself than I would have ever imagined. I became very fond of the concept of electricity, which gave me the idea that I wanted to dedicate my life to doing something that dealt with math and also electricity. After some research, I knew my passion was going to be electrical engineering. I also learned something else from that experience of working with my dad: if I ever wanted to become an electrical engineer, I would have to work harder than I ever have in school to achieve my dream." Jesus will begin his pursuit of an electrical engineering degree at Georgia Tech this fall.



## LAAMISTAD AFTERSCHOOL

### A Holistic Approach to Afterschool

The benefits of afterschool tutoring for students from underserved ethnic and socioeconomic groups are well documented. Reinforcing concepts, raising reading levels, and growing confidence are some of the most important functions supplementary academic programs perform. What sets LaAmistad apart from other nationally-ranked afterschool initiatives is its holistic academic structure that considers many social-emotional factors. Reinforced by scientific study, LaAmistad Afterschool's structure ensures that students always have a safe, productive space in which to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. There is more to learning than memorization and test-taking, and LaAmistad Afterschool is committed to enhancing all aspects of its students' educational experience.

6

When a programmatic approach expands to include families, results improve even more. LaAmistad's Parent Partnership Program aims to engage whole families by offering workshops and connecting parents with specialists in the fields of finance, diet and healthy living, education and scholarships, domestic violence awareness, and more.



### Student Spotlight

#### Cael Montero Rueda

Cael is a third-grade student at Briar Vista Elementary School attending LaAmistad Afterschool at Clairmont Presbyterian Church. His favorite subject is math, an area in which he excels among his classmates.

**"My favorite thing about LaAmistad are the volunteers and the teachers,"** Cael said. "They help me a lot with my homework." Beyond being a star academically, Cael is a caring student, embodying kindness in every situation. "Last month," he recalled, "I helped my sister with her homework project. She had to make a video about her family, so I helped her with that." Though he misses field trips to the Atlanta Zoo, distance learning has allowed him to further explore one of his other favorite things, food. "When I grow up I want to be a chef," he declared assuredly. "I really like to cook." When he isn't solving equations or flexing his culinary muscles, Cael enjoys spending time with his cousins and playing Roblox.



Reading fluency scores improved by an average of

**61%**



Math scores improved by an average of

**146%**



Unique Students

**281**  
(2020)



Afterschool Locations

**11** (2020)  
**8** (2019)  
**8** (2018)



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Judy Sophianopoulos Clairmont Presbyterian Church

When it comes to the power of donating time, Judy Sophianopoulos is a true believer. She has been tutoring with LaAmistad Afterschool at Clairmont Presbyterian Church for the last three years. "I was looking for volunteer work close to home," said Sophianopoulos. Through her time there, Sophianopoulos has watched her students become superstars in their classrooms, and she credits the impact of the program to her longevity as a volunteer. "Students grow academically and socially by learning language arts, math, and respect for one another and their teachers," she said. "For example, one of our first graders was ashamed he couldn't read when he first came to the program but was a confident star by the end of the school year." The joy Judy feels helping Afterschool students reach their potential provides constant inspiration, and she encourages others to find this same fulfillment by signing up to volunteer.

**"There's nothing that can brighten your day more than being with happy kids," she said. "It's fun helping them."**



## Partner Spotlight



### The Wesleyan School

This year, LaAmistad students at Honeysuckle Park and Embry Hills UMC saw firsthand that you are never too young to make a difference. As part of their annual service curriculum, Wesleyan's Winter Service Team joined Afterschool students three times per week during the fall semester. The team built meaningful relationships with our scholars and provided valuable insight about what to expect as they continue their educational careers.

**"The students were so thrilled to work with this group,"** Said Ms. Neal, Site Director at Embry Hills United Methodist Church.

**"It's so encouraging to see young people give back."**

Wesleyan's dedication to this community is an inspiration, and we are grateful to have had them with us.





**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 English language classes to improve employability, social interaction, and overall quality of life. Learning a new language can be daunting, especially without 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 confidence together.

English for Successful Living continues to rank as one of the largest community-based adult ESL programs in Georgia, with over 360 unique students taking part last year. We have also established new partnerships with like-minded organizations who want to offer immigrant populations in their communities the opportunity to become self-sufficient.

**Jordan Moore**



**ESL Volunteer Spotlight**

Jordan Moore has a passion for helping people. “I’m a librarian,” said Moore. “My motto at work is, ‘Make difficult things a little bit easier.’ I cannot do my patrons’ research for them, but I can make the process a little easier by showing them how to use the library. Similarly,

I cannot make learning a new language or living in a foreign country painless for my students, but I can meet with them twice a week to practice English and answer their questions.” In 2017, Moore began volunteering in LaAmistad ESL and has since logged over 200 hours.

When asked how – amid a global pandemic – she continues to volunteer, Moore made it clear that the benefits of LaAmistad ESL Online are not exclusive to the program’s students. “I put in the hours,” remarked Moore, “because I always feel happier, more fulfilled, and more

hopeful after class. Sometime around the second or third week of my level 2 class, the lesson was drawing to a close. Before I could end the call, students began taking turns

**“ I put in the hours,” remarked Moore, “because I always feel happier, more fulfilled, and more hopeful after class.**

saying goodnight and wishing everyone a good rest of the week. I wasn’t just happy about the extra practice everyone was getting. I was also happy to see that we had already become such a friendly and supportive group.”

Volunteers like Jordan are the reason LaAmistad has been so successful in teaching adults, and we could not be more grateful to have such an impactful supporter of our mission.

## ESL Student Spotlight

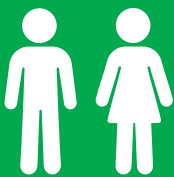
### Ana Nieto



An Atlantan for the past seven years, Ana Nieto has quickly come to embody everything that LaAmistad's English for Successful Living intends for its students. When she first arrived in the United States, Ana was equipped with little more than her dreams of a better life. She did not speak English but Ana knew that improving her English skills would provide her with greater opportunities. She began looking for an inclusive, encouraging environment in which to learn. At the suggestion of a friend, Ana enrolled in LaAmistad ESL in 2018 and has not looked back. In her two years in LaAmistad's ESL program, Ana has secured a job at a dealership as well as expanded her own business. Now, she is on the path to fulfilling her dreams with great confidence. Ana will return for level 5 of LaAmistad's ESL program this fall.

Student's Final Exam  
Grade average **87%**

(based on spring 2019 final grade)



Unique Students

**360**  
(2020)



ESL Locations

**8**  
(2020)

## Partner Spotlight

### The ESL Virtual Classroom

At the time of its establishment, LaAmistad ESL had a clear vision for success: to utilize positive, encouraging social interaction to produce real-world results where entire communities of non-native English speakers could learn, grow, and achieve goals together.

When a global pandemic made in-person learning impossible, LaAmistad's ESL staff acted quickly to ensure that students could continue their classes and reap the benefits of a supportive group environment. Thus, the ESL Virtual Classroom was born.



With the help of volunteer teachers, tutors, and conversation partners, the ESL Virtual Classroom has delivered in spades. Students are not only able to take part in their classes from the comfort of their own homes, but the structure of LaAmistad's online program allows them to engage in positive interactions with their peers, the cornerstone of our holistic approach to education.



## COVID-19 RELIEF

This year, LaAmistad students and families have faced unprecedented challenges. When schools and businesses started shutting down, many of our families lost resources on which they had long relied. In some cases, parents lost jobs or were furloughed. In others, parents had nobody available to watch their students while they continued to work. In almost all cases, though, the loss of daily meals typically provided by schools presented families with a litany of additional costs and responsibilities that threw their lives off-kilter. As an organization, we knew that despite this not being our primary area of service, we had a duty to do everything we possibly could to help keep our families afloat during the crisis.

Our Parent Liaisons sprang into action, performing needs assessments for resources like groceries and internet access. Through the generosity of our volunteers, our partners, and the community at large, LaAmistad was able to provide COVID relief directly to families in the form of pre-loaded grocery store gift cards. We also fired up our new bus and put it to work to distribute over 30,000 prepared meals for our families in every corner of the metro area.







LaAmistad's support went beyond battling food insecurity. Funds were distributed to our families for need-based rent assistance. This initiative helped families avoid yet another life-changing event by keeping them in their homes and allowing parents, for a moment to breathe.

It is such a blessing to know that LaAmistad's community is one that binds tightly in times of need. And although times remain uncertain, our students and families know there are advocates they can always depend on in LaAmistad and its community of givers.

Thankfully, our students and families know that they have advocates they can always depend on in LaAmistad and its community of givers.





## LAAMISTAD'S ANÍMATE SUMMER ACADEMY

### Learning and Fun in the Sun

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

This year, due to the pandemic, Animate students thrived online rather than in person. Our location at St. Martin's Episcopal School performed well again this year, helping students to maintain their progress and have fun despite the sudden changes they faced.

12

Just as they would in person, students split their time between academic lessons and summer camp activities. Mornings were spent on a variety of proven curricula in both English and Spanish, while afternoons were filled with virtual arts, games, and confidence-building activities.



### Volunteer Spotlight

#### Soccer in the Streets

Soccer in the Streets has always been one of the most anticipated parts of LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy. Founded in Atlanta in 1989, Soccer in the Streets aims to improve the lives of kids through work-readiness training, participation in youth leadership activities, and of course, the beautiful game.

This year, the dedicated folks at Soccer in the Streets were determined to make a way for students to enjoy these beloved activities. Each student was gifted a soccer ball and coaches provided students with virtual soccer lessons twice a week, where they worked on footwork, agility, and speed all from home. Coaches emphasized the importance of physical fitness and taught students simple, practical ways to stay active in small spaces.

We could not be more grateful for the way Soccer in the Streets went above and beyond for Animate campers this year.

## Student Spotlight

### Erick Bueno

A second-grade student at Lake Forrest Elementary School, Erick Bueno attended LaAmistad's Animate Summer Academy Online this summer. Being online did not dampen Erick's enthusiasm for camp one bit.

**"I like to play with my friends at camp," Erick beamed, "but I also like talking with my teacher and everyone in LaAmistad."**

Erick is described by volunteers as a great student and an even better classroom citizen, always eager to help others along. "Last year at school I helped my teachers with kids that didn't speak English," Erick recalled. Erick entered his second year in LaAmistad Afterschool this fall and hopes to one day become a veterinarian.



## Partner Spotlight

### Food Corps.

Dedicated to educating students about healthy food, where it comes from, and its nutritional and societal benefits, Food Corps teamed up with LaAmistad this summer to host a series of educational activities. Representatives led Animate students in virtual field trips to botanical gardens and nature trails around the city, refusing to let the pandemic stop students from learning about nature in their own backyard.

Students learned about the plants and animals that make up our planet, and how they interconnect to form unique habitats. They then put this knowledge to use by planting their own terrariums and watching their plants grow over the course of camp.

13



Reading fluency scores improved by an average of

**14%**



Math scores improved by an average of

**14%**



Unique students

**63**

(2020)



**LaAmistad Annual Gala: Celebrating Atlanta Heroes**

On September 28, 2019, over 200 guests gathered in celebration at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta. Community champions Eduardo Martinez, President of the UPS Foundation; Barbarella Díaz, Executive Vice President of Díaz Foods; and Jerry González, Executive Director of Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) 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 sponsors and donors, over \$150,000.00 was raised through the Gala to carry LaAmistad’s work further in the community.



HOST COMMITTEE

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MS. DIANA BALDWIN           | TRACIE KLINKE               |
| MARY AND REID BARKER        | MARIANNE & E.G. LASSITER    |
| JULIANNA & SPENCER CAGLE    | MS. LILLIAN RODRÍGUEZ LÓPEZ |
| JANET & HOWARD CLARK        | MR. AND MRS. RANDY MANER    |
| GWYNIE & DON DENNARD        | ANGELA & JON NAPHIN         |
| NAN & ED EASTERLIN          | MARLENE & VINNY ODDO        |
| CLAIR & JUAN FLORES         | KIM & SCOTT STALEY          |
| MISSIE & DOUG GOODING       | JOHANNA & JOHN SULLIVAN     |
| SHEILA & ELLIOTT HUTCHINSON |                             |

TITLE SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AXIOM CORPORATION      | MTI BATHS                      |
| DESMET BALLESTRA       | PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS CHARITIES |
| DON AND LISA BARDEN    | MIMI & LAWSON SPENCE           |
| CHARITABLE GIVING FUND | THE COCA-COLA COMPANY          |
| DELTA AIR LINES        | VENSURE                        |
| GEORGIA POWER          | WALMART                        |
| LAYER 3 COMMUNICATIONS |                                |

COMPAÑERO SPONSORS

- |         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| EQUIFAX | THE LOVETT SCHOOL |
|---------|-------------------|

AMIGO SPONSORS

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MR. AND MRS. ANDREW BARTLETT | MR. AND MRS. GEORGE LANE |
| MR. AND MRS. CRAIG HEISER    | MR. AND MRS. RANDY RHINO |
| MR. AND MRS. ALAN HOLMAN     |                          |



**LaAmistad Estrellitas**

Established in 2007, Estrellitas (“Little Stars”) is a Junior League of Atlanta (JLA) program with a mission 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 transition from adolescence to early adulthood. The program is comprised of workshops coordinated by JLA volunteers built on maintaining a young woman’s sense of identity, all 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 for even more support and expertise.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Lillian Rodríguez López, Board Chair**  
The Coca-Cola Company



**Randy Maner, Treasurer**  
MTI Baths, Inc.



**Jay Madden**  
Peachtree Presbyterian Church



**Doug Gooding, Vice Chair**  
Invesco Global Asset Management, Inc. (retired)



**Howard Clark**  
Clark & Company, Inc.



**Marlene Oddo**  
Point4 Capital, LLC



**Julianna Rue Cagle, Secretary**  
The Goizueta Foundation



**Diana Baldwin**  
SunTrust Bank



**Johanna Sullivan**  
Serta Simmons Bedding

## STAFF



**Catrina DaCosta McAfee**  
Executive Director



**Sophia Jackson**  
Assistant Director



**Anna McGee-Blackburn**  
Development Director



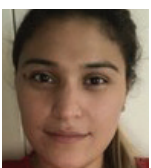
**Marcus Laing**  
Communications Director



**Nina Reid**  
Community Engagement Director



**Mario Corea**  
Development Associate



**Viviana Rodriguez**  
Volunteer Coordinator



**Michelle Ocampo**  
Afterschool Director



**Alba Nuñez**  
Parent Educator



**Brianna Bacorn**  
ESL Director



**Briana Reeves Jackson**  
ESL Director



**Leigh Ann Griswold**  
Business Manager



# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2020

## Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,037,339
Grants receivable, net	128,000
Prepaid expenses	9,157
Equipment, net of depreciation	73,652
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,248,148</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 47,132
Deferred revenue	8,500
Payroll Protection Program Loan	132,458
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$188,090</b>

### Net assets:

Unrestricted net assets	\$ 351,970
Temporarily restricted net assets:	
Afterschool Programs*	243,426
All Other	464,662
<b>Total temporarily restricted net assets</b>	<b>\$ 708,088</b>

<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$1,060,058</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$1,248,148</b>

\*LaAmistad's Primary Program

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

FYE June 30, 2020

## Revenue, Gains and Support

Donations (including in-kind)	\$ 902,574
Grants and Awards	839,640
Special Event Revenue (net of expenses)	82,829
Program Fees and Other Revenue	113,669
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,938,712</b>

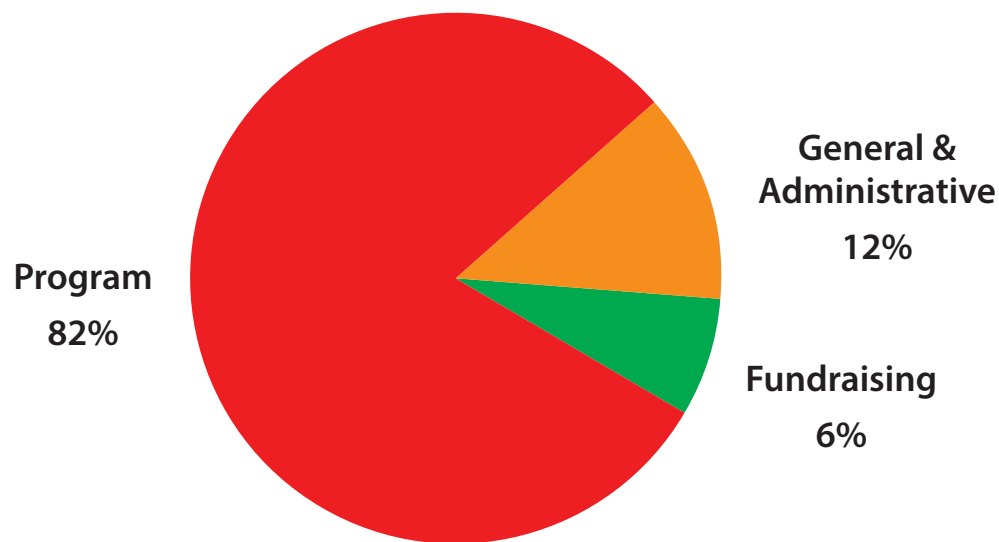
## Expenses

Program	\$ 1,317,934
General and Administrative	200,132
Fundraising	97,831
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,615,897</b>

## Change in Net Assets

\$ 322,815

## BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD EXPENSES







**Meals distributed:**  
**Over 30,000**



**Gift Cards and  
Rent Assistance:**  
**Over \$150,000**









3434 Roswell Road, NW | Atlanta, GA 30305 | [www.laamistadinc.org](http://www.laamistadinc.org)