

IMPACT REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL LAMP 2019.2020

OUR FOUNDING CONGREGATIONS

- ◆ The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- ◆ California Province of Holy Faith
- ◆ Sisters of St. Louis (Monaghan)
- ◆ Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- ◆ Sisters of the Holy Family
- ◆ Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- ◆ US–Ontario Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- ◆ Sisters of Social Service of Los Angeles



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

OUR SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS

- ◆ Daughters of Charity
- ◆ Sisters of Mercy
- ◆ Sisters of Notre Dame
- ◆ Sisters of Providence
- ◆ Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

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.

OUR MISSION

South Central LAMP provides a supportive, nurturing environment for economically poor women and their families. We do this by offering programs that empower women and their families reach their full potential, build self-esteem, utilize resources and strengthen mutual interdependent relations.



*South
Central*
LAMP

Empowering families since 1993

SOUTH CENTRAL LAMP'S RESPONSE TO CRISIS

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately impacting communities like ours as many residents are undocumented and cannot access government relief; work in environments where they are at risk of infection; or are now without a job. As an agency that was started during the civil unrest of 1992, this moment in history is a reminder of why we are here.

When the outbreak first hit, we quickly started working on ways to serve our families, while adhering to the Safer-at-Home order. Being a small agency with limited resources, it was challenging to shift our everyday hands-on approach to “virtual” services. But thanks to a strategic plan that called for us to take steps toward the implementation of a new STEAM afterschool program in the coming years, we applied to and received a technology grant from The Ahmanson Foundation earlier this year. This funding allowed us to transition from a single-site server to a cloud-based system and enabled us to purchase laptops for our staff, making it possible for us to work remotely and teach online very quickly. Within two weeks of closing our physical campus, we set up our online learning program and connected with all of our families. Ninety-percent (90%) of families moved online and completed the program year – a testament to their dedication.

In addition to continuing to support our families' education during the pandemic, we have been providing them with critical resources. This has included food through our weekly community food distribution, which continued during this past summer. We served over 500 people each week by providing fresh produce and staples to 150 families and a growing number of low-income individuals who now rely on our food distributions.

Our program may have looked different by the end of the school year, but our commitment and dedication to the children families of South Central Los Angeles remains the same. Our Teachers and Staff quickly engaged our participants and offered support to our families — all to ensure the academic success of our students and reassure them that they were not alone during this very difficult time.

We thank all of our friends, donors and community partners for your unwavering support.

Diana Z. Pinto
Executive Director



“I have been stressed with bills and with work. LAMP has always supported me without even having to ask. They give us information, food and it didn't stop even in the pandemic. They always help.” ~SC LAMP Mom

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) FOR CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5

All of South Central LAMP's programs are offered at no cost to the families.

While their mothers are in class, children attend a licensed ECE program based on The Creative Curriculum, which shows early childhood educators how to intentionally infuse literacy practices into their classroom and use the environment as a natural source to create literacy-related experiences. We are especially proud of our kids language and literacy skills, as most are English Language Learners.

FIELD TRIPS

In January, we toured a nearby elementary school, and in February, we took a trip to our local library, with 18 children obtaining their first library card.



CAMP LAMP

CAMP LAMP is unique in that it invites both mother and child to participate. This program is particularly important because most families do not have access to transportation, limiting their opportunities to explore outside of their community. Field trips and activities focus on providing experiences in the arts and sciences, two very important areas that do not always get promoted in the children's schools. In the summer of 2019, 86 children and 35 mothers participated in Camp LAMP, which included on-site activities and Children's Museum, and Eaton Canyon.

"South Central LAMP helps us a lot...they see us as part of the family. It's been an important part of my life and the lives of my kids." ~SC LAMP Mom



STEAM DAY

(Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering & Math)

In January, we hosted STEAM Day in partnership with Junior League of Los Angeles, to engage families in STEAM activities and teach parents how to support STEAM learning at home. A total of 22 families with 52 children participated in this wonderful event.

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS

All of South Central LAMP's programs are offered at no cost to the families.

Parent-Child Interactive Literacy Activities (PCILA)

Normally, mothers join their children in the classroom three times weekly for one-hour sessions to engage in meaningful and stimulating literacy activities together. PCILA involves mothers as partners in the learning and development of their children, encourages them to spend time sharing the joy of literacy with their children, and fosters positive parent-child interaction. During the health crisis, mothers and children are joining staff on Zoom, working on assignments provided during the weekly distribution of activity packets.

English as a Second Language

Our three levels of ESL classes focus on equipping mothers with the language proficiency necessary for personal, vocational, academic and citizenship goals so they may participate fully in society and support and advocate for their children.

Parenting Education

Our parenting classes help mothers create a healthy home environment, prepare their children for kindergarten, and develop their leadership and advocacy skills. Our classes help mothers recognize that a parent is a child's first teacher. Mothers understand that they are partners in their child's education and learning happens in the every day moments they share with their children. Our Family Advocate and the rest of the South Central LAMP Team recognize that this pandemic can have devastating effects on already vulnerable families. Therefore, we continue to offer support and case management services to our families.



Family Advocacy

Our Family Advocacy Program is designed to help parents develop personal and family goals, identify and address obstacles, and provides support, information, and referrals to vital community resources, food pantries, physical and mental health resources and other information and service and faith based programs. Our onsite Family Advocate continued to provide highly individualized and integrated support through phone call check-ins and in-person individual meetings with our mothers using all necessary precautions.

“South Central LAMP changed my life in different ways. I learned English and now, I listen more in and speak more English with other people that I didn't before. I have conversations with my children and understand when I read books in English.” ~SC LAMP Mom

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, South Central LAMP closed our campus on April 6, 2020 in response to state and local public health orders. Families were unable to finish the program year in class and many faced extreme hardships due to the pandemic. Last fall and winter, we also had an atypical number of absences because of illness. Not surprisingly, these circumstances affected our 2019-20 program outcomes.

Developmental gains remained relatively steady for children in comparison to prior years. Outcomes for mothers, however, were not as strong as in the past. Our biggest takeaway from our assessments is the true difference our program makes under normal conditions in promoting the mother's role in their child's education and, ultimately, closing the education gap between children from low-income and wealthier families.

The following is a report on our outcomes from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020:

Children achieving higher levels of age-appropriate benchmarks in the areas of cognitive, language, physical, and social-emotional development. We served 99 children (80 pre-schoolers + 19 infants/toddlers) in our ECE classrooms, which included enhancing our curriculum with a new STEM-based curriculum. Results of pre- and post-program assessments (DRDP) of children ages 3-5 showed significant developmental gains, as measured by their advancement to the top three (out of 9) developmental levels in each domain (pre – post): self-regulation (13% – 85%), social-emotional (3% – 87%), language (3% – 89%), literacy (6% – 82%), math (22% – 85%), and physical (13% – 93%).

These children, who are all English-language learners, showed major gains in English language development, with the percentage in the top two (out of 6) levels of this domain rising from 7% to 69%. Here is a short video that celebrates the children's Class of 2020 and looks back at their time at South Central LAMP.

Mothers demonstrating increases in supporting learning at home and in activities that promote parent-child attachment, e.g., spending time together reading, playing.

Thirty (30) mothers participated in our parenting and PCILA classes. Pre- and post-program surveys showed improvement in some areas of mothers' support of learning at home and engagement in activities that promote parent-child attachment, including (pre- – post) frequently singing songs or playing music with children (37% – 53%), asking children what is in a picture while reading (53% – 74%), talking with children about letters of the alphabet (37% – 63%), following a regular routine for reading books like before bedtime (26% – 53%), and talking with their child's teacher about what they are learning (42% – 53%).

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Mothers demonstrating improved English language and literacy skills. We provided ESL classes for 31 mothers (30 in the Family Literacy Program and one past participant). Pre- and post-test scores showed that 59% of parents reached their goal for English language and literacy. The percentage who reached their goal was lower than usual as it reflects their most recent test in February; we usually conduct the final post-test in May after an additional three months of instruction, but were not able to because of the pandemic. Teachers observed improvements in pronunciation; comprehension; the development of writing and critical thinking skills; and confidence when speaking English. One-hundred percent (100%) of graduating third-year students reported feeling confident in their ability to use English to find work – up from 67% when they began the program.

Mothers demonstrating an increase in knowledge about benchmarks for typical child development. In November, mothers participated in a workshop on supporting children’s development during the first five years. Pre- and post-workshop exams showed that 89% of mothers improved their knowledge of child development (68%) or achieved perfect scores on both their pre- and post-tests (21%).



Mothers demonstrating an increase in knowledge of community resources that can help their family. 100% of mothers reported the program helped them become more aware of resources available in their community and 85% reported using resources introduced to them through our workshops.

Graduations. In June, four women graduated from the Family Literacy Program. After being in the program for three years, they completed an average of 1,187 hours of ESL, 484 hours of parenting classes, and 379 hours of PCILA, while their children received 1,684 hours of early childhood education.

“South Central LAMP helped in the lives of my children, too— in building their character and teaching them to express themselves. My little son also now knows numbers, shapes, and letters.” ~SC LAMP Mom

COVID-19’s impact on learning. Mothers did not show improvement in areas they typically do, such as daily reading to children, and regularly playing with children, visiting the library, and volunteering in their child’s classroom. This was likely due to the timing of the post-survey, which was in May when schools and libraries were closed and families were (and still are) managing the direct impact of the pandemic on their personal lives.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN 2019.2020

Parent and Community Workshops. In collaboration with our community partners, we held 24 parent and community workshops on topics such as school choices, nutrition, oral hygiene, dangers of lead poisoning, vaping, woman empowerment, and leadership.

Free, On-site Health Screenings. In October, California Hospital provided free blood pressure, anemia, cholesterol, and diabetes screenings for 25 mothers; and South Central Los Angeles Regional Center conducted developmental screenings for 89 children and educated their moms on the services they offer for children with developmental delays and disabilities.

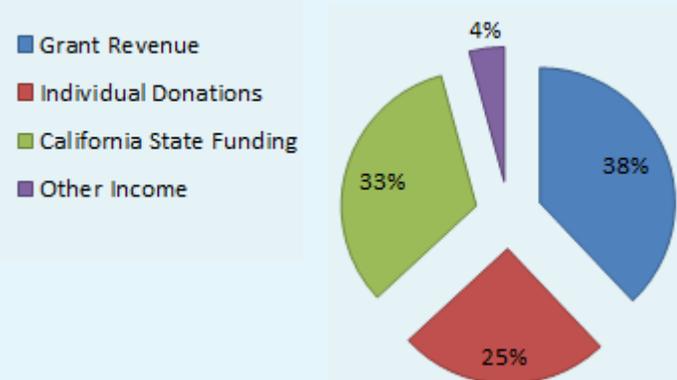
Resources for Families. South Central LAMP children and families received 89 children's books during our "Trick or Treating for Books" event in October, and food and 203 toys during the holidays.

Food Distribution. Our weekly community food distribution in partnership with St. Francis Center, helps provide 150 families with fresh produce and other essential food items. The health crisis disproportionately affected our families and others in our community, leaving many without jobs and struggling to put food on their tables. South Central LAMP's food distribution became an essential service, providing food for hundreds of people during the height of the of pandemic.

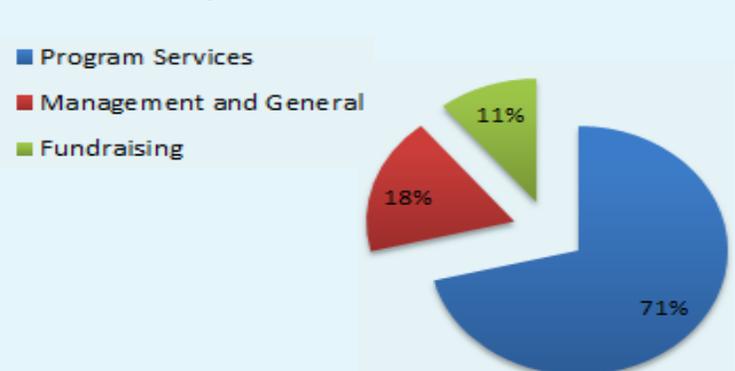
SOUTH CENTRAL LAMP'S 2019.2020 FINANCIALS

South Central LAMP's volunteers, donors, supporting foundations, community partners, and other sponsors made sure that our families received the essential services they needed during this very difficult time. As a result of their efforts, South Central LAMP continued its programming without interruption.

Revenue: \$1,340,347



Expenses: \$1,189,119



**Other Income includes in-kind revenue, investments and other income.*

THANK YOU!



**A Heartfelt Thank You to All of Our
Volunteers & Supporters
...who worked onsite last year and continue to work
as virtual volunteers behind the scenes.**

For virtual volunteer opportunities, please visit www.southcentrallamp.org
or email us at social@southcentrallamp.org to learn how you can help.