

Supporting the South Central Community for 30 lears!

By Diana Pinto, Executive Director of South Central LAMP

In 1992, in response to civil unrest in Los Angles, eight congregations of women religious did something that few were willing to do — they took action! Now, South Central **Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central** LAMP) is blessed to turn 30 this year.



At South Central LAMP's 2022 Graduation, a mother celebrates her achievements.

Working shoulder-to-shoulder with the residents, the sisters committed to helping the South Central Los Angeles community rebuild. They understood that meaningful change and the rebirth of sustainable neighborhoods required the residents' voices, needs, and ideas to be at the heart of the rebuilding effort. So the sisters started by hosting town halls, canvasing neighborhoods, and organizing meetings, where the residents could discuss their concerns and share their ideas.

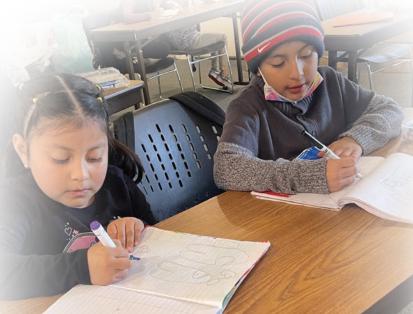
As a result, in 1993, South Central LAMP was born. Since then, it has provided educational programs that empower women and their families, build self-esteem, and strengthen community relationships, all in a supportive, nurturing environment. Throughout its decades-long existence, South Central LAMP has tailored its programs to meet the evolving needs of immigrant families. Today, South Central LAMP ensures a two-generational learning approach in its programming.

South Central LAMP's Family Literacy Program takes a holistic approach, supporting both the mother and child. The mothers participate in English, parenting, and literacy classes, as well as workshops on leadership, community advocacy, and child development. While the mothers are in class, their children attend South Central LAMP's early education program, which prepares them for kindergarten. The women also work with a family advocate, who helps them achieve their goals by identifying and removing roadblocks to success.

A key component of the early education program is student assessment. Using research-based assessment tools, teachers can identify students' developmental or learning differences, ensuring early diagnosis and getting students the help they need, including outside of South Central LAMP.

With its high-quality programs for both children and adults, South Central LAMP continues to build on what the sisters

Children complete their homework in the new Expanded Learning STEAM Afterschool Program.





started 30 years ago. Its approach today reflects the vision developed by the sisters, including listening to the community and responding to their changing needs. New programs are frequently added, including an afterschool STEAM program, online parenting classes in English and Spanish, a kinship program, and afternoon adult classes.

What has also remained constant is South Central LAMP's commitment to the South Central Los Angeles community. With its core mission to empower women and families to reach their full potential, South Central LAMP has served thousands of women and their families, altering the trajectory of their lives and the communities where they live.





(Above) At South Central LAMP's 2022 Children Graduation, one pre-kindergarten student shows that she's on her way to kindergarten.





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