



LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER

October 17, 2023

Dear LAYC Champion,

As we approach the end of 2023, I reflect on the moments we have shared with our youth: their joy and their resilience. We honor their stories. Our youth drive our dedication, and we continue to build bridges that connect them to opportunities that empower them to be their best.



Your support is what allows us to keep our doors open and their dreams alive.

Our committed staff are key to creating a safe environment of learning for our youth. Our Positive Youth Development curriculum (PYD) explores *with our staff the ingredients of best youth development practices, our salsa*. PYD is our core training curriculum, developed by LAYC and practiced within our brand-new Training Academy. This equips our staff to guide our youth. As we learn and implement these tools, we witness our youth transition into adulthood. Their success enriches our communities. We understand *our work would not be possible without you*.

PYD lays a foundation for staff to help build stronger relationships with our youth. It drives us to work in collaboration with them, offering opportunities for growth and fresh perspectives, while encouraging them to be authentic. *But you make these connections possible through your financial support*.

You are an essential ingredient in our mission and salsa.

Your donation propels LAYC forward, enabling us to continually enhance the ways we connect with our young people and their families.

It is exciting to have professionals who want to make LAYC their workplace. I embrace staff members relocating and joining us from Wisconsin, Spain, Kentucky, Florida, Canada, and all corners of the world to support the impact of our mission here in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County for our youth.

I am counting on your support.

¡Muchisimas gracias!

Mirna (Lupi) Quinteros-Grady
President & CEO



Make a difference with your gift today!
Donate Here:

- Scan this QR Code
- Securely online at www.layc-dc.org/donate
- Mail a check using the enclosed envelope

Check with your employer about year-end gift matching opportunities to double your impact!

Turn Over



We are excited to share our stories with you as we bring this year to a close



Esperanza

Un día salí de casa
Con dolor en mi corazón
Con mucha tristeza
No quería dejar a mi familia
Pero ya no había vuelta atrás
Así que, con mucho dolor y valentía
Tuve que dejar a mis padres y a mi abuela
Para poder cumplir mis sueños
Pero nunca imagine como sería el camino
Tener que estar en unos lugares muy angostos
Y con personas peligrosas
Y después de llegar a mi destino
Sentí que todo el mundo se me venía encima
Los primeros días fueron llanto dolor
Sofocaciones
Tristeza
Todo a mi alrededor se volvió gris
Sin esperanzas de nada
Hoy en día, mi vida sigue siendo igual
Pero poco a poco
Siento que va cambiando a color rosa

Hope

One day I left home
With heartache
With such sadness
I didn't want to leave my family
But now there was no way back
With so much pain and bravery
I had to leave my parents and grandmother
So, I can follow my dreams
But I would have never imagined the journey
Needing to fit in spaces so narrow
And with people so dangerous
And after arriving at my destiny
I felt the world collapsing on me
The first days were crying pain
Suffocating
Sadness
All around me grey
Without hope of anything
Today, my life stays the same
But little by little
I feel all around me change to pink

Poem written by 14-year-old youth participant Wendy and translated by LAYC.