



LA AMISTAD

.....
Annual Report
.....
July 2012-June 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past year, I am confident that you'll be pleased with the results.

LaAmistad made significant strides in the execution of our Strategic Plan to increase our impact in the community through replication at other locations, in collaboration with other sponsoring organizations. The academic achievement of our afterschool students continued at the high levels we have seen in the past, measured both by classroom grades, as well as students' performance on standardized testing. Through the generosity of academic and cultural partners in the community, we were able to expose LaAmistad children to a variety of cultural, recreational and civic activities in the Atlanta area.

The organization's work cannot be done without the continued support of committed and engaged volunteers. My small staff and I consider it one of our primary responsibilities to ensure that your experiences as a volunteer are rewarding and enjoyable, and that you are able to see the impact of your efforts on a child, or on an adult committed to adapting to the language in their new country. With your actions, you affirmed our efforts in this area. Last year alone, over 450 volunteers generously gave over 9,000 hours which all came together to make LaAmistad the growing, award-winning program that it is.

Our Vision: For Latino students and families throughout Georgia to thrive in their educational, personal, and career pursuits working together to transform local communities.

Our Mission: To support Latino students and their families by providing a comprehensive support system through tutoring, mentoring and resources that promotes academic, physical, and personal growth.

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Last fall, *LaAmistad After School at Church of the Redeemer*, serving students from *High Point Elementary*, opened its doors and has been a huge asset to the organization. *High Point Elementary* was an ideal candidate as a replication site due to high percentage of Latino children, as well as its proximity to the flagship Peachtree Presbyterian site, allowing us to easily support the new site when needed and fine-tune the replication process as we went along through the year. Over the course of the year, *LaAmistad After School at Church of the Redeemer* expanded their program from 20 students-one day per week, to 32 students-two days per week. Each student's progress has been remarkable and plans are set to increase enrollment at this location to 40 students in 2013.

LaAmistad English for Successful Living expanded its outreach to cover the communities of Buckhead, Sandy Springs and Dunwoody with the addition of classes at the *Community Assistance Center* in Sandy Springs. Utilizing our curriculum and best practices learned from years of experience, we were able to provide our teachers and students with an engaging, rewarding atmosphere that they looked forward to being a part of each week. Volunteers taught English to over 250 students, providing five different levels of classes.

LaAmistad programming didn't stop over the summer, but continued through *LaAmistad Animate Summer Camp*. Enrollment doubled from the previous year as the camp welcomed 75 students, 30 volunteers, and 6 teachers providing academics, sports and other activities four days a week throughout the month of June. The camp was hosted by *The Westminster Schools* who not only provided the facilities, but also lunch and transportation, which departed from *Garden Hills Elementary*. *Westminster* students volunteered as counselors and mentored the LaAmistad students each day making friendships that will have positive, long lasting impressions on the lives of each of the campers.

LaAmistad was in the spotlight when we were the recipient of two prestigious awards this past year. *Ser Familia* presented LaAmistad with the *Community Partner of the Year Award*, and *The Atlanta Braves* partnered with *State Farm*, selecting us for the *2012 State Farm Go to Bat Award* for "outstanding commitment and service to the community."

The 2012-2013 year was a banner one for LaAmistad, and a year of significant success. Your continued support enabled us to positively impact many lives, most significantly those of the 600 people touched this past year by our services and their families. As importantly though, the support you gave our organization will impact the companies, neighborhoods and cities where LaAmistad student and adult graduates will live and work going forward. We are grateful for your generosity of time and resources, and hope that you will continue to be a part of the impact we are striving to make.

Thank you!

Cat DaCosta McAfee
Executive Director

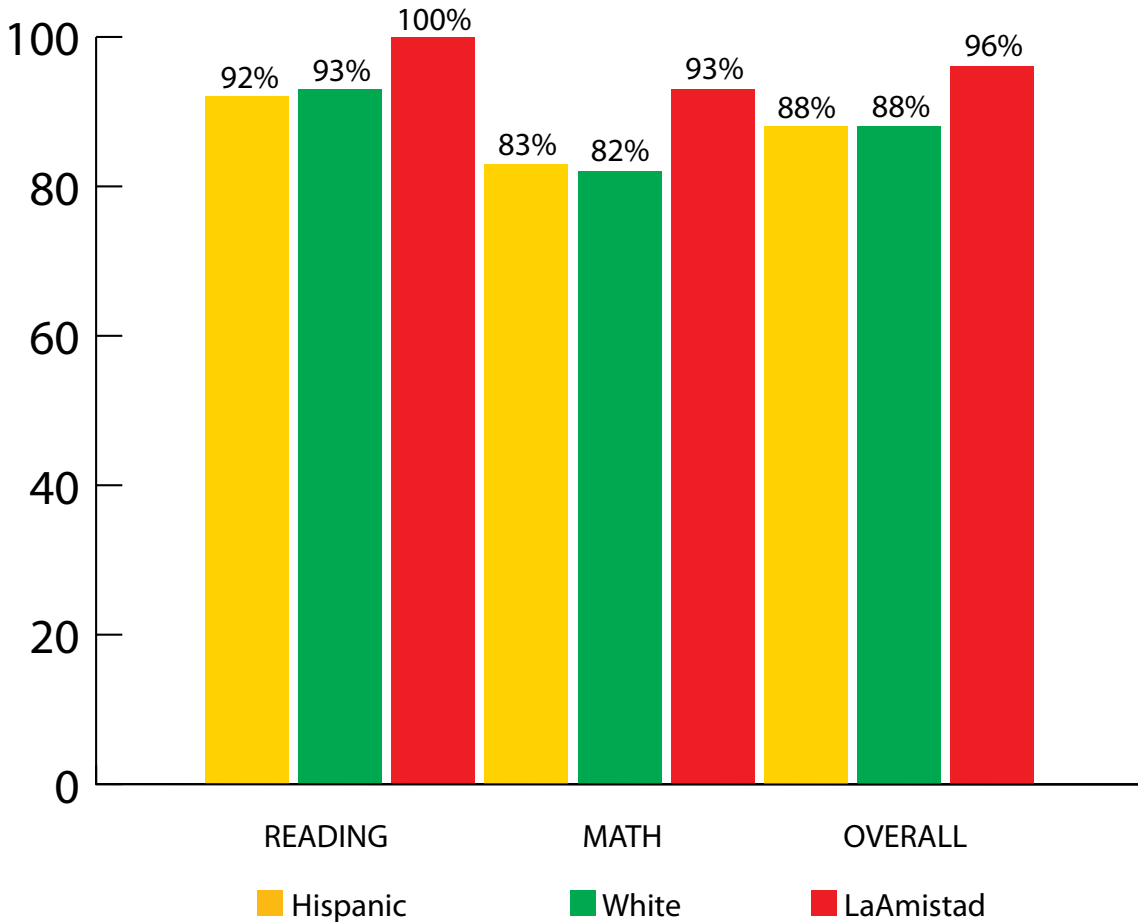


Scholastic Achievement

100% of students met or exceeded the CRCT reading standards and 93% met or exceeded the CRCT math standards. The average grade of all middle school students was 89.4 and elementary students maintained a 91.3.

GEORGIA CRCT RESULTS-CHILDREN WHO MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARDS IN GRADES 1-8

www.doe.k12.ga.us



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Working Together in the Community

450 volunteers completed over 9,000 hours of service and served more than 600 clients

LaAmistad After School	4,500 Hours	275 Volunteers
LaAmistad English for Successful Living	1,200 Hours	30 Volunteers
LaAmistad Animate Summer Camp	1,500 Hours	30 Volunteers
LaAmistad Internship Program	800 Hours	20 Volunteers
LaAmistad Families	600 Hours	50 Volunteers
Other	500 Hours	50 Volunteers

Helping Students Reach Their Goals

LaAmistad served over **150 students** from preschool through high school helping them achieve their academic and personal ambitions from *Warren T Jackson Elementary, Sarah Smith Elementary, Garden Hills Elementary, High Point Elementary, Sutton Middle School* and *North Atlanta High School*. We currently have five students on full scholarships at *Pace Academy* and *The Westminster Schools* and two students about to graduate from *Emory University* and *College of Charleston*.

LAAMISTAD 2012 – 2013 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Strong Bodies Build Strong Minds

The Gym at Peachtree provides recreation for every student in LaAmistad. Students are offered scholarships to participate in gymnastics, cheer, dance, basketball and other sports each semester as well as one week of summer camp.

Press and Media

LaAmistad was featured on CNN "Impact Your World" with a 3 minute segment. Univision shot a piece titled "Great Work of LaAmistad in Georgia" focusing on **LaAmistad After School and English for Successful Living**. The Huffington Post and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution had articles as well highlighting the accomplishments that our program has obtained.

Giving Back

Over **100 LaAmistad students** and families were able to give back to the global community serving on back-to-back days packing meals sent to Africa through Feed My Starving Children. LaAmistad parents volunteered at Peachtree Presbyterian every Thursday as "Sanctuary Saints", preparing the balconies for worship. LaAmistad parents alone gave over 600 hours of their time through community service.

Cultural Experiences

LaAmistad students enjoyed a plethora of cultural experiences throughout Atlanta. Students were honored by the Ambassador of Mexico at The Consulate of Mexico where their own artwork was on display from *LaAmistad's Animate Summer Camp*. Students met Pepe Serna, "Angel" from the movie *Scarface* at *The Latin Film Festival*. Imagine It! Atlanta's Children Museum had a photography exhibit seen by over 40,000 visitors that was completed by our 5th grade class as a result of a photography class led by The AP students from *The Westminster Schools*. A Noche de Ciencias presented by Georgia Tech Hispanic Association of Engineers taught our students about the STEM fields and educated parents about college opportunities. *The High Museum of Art* invited LaAmistad students to view the MOMA Exhibit and the Frida and Diego Exhibit. The *Atlanta Hawks* invited students to Philips Arena to play games and work on arts and crafts with Hawks players. The *Atlanta Braves* invited us to visit Turner Field meet the Braves players and to watch a game. *Turner Broadcasting* chartered a bus and 70 students were able to visit the *Georgia Aquarium* accompanied by 30 Turner employees. Finally, our students were able to attend *The Alliance Theatre* for a production of the musical "Zorro".



Youth Leadership Development

This year's youth leadership initiatives inspired our students. Our middle school and high school students participated in *The Latino Youth Leadership Conference* which serves over 1,000 Latino youth and features topics such as leadership development, opportunities for higher education, cultural awareness, and maintaining a positive outlook to overcome challenges. The elementary-aged boys had their own pack of Boy Scouts and elementary-aged girls enjoyed Girl Talk.

Summer Academic Achievements

LaAmistad and Garden Hills Elementary partnered to send **75 students** to *Animate Summer Camp* at The Westminster Schools where they had academic classes, played sports and enjoyed dance and art. *Pace Academy's*, *Veranos Sin Limites*, hosted a strong contingent of *LaAmistad After School* students, as did *The Lovett School's Breakthrough Atlanta*.

English Language Learning

250 adult English language learners participated in *LaAmistad English for Successful Living* hosted at *Peachtree Presbyterian Church*, *Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church* and the *Community Assistance Center*.

Parent Education Initiative

Seventy Latino parents took classes from LaAmistad's partner, Ser Familia, on topics like healthy choices, finances, positive parenting, health care and understanding the education system. *The Microsoft Store* at *Lenox Square Mall* hosted classes for LaAmistad parents on resume writing, finances, and Microsoft Office.

Engaged in our Community

LaAmistad continued to build and strengthen its relationships with over **70 community partners**.

Martin Juarez STANDOUT STUDENT

Martin Juarez is an eighteen-year-old senior at North Atlanta High School who has been attending LaAmistad After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church since 2001, when he was just a kindergartener. Martin lives with his brothers, Rene (12), Nery (7 months), and his parents in an apartment near Peachtree Presbyterian. This upcoming school year, Martin will be enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum at North Atlanta, an accomplishment that he is more than proud of. **“My favorite class is video production,” says Martin. “I like it because we get to work in groups and learn a new skill, all while using our creativity.”**

In February 2012, Martin began working at The Gym at Peachtree, supervising activities like kids’ camps, skating lessons, and even men’s basketball leagues. Martin describes his job as engaging and rewarding since he is able to interact with both younger kids and older adults.

His mother requires him to prioritize school and school-work, and her influence has resulted in Martin winning a perfect attendance award for the past six years! Martin’s long term goal is to enroll at Georgia Southern University next year, and he has his parents’ full support in this decision. To help him continue his academic success and work towards college acceptance, Martin is being tutored by one of our valued volunteers, Scott Hardin. Martin is interested studying biology in college so that he can go on to become an orthodontist or a dentist. His also is considering a career in criminal justice, specifically the FBI.

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Martin remarks that his favorite part of LaAmistad has been forming relationships with staff, volunteers, and friends. He is grateful for all of the extra help that he has received along the way because of the program. LaAmistad has provided Martin opportunities he would have never experienced without the program. He has attended outings such as ice skating at The Cooler, meeting the Atlanta Hawks at Philips Arena, and seeing the performance of Zorro at the renowned Alliance Theatre. LaAmistad thanks you, Martin, for all of the hard work and respect that you have exhibited over the past twelve years, and we wish you the very best!



Karen Vereb VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE



After reading about volunteer opportunities with LaAmistad in the Sunday newsletter at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Karen Vereb decided that she would give it a try. Three years later, “**Mrs. Karen**,” as students affectionately call their afternoon tutor, is still at it. Mrs. Karen, a retired vice president of AT&T, tutors and mentors LaAmistad’s fourth grade students twice each week. Her passion for working with the students continues to grow exponentially. She says that little things such as “individual conversations” are what she takes away from her experience. Sharing her knowledge and a lifelong love for learning into the growing minds of her students is what drives Mrs. Karen to keep coming back. LaAmistad students have earned such a special place in Mrs. Karen’s heart that she maintains a drawer in her office holding all of the cards and homemade knick-knacks that children have made for her over the years; mementos representing years of mentoring relationships that she will treasure forever.

She states that what sets LaAmistad apart from other organizations is that, “**From a volunteer standpoint, it’s well organized, easy to get involved, allows for direct interaction with the students, and most importantly it’s fun! LaAmistad presents a healthy balance between fun and hard work for its students.**” LaAmistad’s flexibility is also something that Mrs. Karen appreciates. Volunteers are able to dedicate as much time as they like on a flexible schedule.

For Mrs. Karen, however, volunteering with LaAmistad students was simply not enough. With a public relations background, Mrs. Karen had come into contact with sources of grant money throughout her corporate career but had never tried writing a proposal for a grant herself. When approached by LaAmistad’s executive director Cat McAfee about writing a grant to the Atlanta Braves, she decided to give it her best effort.

After days of sorting through data and annual reports, writing and editing, Mrs. Karen and Mrs. Cat submitted the grant. LaAmistad soon received news from the Braves stating that Mrs. Karen’s proposal had struck a chord with the organization, and that LaAmistad had been awarded the grant. Mrs. Karen was thrilled, and was fueled by this victory to take interest in writing more grants for the organization in the future. Thank you, Mrs. Karen, for all of your dedication and hard work. We look forward to working with you in 2013-2014!



The Vargas Family
SUPPORTIVE FAMILY



Twenty-two years ago **Hermalindo Vargas** made the difficult decision to leave all that he had ever known in his homeland of Mexico and to migrate to the United States for a chance at a better life. Two years later, his wife, Josefina followed his lead. Since then, the two have resided in Atlanta and raised three wonderful children, all of whom have participated in LaAmistad. Josefina sums up the importance of the program in her life and the lives of her children with one word: opportunities.

From her beginnings with LaAmistad After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, the eldest Yasiri, demonstrated a

strong work ethic, took charge of her destiny, and now is passing all of her classes at North Atlanta High School. Her intrinsic leadership skills and patriotism pushed her to become a part of the school's J.R.O.T.C. program.

The middle child, Efren, who is in seventh grade at Sutton Middle School, finished the past school year with a 93.1 average, and was awarded a LaAmistad scholarship to play ice hockey competitively at The Cooler in Alpharetta. He aspires to be an architect after he graduates from college.

Litzy, the youngest in the family, is a third grade student at Warren T. Jackson. Litzy followed the footsteps of her two older siblings by starting LaAmistad before she even began first grade. Without realizing it, Litzy has become a model LaAmistad student, and is always willing to show other students the "LaAmistad way." She enjoys school, and her love for it has inspired her dream to one day become a teacher.

Josefina and Hermalindo continuously express that their children would not be where they are now, making great grades and exceeding standardized testing standards without LaAmistad board, staff, volunteers, and supporters. Josefina goes on to note that interacting with Atlanta Braves players at Turner Field, seeing a production of Zorro at the Alliance Theatre, touring the Frida and Diego exhibit at the High Museum, attending *LaAmistad's Animate Summer Camp at The Westminster Schools* and other events would not have been possible without the outreach, support, and vision of LaAmistad and all the people that come together to make the organization operate the way it does.

"I am grateful," says Hermalindo, "because my children have a brighter future. LaAmistad has advocated for my children's academics and helped coach and encourage them through years of school. They have been able to play sports and go to places that would not have been possible otherwise. Thank you LaAmistad for all that you do."

It's up to the Vargas children to continue the success they have experienced thus far. However, through LaAmistad the groundwork has been laid for these students to impact their communities as future leaders.



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We would like to give a **special thanks** to all of our donors that make LaAmistad possible!

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After School Tutoring

LaAmistad offers one-on-one tutoring opportunities, reading and math enrichment, mentoring, sports programs and a variety of personal development programs that support academic, physical and personal growth for Latino students in grades 1 – 12.

English Classes

Our ESL program, English for Successful Living, is the largest ESL program in the state of Georgia and has served more than 5,000 adult students since its introduction. ESL classes are held several days per week at *Peachtree Presbyterian Church* and *Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church*. Six different leveled classes are offered at each location for three 12-week sessions each year.

Parent Partnership

LaAmistad offers a variety of adult education classes specifically aimed at the needs of Latino families through our Parent Partnership Program. With our partner organization, *Ser Familia*, formally *Renovacion Conyugal*, we are able to offer year-round workshops designed to educate and strengthen Latino families. The Microsoft Store at Lenox Square Mall provides parents with knowledge of basic computing and training in Microsoft Word and Excel.

Internship Program

The LaAmistad Internship Program, in collaboration with *Georgia Institute of Technology*, *Georgia State University*, *Kennesaw State University* and several other high schools and colleges provides real-world experience for eligible high school and college students interested in the fields of education, international affairs, and advocacy. Interns work on a variety of projects, including research and statistical analysis, foundation research and grant writing, fundraising, student tutoring and classroom management, as well as completing daily tasks that are a part of the LaAmistad work environment.

Advocacy

LaAmistad hosts an extensive resource center that provides students and families with information on a myriad of subjects, including health insurance, scholarships, domestic violence and financial services. Staff members at LaAmistad also serve as advocates for its students in *Atlanta Public Schools* and serve as an advisor to help raise awareness about the needs and circumstances of Latino children.

LaAmistad's Animate Summer Camp

This year marked our second annual Animate Summer camp held at *The Westminster Schools* in Atlanta. Campers spend the majority of their days enriching their mastery of school subjects like language arts and math while also enjoying time filled with fun activities such as swimming in *Westminster's* indoor swimming pool or immersing themselves in the fine arts.

Additional Summer Programs

LaAmistad students participate in a variety of summer programs such as *Breakthrough Atlanta*, *Pace Academy's Veranos Sin Limites*, *Peachtree Presbyterian's* Vacation Bible School and Sports Camp at *The Gym at Peachtree* aimed at maintaining their academic, personal and physical development during the summer months.

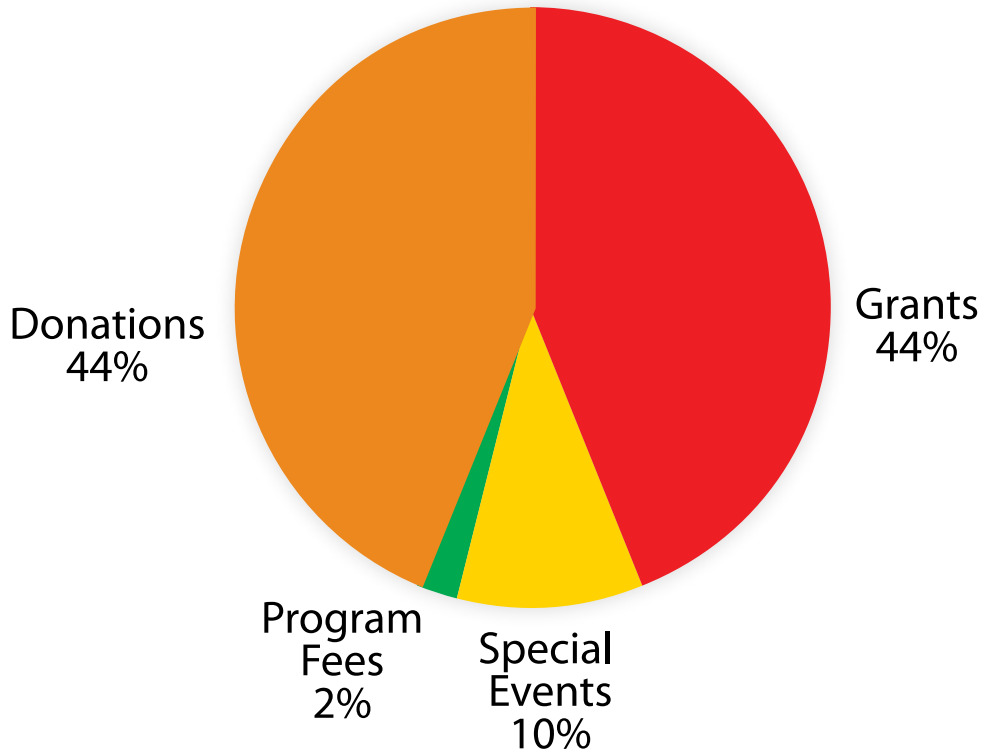
Preschool

LaAmistad facilitates preschool enrollment for eligible Latino students at *Peachtree Presbyterian Preschool*, which enrolls more than **400** students annually. We believe that a preschool education should be made available to every child. Since its inception, LaAmistad has sent in excess of 100 children to preschool, allowing each child to begin their education with a sense of wonder and an enjoyment of learning, all while providing a strong foundation for the rest of their educational experience.

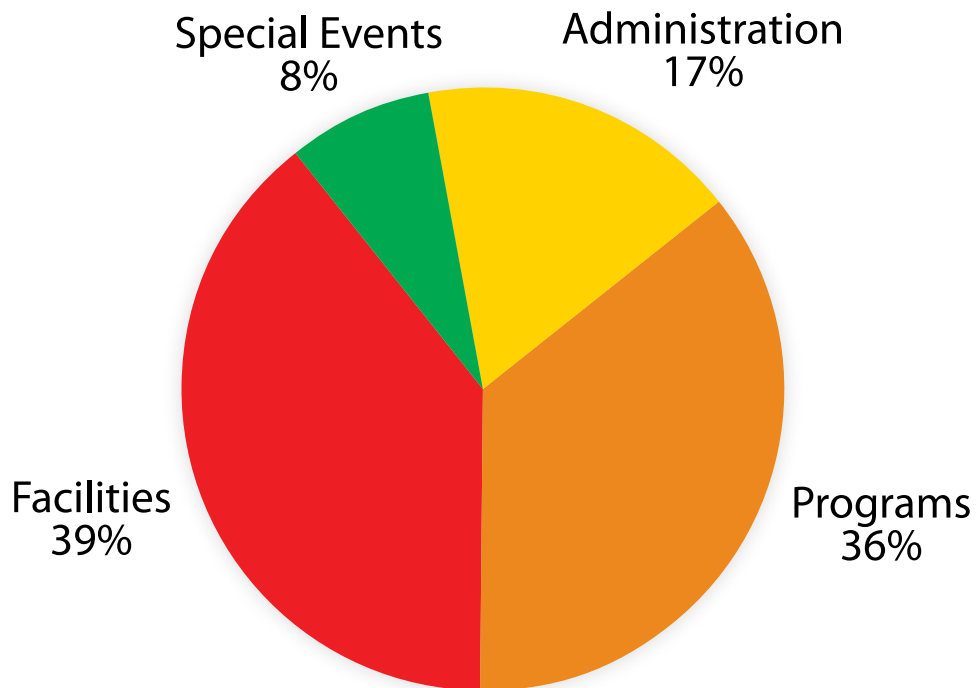
Current Locations:

- After School at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA
- After School at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA
- After School at Church of the Redeemer, Sandy Springs, GA
- English For Successful Living at Holy Innocents', Sandy Springs, GA
- English For Successful Living at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA
- English for Successful Living at the Community Assistance Center Sandy Springs, GA
- Animate Summer Camp at The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA

BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD REVENUE 2012-2013



BREAKDOWN OF LAAMISTAD EXPENSES 2012-2013



FINANCIALS

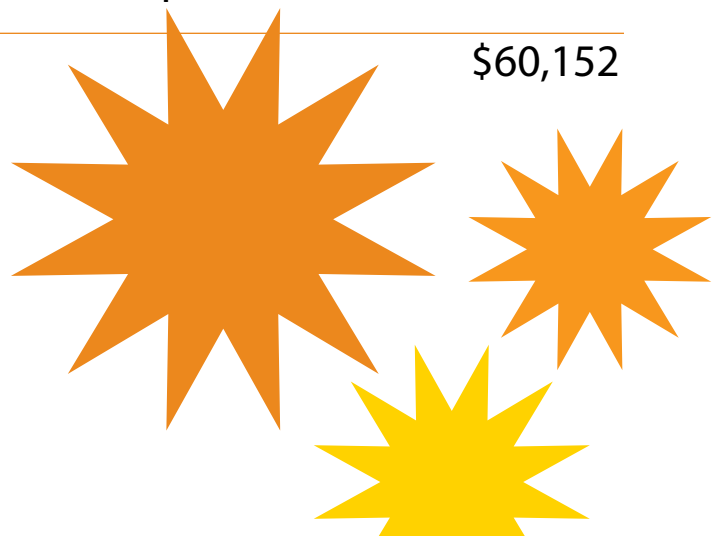
Income Statement

Revenue

Donations (Includes in-kind)	\$330,669
Grants	\$336,526
Special Events	\$76,044
Program Fees	\$16,180
Total Revenue	\$759,419

Expenses

Programs	\$206,085
Donations (Includes in-kind)	\$47,000
Administration (Includes fundraising)	\$99,559
Facilities (Includes in-kind)	\$225,800
Total Expenses	\$578,444
Loss from discontinued operation of scholarship fund	(\$120,823)
Surplus	\$60,152





3434 Roswell Road, NW | Atlanta, GA 30305
www.laamistadfriendship.org