



LATINOS IN VIRGINIA  
EMPOWERMENT CENTER

# WEAVING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY FOR A SAFE SPACE IN VIRGINIA

LATINOS IN VIRGINIA  
IMPACT REPORT 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from our CEO ..... 1
- LIVE Center’s Growth by the Numbers & Areas of Service ..... 2-3
- Timeline of Milestones for LIVE Center ..... 4-5
- LIVE Center’s Revenue Since Founding ..... 6
- About LIVE Center ..... 7-13
  - Who We Are ..... 7
  - Why We Exists ..... 7
  - Who We Serve ..... 8
  - What We Do ..... 9-11
- 2024 Financials ..... 14
- Client Stories ..... 15-16
- Partner Spotlight ..... 17
- Honoring our Donors ..... 18-19
- How to Help ..... 20



# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It’s hard to believe 2024 marks the 5th anniversary of Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center (LIVE Center) as a 501c3. Reflecting on the past five years, I am filled with pride and gratitude for our growth and accomplishments. Our journey has been defined by dedication, resilience, and a strong commitment to supporting Latino victims of violence in Virginia.

Thanks to the tireless work of our staff, donors, foundations, and volunteers, we have made a significant impact. In the past five years, we’ve answered over 10,000 helpline crisis calls, conducted more than 10,000 crisis interventions, and provided nearly 45,000 information and referral services, along with 25,000 advocacy services.

We push to provide so much support because of the unique cultural and linguistic barriers Latino victims face. These barriers often prevent access to the protection they need. Our culturally and linguistically appropriate services ensure no one hears, “I’m sorry, I don’t speak Spanish,” when seeking help.

This year’s annual report design features basket-weaving details to symbolize the unique community Latinos need to feel true safety—woven with culture by those who understand it. We partner with over 90 organizations, blending our cultural knowledge with their resources to serve Spanish-speaking victims.

As we grow, your support remains crucial. Your contributions allow us to provide life-saving services and create a safe space for Latino victims of violence.

Thank you for standing with us and helping create a brighter, safer future for all. Together, we are making a difference.

De Corazon Muchas Gracias,

*Elvira De la Cruz*

Elvira De la Cruz  
Chief Executive Officer  
Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center

# LIVE'S GROWTH, BY THE NUMBERS

Over the past five years, we have...



# AREAS OF SERVICE



## Greater Richmond Region & Tri-Cities of Virginia:

- Hanover
- Goochland
- Ashland
- Powhatan
- Henrico
- Richmond
- New Kent
- Chesterfield
- Charles City
- Petersburg
- Colonial Heights
- Prince George

## Hampton Roads:

- Norfolk
- Portsmouth
- Newport News
- Chesapeake
- Hampton
- Virginia Beach
- Suffolk



# TIMELINE OF MILESTONES FOR THE LATINOS IN VIRGINIA EMPOWERMENT CENTER (LIVE CENTER)

In December 2008, a group of concerned Latinos came together to address unmet needs within their community, eventually forming Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center (LIVE Center). Over the past 15 years, LIVE (Center) has earned the trust of Latinos across Virginia, expanding services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence. This timeline highlights key milestones in our growth and dedication to serving the Latino community in Virginia. Read on to learn more about our journey.

**2018**

- Became a 501(c)(3), transitioning to focus on Latino immigrant victims of violence and injustice.

**2019**

- Received first grants from a local foundation and state agencies.
- Opened the first Latino Empowerment Center in Chesterfield County, serving Greater Richmond.

**2020**

- Launched Virginia's first statewide, bilingual (Spanish-English) 24/7 hotline for victims of violence.
- Added licensed Latino clinicians to provide therapy alongside peer counseling services.

**2021**

- Established Virginia's first Spanish-English interpreter bank to help service providers assist Spanish-speaking clients.

**2022**

- Opened a Virginia Beach office, expanding a pilot project into a full center serving Hampton Roads.
- Started legal clinics with local law firms to offer legal aid.

**2023**

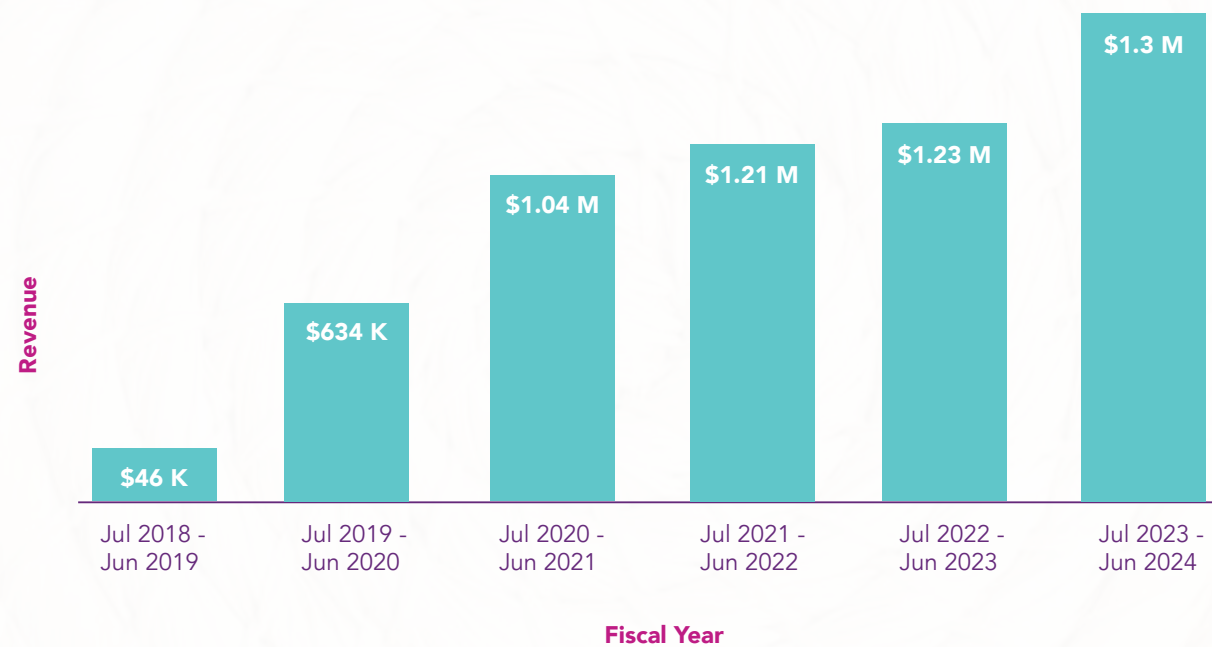
- Launched Líderes Latinos, a program to prevent domestic and sexual violence.
- Opened the Chesterfield Latino HUB, a safe space connecting Spanish-speaking service providers with the Latino community.

**2024**

- Moved the Hampton Roads office to a larger location in Chesapeake, expanding services.

## LIVE CENTER'S REVENUE SINCE FOUNDING

Since our inception, LIVE Center has steadily expanded services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence, thanks to the generosity of state and federal funders, foundations, and donors. As a small organization, every dollar helps provide a trusted path out of abusive situations for Latinos in need.



## WHO WE ARE

LIVE Center is a nonprofit organization helping Latinos experiencing sexual or domestic violence to safely get out of abusive situations.



## WHY WE EXIST

LIVE Center ensures no Latino in Virginia feels it's safer to endure abuse than seek help. Although Latinos experience domestic and sexual violence at similar rates to others, many don't feel safe accessing available services.

LIVE Center, run by Latinos for Latinos, offers a safe, accessible way out of abusive situations. Victims can learn about their rights and access services without fear of judgment, discrimination, or immigration concerns.

# WHO WE SERVE

Latinos across Virginia impacted by sexual or domestic violence or needing help accessing services. Despite our small size, LIVE Center provides holistic support, offering a trusted space and support that connects Spanish-speakers to essential resources for victims of violence.



# WHAT WE DO

The LIVE Center’s dedication to supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence is evident in the growing scope and scale of services provided each year. Over the years, the Center has provided a comprehensive array of services tailored to the needs of these victims, ensuring holistic support through crisis and recovery.

From information and referrals to personal advocacy and accompaniment, emotional support, shelter placement and relocation, and criminal/civil justice system assistance, the Center ensures that victims receive comprehensive care tailored to their unique needs and empowers Latinos to find safety, support, and a path to recovery.

The following are a few of LIVE Center’s key service areas:

## 1. Information and Referral

LIVE Center connects clients to trusted partners, organizations, and resources, ensuring they receive comprehensive support. Our helpline also serves the broader Latino community in Virginia, offering information and resources in Spanish and English to bridge the gap between Latinos in crisis and needed services.

- 10,386 information and referral services provided in FY2024
- 240% increase in information and referral services over the past 5 years



## 2. Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment

LIVE Center helps clients navigate complex systems, providing advocacy and interpretation during medical, legal, and social service processes. Our advocates ensure clients' voices are heard and their needs met.

- **8,769 advocacy services provided to 1,134 individuals in FY2024**

- **90% increase in advocacy services over the past 5 years**



## 3. Emotional Support Services

LIVE Center offers crisis intervention, counseling, and therapy in clients' native languages, helping them process trauma and begin healing. Our support restores safety and well-being for those impacted by violence.

- **2,594 crisis interventions**

- **2,753 hotline/counseling services**

- **3,174 individual counseling sessions**

- **711 therapy sessions**

- **460% increase in services over the past 5 years**



## 4. Shelter Placement and Relocation

LIVE Center assists clients in finding emergency shelter and safe housing, providing them and their children with a secure environment to rebuild their lives.

- **78 relocation services in FY2024**

- **771 relocation cases in the past 5 years**

## 5. Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance

LIVE Center helps clients navigate the legal system, providing support obtaining protective orders, legal proceedings, and advice to ensure their rights are upheld.

- **444 services provided in FY2024**

- **2,536 services in the past 5 years**

For a comprehensive list of the many services LIVE Center provides to clients, please visit our website.



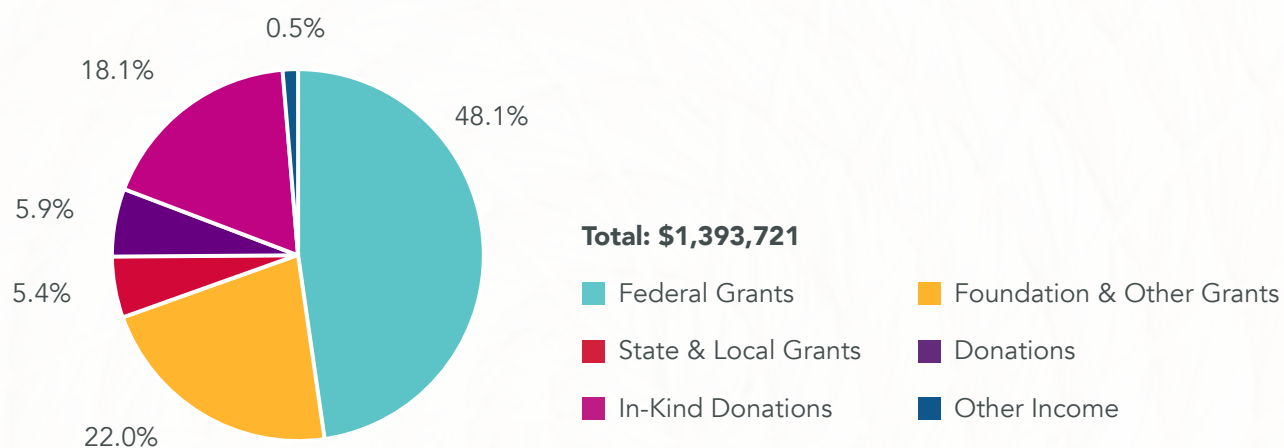




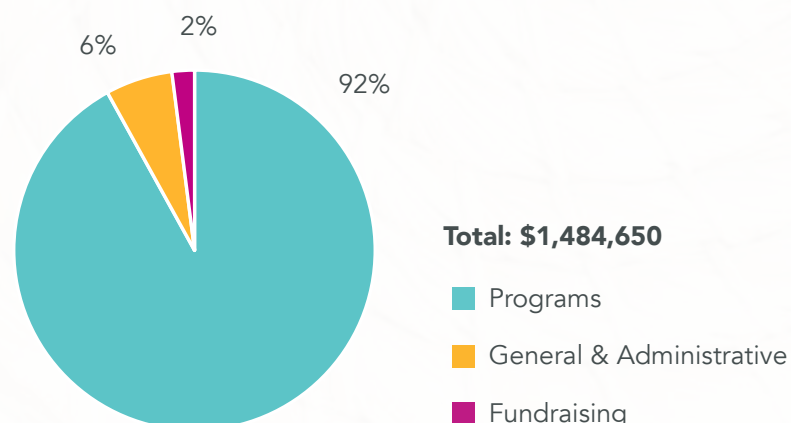
## FINANCIALS

In 2024, LIVE Center continued to diversify its revenue streams, while efficiently and responsibly expanding our services and team to better support Virginia's Latinos.

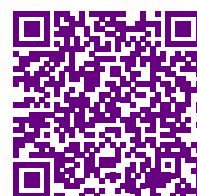
### Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center Revenue Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024



### Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center Expenses Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024



DONATE



## CLIENT STORIES

Imagine being a Latino immigrant with limited English, facing a crisis in a foreign country. You'd likely feel overwhelmed and unsure where to find help. The LIVE Center understands this fear and offers vital support and referrals in a trusted environment. These stories, with details changed for privacy, show how we assist clients.



### Domestic Violence: Emilia's Story Services accessed: Legal assistance, medical accompaniment, emotional support services

After a violent attack where her husband nearly strangled her in front of their children, Emilia called LIVE Center for help. The police arrested him, and Emilia received an emergency protective order. LIVE Center assisted in requesting a Preliminary Protective Order, a forensic exam, and her criminal case, including custody and child support. Emilia and her son are now in therapy, healing from the trauma.

Emilia said,

*"I was so ashamed for not listening to those who love me... But I never felt judged or misunderstood by anyone at LIVE Center. They guided me...with patience and compassion. They were there for me, every step of the way... I'm learning how to stay strong, empowered... My children deserve it, and so do I. Thank you for everything LIVE Center!"*

(Quote translated from Spanish)

### *Sexual Violence: Isabella's Story*

*Services accessed: Transportation assistance, interpretation, legal assistance and accompaniment, emotional support services*

Isabella, a young woman with four children, endured 10 years of abuse but feared seeking help due to her abuser's threats about her undocumented status. Without a driver's license or car, she struggled to reach the LIVE Center. We provided transportation and helped her file for a protective order, offering support and informing her of her rights.

After building trust, Isabella decided to report the multiple assaults. LIVE Center assisted with transportation, coordinated with the detective, and provided an advocate and interpreter.

Isabella said,

*"I know I'm not where I need to be yet... But I'm in a good place. Finding LIVE Center was like finding a little piece of home... I'm telling everybody I know about them... Know we are not alone. Thank you LIVE Center!"*

(Quote translated from Spanish)



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

We are a small team helping a large population. Partners are a crucial part of our organization and make it possible for us to achieve our mission.

### **Featured Partner:**

### *SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now)*

LIVE Center regularly partners with SCAN to provide Spanish language interpreter services. In 2024, SCAN evaluated their language access protocols and found LIVE Center's interpreters set the standard for their organization. LIVE Center is expanding this collaboration to ensure Spanish-speakers can access SCAN's services through trusted interpreters.



*"It is unanimous: our staff loves working with you all!"*

- Lorena Brennan Castro, MSW, Supervisee in Clinical Social Work for SCAN



# HONORING OUR DONORS

LIVE Center would not be able to fulfill its mission without the support of generous donors. In the past five years of LIVE's expansion and growth in service of the Latino community, the following individuals, foundations, and organizations have supported our work:

## More than \$250K support:

- VA Department of Criminal Justice Services
- VA Department of Social Services
- Chesterfield County
- Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

## \$201K-250K:

- The Community Foundation of Richmond
- Jenkins Foundation
- Robins Foundation

## \$101k-200K:

- Esperanza United
- Hampton Roads Community Foundation

## \$51k-100k:

- Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation
- The Montero Family
- Virginia Department of Health

## \$11k-50k:

- Robert M Atack Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
- American Online Giving Foundation
- City of Virginia Beach
- Bank of America
- Pechura and Ingram Fund

## \$5k-10K:

- County of Henrico
- Everytown for Gun Safety
- GEICO Insurance Agency
- Queen Virginia Skills and Entertainment, LLC
- The CarMax Foundation
- De la Cruz Anderson Family



- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- First Presbyterian Church
- Nisoure Charitable Foundation
- Southwood Apartments, LLC
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- The Chicago Community Trust
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- Genworth Financial

## Under \$5k:

- Third Church
- The Quaker Thrift Store
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund
- The Bernhardt Family
- Bernandine Franciscan Sister Foundation
- CAF America
- Canastas Chicken
- The Michelsen-King Family
- Booberg Law Firm
- Brown Advisory Charity Foundation
- The Barbosa-De Leon Family
- Morelia Mexican Restaurant, LLC
- Norfolk Festevents
- University of Richmond
- Center of the Universe Brewing
- Friends of Debra Rodman
- The Hulcher Family
- The Rolfes Family
- The Idea Center
- Washington and Lee University
- Salsa Guy
- The Peruvian Consulate
- Capital One Services LLC
- Tako Tako Restaurant
- The Eddy Family
- The White Ave
- The Lescano Family
- The Costa-Clubb Family

To all our donors, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your support helped to build a bridge to safety for thousands of Virginia's Latinos in 2024.



## HELP US CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR VIRGINIA'S LATINOS



Every dollar supports our programs to provide stability and safety. Donate by scanning the QR code or visit [www.latinosenvirginia.org/en](http://www.latinosenvirginia.org/en) for more information.

**DONATE**



### LIVE CENTER BOARD MEMBERS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Christopher Bernhardt, Chairperson
- Jenny E. Lescano, Treasurer
- Patricia Michelsen-King, Secretary
- Inez Costa-Clubb, Director
- Maria Isabel Alegria, Director
- Karina Vazquez, Director
- Elvira De la Cruz, CEO

*Empowering Virginia's Latinos to  
break free from violence*

