ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017
24 Years of Empowering Women and Families
OUR SUPPORTING ORDERS

Daughters of Charity
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Social Service
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St. Louis
Sisters of the Holy Faith – California Province
Sisters of the Holy Family
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Society of the Holy Child Jesus

OUR MISSION

To provide a supportive nurturing environment for economically poor women and their families by offering programs that empower women and their families to reach full potential, build self-esteem, utilize resources and strengthen mutual interdependent relations.

HISTORY

South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (SC LAMP) was founded in response to the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles by a collaboration of eight congregations of Catholic women religious. They walked through the devastated neighborhood and asked how they could better support the community and its families.

In response, the Sisters heard a strong desire from mothers to enhance their parenting skills, improve their English literacy, and prepare their children for school and later success in life. In dialogue with the local community, the founders developed family-centered programming that has grown to include: English as a Second Language (ESL) courses; parenting classes; early childhood education programs and other initiatives that support family needs in the community—all at no cost to the families.
Dear Friends,

As Executive Director, I am proud to share with you South Central LAMP’s Annual Report. Our organization has achieved significant milestones. We were founded with the sole purpose of serving a community affected by the civil unrest of 1992. The Sisters canvassed the area to create programs that reflected the needs and desires of the community. Now, South Central LAMP reaches hundreds of participants each year and we have served more than 2,500 women and children in our formal early childhood and parenting classes.

We have grown to become a fully licensed early childhood education center, to offer broad parenting education and English literacy and to have financial support from State, Local and Federal agencies, Foundations, and dedicated individuals as well as our founding Orders.

Every program is offered without cost to our families and all of our parenting classes include childcare to allow mothers to focus on learning without concern for their children. We have updated our website, established a social media presence, and gone “Green” by sending paperless invites and newsletters to our donors and supporters. Our reach has expanded and SC LAMP has gained several hundred new supporters in recent years.

As someone who started as the Family Advocate at SC LAMP, I have witnessed and participated in our progress. It has been a wonderful and continuing journey; we are proud of all that we have accomplished and deeply appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

Diana Z. Pinto

Our Values

- Empower women to advocate for themselves, their children and families
- Develop English language skills and tools to flourish in the community
- Instill positive parent and child interaction
- Promote early literacy and school readiness skills for children and their families
- Maximize community resources to enable SC LAMP’s mission

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own. — Cesar Chavez
“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela
Family Literacy programs improve the lives of the whole family by focusing on the achievement of both parents and children. SC LAMP empowers mothers and their children through education while strengthening parenting skills. By investing in mothers we can elevate the whole family. At SC LAMP we currently offer: Parenting and related childcare, Parent Child Interactive Literacy Activities (PCILA), English as a Second Language (ESL), licensed Early Childhood Education, Family Advocacy, a weekly food pantry, program based workshops, school age and family summer programs and other community participation and outreach opportunities.

In 2016-2017 over 500 families participated in the following programs:

**PARENTING PROGRAM**

Our parenting classes focus on strengthening the self-confidence and self-reliance of mothers, stabilizing and strengthening the parent-child relationship, and ensuring families that their preschool children are ready for kindergarten.

**Participants: Adults**

**PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIVE LITERACY ACTIVITIES (PCILA):**

PCILA brings together the mother and child in our parenting program. Guided by fully trained early childhood educators, mothers learn strategies for developing their family’s literacy skills in their everyday life, as well as various ways to support learning in the home.

**Participants: Women and Children**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL):**

Our three levels of ESL classes focus on equipping parents with the language proficiency necessary to participate fully in society and to support and advocate for their children.

**Participants: Adults**

**ECE PROGRAM: FAMILY LITERACY**

The children’s programs are based on the Creative Curriculum for Preschool model that focuses on understanding childrens’ development, meeting their individual needs, providing a supportive environment, facilitating developmentally appropriate experiences and partnering with families.

**Participants: Children 0-5 years old**
FAMILY ADVOCACY & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

South Central LAMP’s Family Advocacy program is designed to help parents develop personal and family goals, identify and address obstacles, and to provide support, information and referrals to vital community resources such as education and special education programs, community services, food pantries, physical and mental health resources, as well as other faith based/non-faith based programs.

Our on-site Family Advocate offers highly individualized and integrated support through home and in office visits in order to establish a trusting positive relationship and to identify and coordinate referral needs.

LACC ESL:

Los Angeles City College teachers provide adults with 108 hours of English proficiency classes at SC LAMP. This is the perfect class for adults who cannot participate in our comprehensive family and early childhood program.

Participants: Adults

SCHOOL-AGE EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program was created to support the mothers attending our Family Literacy parenting and ESL classes. If their older children (5-12 years of age) have a day off from school, we engage the children at our site with fun and enriching activities to allow the mothers to attend class.

Participants: Children 5 -12 years old

FAMILY SUMMER PROGRAM

The Family Summer Program (CAMP LAMP) is an opportunity to create a camp setting for families who otherwise could not have this experience. We provide onsite educational programs as well as field trips. Since most of our families do not have ready access to transportation or financially with money resources, they rarely have the opportunity to explore outside of South Los Angeles. The field trips allow us to introduce the families to places outside of South LA where they can enjoy new experiences and feel comfortable returning again with their families. We’ve been to several places that they otherwise might not have visited, such as the Discovery Cube in Orange County, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, KidSpace in Pasadena, and Underwood Family Farms in Moorpark.

Participants: Adults, Children 0-5 years old & Children 5-15 years old

93% • Retention Rate: Families stayed in the program.

87% • Attendance Rate
“Free the child’s potential, and you will transform him into the world.”

- Maria Montessori
ROSA’S STORY

I learned how important literature is so that our children will grow better and be somebody in the future. This is why SC LAMP’s program was much better for me and my child; they really did help us a lot. It was a chance for my child to receive an early education as well as an opportunity for me to learn and get away from my home and other responsibilities. After graduation, my daughter began to attend public pre-school. The teachers there were impressed by how advanced she was. When she came home from school I never had to help her with her homework, she knew how to do it well. She also loves to read and is always reading. She is going to start kindergarten and is already reading books in English and Spanish at a reading level for 9 to 10 years old.

As a woman I feel more secure and I have a higher self-esteem. My self-esteem was very low before I started the program. Back then I faced a lot of fears, and at SC LAMP they showed us all the various resources we have in our community to help us overcome these fears.

This program also helps the relationship with your partner. I became so accustomed to being in the home the whole time and developed this way of thinking that the man is the only one who rules in the household and is the only one who can determine what you can and cannot do, and that is not the way it’s supposed to be. One needs to be independent, and yes take your husband into account but not allow him to make decisions for you. I believe as wives, we should not have to ask the husbands for permission because we are equal. That’s what they teach us here, that the husband and the wife are equal and one does not have a higher value than the other. This has definitely built my security as a woman and a wife.

SC LAMP is like going to grandma’s house. It’s a place where you can always come back and it feels like home. During the times I was facing many problems in my household, I felt a relief when I would come to this organization. I was so accustomed to being at home especially since I did not work. When I came here I was a different person and I was always happy. Everything I learned here, I apply it to my everyday life.
Dear Friends,

Your support of SC LAMP throughout 2016-2017 allowed us to continue our Mission of empowering women and their families.

We have come a long way since 1992. The chaotic atmosphere of that time brought a vision of opportunity and a spark was ignited. That spark is shining brighter than ever and with your support, we will be able to assure the vision and continue to illuminate our community as a beacon for families in the years to come.

I was honored to undertake the task of President of the Board of Trustees this summer and deeply appreciate all who have served SC LAMP since 1992 and those who will be participating in assuring our continued growth. Particularly, I thank Margaret Graf for her leadership as President for the past four years and her continued presence on the Board. I invite you to join us in pursuing this journey, please know we deeply value your support and ask you to invite others to learn more about this amazing organization so that they too can join you and us as supporters.

Together, we will continue lighting the way.

Thank you,

Teresita Rodriguez-Ruiz
President, July 2017
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Playground Inauguration 2016-2017

On December 16, 2016, South Central LAMP inaugurated its brand new playground fully funded by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP). Our children are now able to enjoy a play environment that is safe and age-appropriate. Many of our families worry about taking their kids to a local park because they feel unsafe and it prevents children from playing freely. SC LAMP is proud to hold a playground that allows the families to be worry-free and their children to enjoy a little playtime. We thank LAUP for making this possible. Below you will see how our playground looked before the renovation and when we inaugurated it at our Annual Holiday Party.

BEFORE

AFTER
Financial Summary

BALANCE SHEET 2016-2017

INCOME: $1,132,012

PROGRAM EXPENSES: $702,328

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES: $163,891

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES: $62,348

*Based on audited financial report for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. Our financial statements are online at www.southcentrallamp.org
Our Supporters

Program Partners

Accelerated Charter School
Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services
California Hospital Medical Center
Cal State Long Beach University
Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School
Celerity Himalia Charter School
FAME Corporations
Families in Schools- Million Word Challenge
Health Net
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC
LAPD SWAT Division
Los Angeles Trade Tech
LAUP:Los Angeles Universal Preschool-Child 360
Los Angeles City College
Louisville High School
Loyola Marymount University
Mayfield Senior School
National Health Foundation/
Champions for Change
Notre Dame Academy
LAPD Newton Police Division
QSLA: Quality Start Los Angeles
Ramona Convent Secondary School
Santa Monica College
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
St. Martin of Tours Parish
St. Martin of Tours School
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
St. Francis Center
UCLA Stein Eye Institute
Vernon Central Library

Supporting Institutions

California Community Foundation
California Resources Corporation
California State Preschool Program
Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Cathedral High School
Child and Adult Care Food Program
Crail-Johnson Foundation
Cynthia L. & William E. Simon, Jr. Foundation
Dan Murphy Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
First Republic Bank
Friars Charitable Foundation
Louisville High School
Los Angeles Times Family Fund a
McCormick Foundation Fund
Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Mayfield Senior School
McKool Smith Hennigan
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South Central Neighborhood Council
The Green Foundation
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Zapata King Neighborhood Council
Individual Monetary Donors 2016-2017

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Rosa Cumare
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Lilia Villarreal
Ruth Lenore Wade
William Wardlaw
Marianne Broz Wassel
Sister Frances White, SHCJ
Barbara Zeilinski
Get Involved

Make a donation to support our programs or donate your time by volunteering!
Volunteer opportunities and calendar can be accessed through our website at:

www.southcentrallamp.org

or email us at:

volunteer@southcentrallamp.org

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“Giving is not just about making a donation, it’s about making a difference.”

- Kathy Calvin