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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Gaby)

Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to strengthen Latino communities through social, economic, education and health services, leadership development and advocacy. Since 1977, Congreso has been a leading provider of high-quality programs with an expert focus on the Latino community in northern Philadelphia.

In the last 39 years, Congreso has developed services that cater to different needs in the Latino community, which focus in the following areas: Education and Workforce, Health and Wellness, and Family and Housing Programs. This paper seeks to highlight Congreso's work and achievements through these programs in the last 39 years, in preparation for their 40th anniversary in November 2017.

Congreso's current economic service offerings include tax filing services as well as housing programs like Housing Counseling, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS, and Rapid Rehousing for emergency and transitional housing residents. Despite national increases in purchasing power, business ownership and homeownership, Hispanics continue to suffer from extreme poverty, high foreclosure rates and many "underwater" mortgages. Based on these trends, Congreso can sponsor an economic forum to highlight Hispanics' enormous economic contributions and opportunities to improve their economic well-being. Congreso can also host a homeowners fair where current and prospective homeowners can connect with a variety of relevant service providers and learn about the many moving parts of buying and maintaining a home.

In the area of health, Congreso has been actively involved in many issues facing Hispanic Philadelphia including domestic violence, overall health and wellness and HIV/AIDS. Congreso efforts and programs in providing support and raising awareness of domestic violence has been ongoing since 1994, focusing not just on the Hispanic community but all of Philadelphia. Their efforts in partnership with other abuse organizations led to the creation of the 24-hour domestic hotline in Philadelphia. In 2015 over 2,200 individuals requested Congreso's help regarding domestic violence, showcasing the still present need for these services.

Hispanics trends have showcased poor health in regards to unemployment, poverty, access to care and insurance. Congreso combats this by offering year round bilingual workshops for Affordable Care Act Enrollment and medical cost information. Additionally, Congreso's health center treats clients regardless of insurance status.

Finally, HIV/AIDS have been of great concern particularly for the Hispanic community since the late 1980s. Congreso's efforts, which began in 1988, have focused on addressing cultural issues such as providing Latino men and women with education and prevention materials regarding safe sex practices. Congreso offers testing at their own health center and through the partnership program Access Matters, which has testing in mobile units from 10PM to 2AM throughout Philadelphia. Though AIDS rates are decreasing, Hispanics still have the second highest rate of new HIV infections, demonstrating that Congreso's continued efforts are very much needed.

When it comes to Education and Workforce, Congreso has developed three main programs:

- A K-12 after school program that focuses on supporting student achievement and increasing high school graduation rates;
- Adult programs that include ESL, GED and work readiness components for adults looking to return to school or who want to further their education by obtaining an associate's degree from Harcum College; and finally,
- A Work Readiness program that focuses on resume preparation, interviewing skills and additional work skills for job entry.

These programs have come as a response to inflated high school dropout rates as well as the declining enrollment trend we have seen in the Philadelphia area.

In 2008 Congreso opened Pan American Academy Charter School for students in grades K-8, which provides high-quality education to over 700 students in Eastern North Philadelphia. The opening of this school came at a time when enrollment rates in public schools were decreasing and charter school enrollment was increasing. The Latino population in the area became a part of this trend and their own charter school enrollment numbers have also increased.

Family and Housing Programs are the most extensive services that Congreso offers. They include Empowerment programs that focus on helping families provide for their children's well-being in a minimally intrusive manner; Housing programs meant to help individuals develop the skills they need to address their housing and energy related needs; adult parenting classes for pregnant and parenting mothers and fathers age 21 and over; senior programs geared towards promoting good health and how to live independently at home; social services that focus on helping families become stable and move toward self-sufficiency; tax return services; and finally, a Truancy Prevention & Intervention Program that provides comprehensive supportive services aimed at keeping students in school.

Overall, Congreso has been able to create programs and provide services that respond to the Latino Communities most important needs in the past 40 years. As a result, the Latino Community in Northern Philadelphia has grown and strengthened through increased enrollment and graduation rates, better access to health services, and more education on taxes, home ownership and business ownership.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Brandon)

As Congreso approaches its 40th anniversary in 2017, the organization is interested in hosting a number of events in 2017 that will:

1. Celebrate the positive impacts that Hispanics have had upon Greater Philadelphia and Pennsylvania since 1977;
2. Showcase all of the work that Congreso has done for this crucial and growing demographic since 1977;
3. Educate the public about what we can all do to help Hispanics in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania live fulfilling lives in 2017 and beyond.

Our group has been asked to develop a 2017 calendar of events that will achieve the above three goals. To this end, we have conducted research on the history of Latino Philadelphia from 1977 until today. We have focused our research in four separate areas:

1. Economics
2. Education
3. Health
4. Social

We have analyzed historical trends in these sectors, as well as the relevant services that Congreso has offered in response to Hispanic community issues in each sector. The events and programs for each area that we have outlined below will respond to the trends we have discovered and will enable Congreso to continue providing high-quality services to Latinos for many years to come.

PROJECT CONTENTS (Sisi)

The development of a timeline of events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Congreso de Latinos Unidos is predicated on knowledge of the nonprofit and its influence in Philadelphia. The research conducted for Congreso focuses on the four core areas of Congreso's programming, culminating in the conception of a yearlong calendar of events:

- **Economic:** The first area of focus is economics. Congreso currently offers support to address basic housing and personal financial management needs. The story of Latinos as an economic power is one of contrasts; representing people with significant purchasing power juxtaposed with a high percentage of impoverished individuals. Because of their high purchasing power, Latinos would benefit from a forum on their economic challenges and opportunities, as well as a homeowner's fair, to educate current and future homeowners. As the leading Latino service organization in the area, Congreso is uniquely poised to produce and moderate these types of events.
- **Education:** The second area of focus is education. Congreso's existing educational programming focuses on decreasing truancy and increasing graduation rates. While efforts to decrease the dropout rate are making strides, additional work is necessary to close the racial gaps in the rates of high school graduation and the pursuit of higher education. Congreso could create positive impact within the community by expanding its own charter school, to include a high school, and by providing resources, in order to better educate the community about access to college.
- **Health:** The third area of focus is health. There are many health challenges disproportionately facing Latinos. Congreso's Esfuerzo, health clinic and domestic violence prevention programs are key components of addressing the challenges and illnesses that plague the community. These programs have been incredibly valuable in addressing some of the threats affecting the Latino community. Congreso is well positioned to innovate the ways in which it serves its clients by addressing the mental health of HIV/AIDS patients with stress-reducing activities, like yoga, and learning from the community it serves by collecting personal accounts of Congreso's impact.
- **Social:** The fourth area of focus is social. For nearly forty years, Congreso has been offering a variety of programs that address the social adversities impeding Latinos, in the Philadelphia area. Congreso's focus on empowering families has had supreme influence over the design of its programs that support families in moving out of poverty; senior citizens living independently and in their own homes; students regularly attending school; and positioning young parents to complete school and become career-ready. Exhibiting the opportunities that are available to the community, in a fair and other highly accessible ways, like a

pop-up museum and mobile application, draw attention to the challenges of the Latino community and demonstrates how they can overcome them.

MAIN FINDINGS

Current Economic Service Offerings

- **Tax Services:** From January through April, 3 days per week, Congreso's Tax Site helps individuals and families complete their tax returns. Appointments are not necessary and the Tax Site is open to the public. (Tax Services, 2016). In Fiscal Year 2016 (7/1/15 - 6/30/16), Congreso helped over 500 clients received more than \$1 million dollars in tax refunds ("Summary of Outcomes - FY16", 2016).
- **Housing:**
 - **Housing Counseling:** Congreso provides one-on-one counseling and education to current and prospective homeowners and renters ("Housing Counseling", 2016). Services include:
 - Mortgage Delinquency Counseling
 - Foreclosure Prevention Counseling and Court Representation, when applicable
 - Pre- and Post-Purchase Counseling
 - Credit and Budget Counseling
 - Rental Counseling
 - Financial Literacy Workshops for First Time Homebuyer

In FY 2016, Congreso helped 14 clients purchase a home and successfully prevented 241 foreclosures ("Summary of Outcomes - FY16", 2016).

- **Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA):** This program helps people with HIV/AIDS secure affordable and accessible housing by helping them find a home and assisting with filling out relevant aid applications such as the Direct Emergency Financial Assistance application and the AIDS Activity Coordinating Office Housing Application ("HOPWA", 2016).
- **Rapid Rehousing:** This program helps families and individuals in Emergency or Transitional Housing programs move into permanent housing - either subsidized or at market rate. Congreso researches housing options and works with subsidized housing providers to offer financial assistance and stabilization to prevent a relapse to homelessness ("Rapid Rehousing", 2016).

Hispanic Economic History and Trends - Local, State and National

- **Purchasing Power:** Purchasing Power (PP) refers to the amount of goods and services that an individual or group is capable of purchasing - taking into account how much money they have as well as current inflation rates. The numbers make it clear that Hispanics are drivers of economic growth across the Keystone State.

In Philadelphia itself, Hispanics wield a PP of more than \$4 billion. Across the state, Hispanics have a PP of more than \$18 billion - an increase of nearly 800% since 1990. ("Hispanics in the Region", 2016)("New Americans in Pennsylvania", 2015). These numbers have grown and will continue to grow over time in conjunction with higher Hispanic populations in Philadelphia and the state.

- **Comparison with other groups:** While strong, Hispanic PP in Pennsylvania is less than that of the state's more-entrenched Asian and Black populations, which are \$19 billion and \$36 billion respectively (Humphreys, 2013)("New Americans in Pennsylvania", 2015).
- **Taxes:** Hispanics make very significant contributions to local and state governments' bottom lines, contributing about \$1 billion in taxes across Pennsylvania ("New Americans in Pennsylvania", 2015).
- **Areas of Spending:** A report from the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth found that Hispanics spend most of their money on groceries, clothing, used automobiles and phone services. They are less likely to spend money on entertainment, healthcare, new cars, tobacco and personal insurance services (Thompson, 2016).
- **Business Ownership:** In addition to their high capacity for spending, Hispanics are showing increased propensity for starting their own business. In the Greater Philadelphia region, there are more than 19,000 Hispanic-owned businesses that earn over \$600 million each year and have created jobs for more than 18,000 people. Philadelphia's Hispanic businesses account for more than 80% of the 23,000 Hispanics businesses across the state, which earn nearly \$4 billion per year (Botwinick, 2014)("New Americans in Pennsylvania", 2015).
 - **Comparison with Asians:** Although there are more Hispanic business owners than ever before, they continue to lag behind the state's Asian businesses, of which there are more than 35,000 ("Asian Quick Facts - PA", 2011).
- **Housing**
 - **Increased Homeownership:** Thanks to a national increase in median income and PP among Hispanics, they are bucking the current national trend of reduced ownership. In 2015, over 40% of Pennsylvania's Hispanics - and nearly 50% of the whole country's Hispanics - owned a home. In that same year, new Hispanic homeowners - especially millennials - accounted for 69% of the country's total net growth in homeownership. Despite these significant increases, Hispanics still face significant barriers to buying a home, such as insufficient affordable inventory in major markets and a high mortgage denial rate comparable to that of Blacks and nearly twice that of Whites and Asians ("Demographic

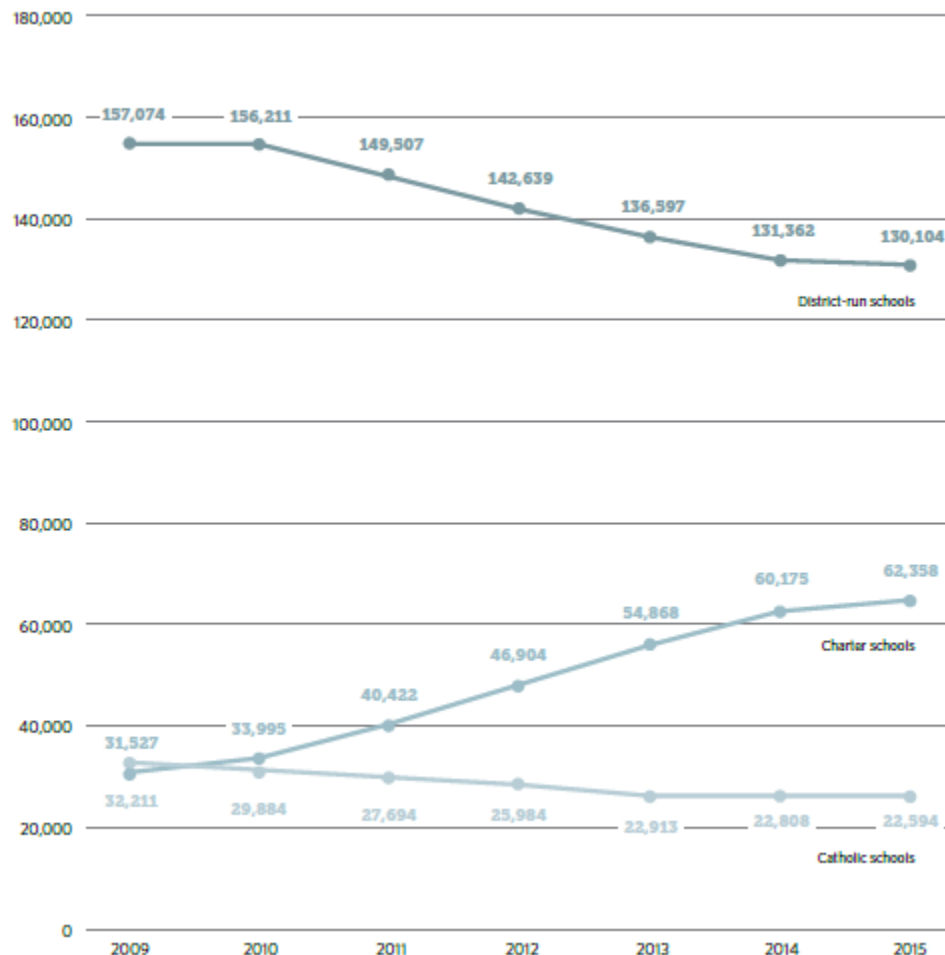
Profile of Hispanics in Pennsylvania”, 2014)(Leighton, 2016)(Zillow, 2016).

- **Foreclosures:** During the housing boom of the early 2000’s, first-time Hispanic home buyers fell victim to predatory lending practices of the banks. Specifically, they were pressured into buying expensive, risky mortgages that had a high probability of default - even when they qualified for safer and less expensive ones. When the housing market collapsed in 2008, nearly two-thirds of Hispanic neighborhoods across the country experienced one or more foreclosures. For many Hispanic homeowners at the time, their home was the only appreciating asset they possessed, so they had nothing else to fall back on during those hard times. This led to hundreds of thousands of jobs lost, which in turn caused an increase in crime and rapid neighborhood deterioration nationwide (Ricks, 2009).
- **Reduced Home Values:** Before the housing crash, many Hispanics lived in areas with high housing prices and where home values have still not made a full recovery. In 2015, nearly one-third of current Hispanic homeowners reported having an “underwater” mortgage - where the amount they owe on the mortgage exceeds the home’s fair market value (Attanasio, 2015). As a result, foreclosure remains a potent risk for Latino homeowners.
- **Poverty:** In 2015, just under 40% of Philadelphia’s Hispanics were living in poverty - the highest rate of any ethnic group in the city and nearly twice the national overall poverty rate. Poverty rates vary by specific country of origin, but the most impoverished Latinos are from Puerto Rico, which comprise the bulk of Philadelphia’s Hispanic population and who are largely uneducated (Lubrano, 2014)(Morath, 2016).
- **SEPTA:** As a consequence of their increased poverty, the majority of Philadelphia’s Hispanics do not have the luxury of a personal automobile and must rely on SEPTA trains and buses to get around the city. Therefore, when SEPTA is underperforming - as it has been for the past few years - it disproportionately affects Hispanics, who - through no fault of their own - are kept in poverty as a result of missing job interviews, doctor’s appointments, classes and other important life events (Rusek, 2016).

Education in the Philadelphia Area

- **Enrollment:** One of the main trends we can see with education in the Philadelphia area is the drop in enrollment rates in both public and Catholic schools. Although there isn't a breakdown provided that explains if the trend might differ between demographics, we can assume a reason for this might be that the trend is overall true for every type population. Yet, as seen in the chart below, enrollment to charter schools has doubled in the last six years.

K-12 Enrollment Trends, 2009-15



Source: http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2015/05/2015-state-of-the-city-report_web.pdf

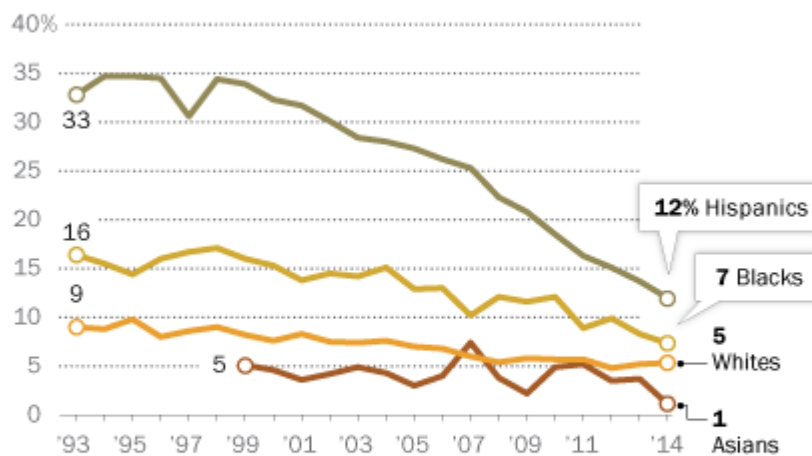
Pan American Academy Charter School, Congreso's own school, was founded in 2008, right before we started seeing this trend. Although one of the main reasons for the opening of this school was to offer the community's vulnerable children an opportunity to excel in an area location where 60% of high school students do not get their diploma. The creation of this school also answered to Philadelphia's need for more charter schools during this time, allowing an even larger number of students to enroll in school.

According to the Philadelphia School district, Latinos are the second largest demographic to be enrolled in charter schools, with over 16% of the total number of students. This translates to roughly 11,593 total students K-12. Currently, Pan American Academy provides high-quality education to over 700 students (about 6% of the total Latino population enrolled in a charter school) in eastern North Philadelphia and has over 1,000 students on its waiting list. Pan American Academy is the only school in Pennsylvania that offers a full IB curriculum to all students K-8 as in addition to a dual language program that offer 50% English and 50% Spanish courses.

- **Dropout rates:** Even though over the past decade, high school dropout rates have dropped dramatically reaching a new low by dropping from 32% in 2000 to 12% in 2014 among those ages 18 to 24, the Hispanic/Latino dropout rate remains higher than that of blacks (7%), whites (5%) and Asians (1%) (see chart below).

Hispanic, black high school dropout rates reach record lows

% of 18- to 24-year-olds dropping out of high school



Notes: The dropout rate shown refers to the share of 18-to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school. Blacks and Asians include the Hispanic portions of those groups. Whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau October Current Population Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

As a response to high dropout rates among the Latino Community, Congreso de Latinos Unidos committed to strengthening the Latino Community through Education. In order to do this, they started offering Education and Workforce Programs that not only ensure students in the Philadelphia area get

their high school diploma but also increases the success they have entering the workforce. Congreso targets students starting in kindergarten and all the way through their high school years. Additionally, its workforce programs assist with resume preparation, interviewing skills and additional work skills for job entry to ensure each student's success in life.

More recently, Hispanic students have made the greatest gains in graduation rates, increasing an average of 15 to 18 percentage points between their 2002–2003 and 2008–2009 cohorts. Unfortunately, Latino's graduation rates still remain below those of their white and Asian counterparts.

- Bilingual education:** According to Nelson Flores, Assistant Professor of Educational Linguistics Division at the University of Pennsylvania, bilingual programs are not foreign to Philadelphia schools. In the 1960s, Philadelphia had one of the best bilingual programs in the country. Unfortunately, a variety of factors, such as changes in philosophy, school budgets, an increased focus on standardized testing, contributed to the diminish of the programs over time, until only the transitional Spanish program remained. Taking this into account, it should come as a surprise that one of the most common limitations that Hispanic students encounter when it comes to education is language. As seen on the chart below, as of 2012, an average of 19% of Hispanic students enrolled in a Philadelphia Public school had limited English proficiency. Because of this, charter schools such as Panamerican have become of even more importance in the Philadelphia area by providing dual language programs that prepare students to overcome the language obstacles they might encounter in their future.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL 9TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS IN THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

	All students: 58,166	White students: 7,989	Black students: 35,314	Hispanic students: 9,978	Asian students: 4,103
Limited English Proficiency	6%	2%	1%	19%	26%
Special Education	16%	15%	17%	17%	4%
DHS Involvement	19%	10%	24%	15%	6%
Maternity	5%	2%	6%	5%	1%

Note: Includes charter students. Characteristics are for percentage of all students in column one, followed by percentage of students with those characteristics in each racial group.

Health

Congreso's Domestic Violence Efforts:

- In an effort to encourage Latinas not to include abuse as part of their culture in 1995 Congreso displayed a domestic violence exhibit at their organization's headquarters (Barrientos, 1995). The exhibit depicted the places where five Latina women's death which occurred as the result of abusive relationships (Barrientos, 1995). Their domestic violence program began in 1994 (Barrientos, 1995).
- Congreso in partnership with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, Women Against Abuse, Women in Transition and the Lutheran Social Mission Society in 1998 started the pilot program **Philadelphia: Let's Stop Domestic Violence** to educate those in North Philadelphia about domestic violence (McCullough, 1998). In Philadelphia alone in 1995-96, about 30,000 women used domestic violence services, showcasing the great need for action, services and community education (McCullough, 1998).
- **Domestic Violence Prevention Education**, a Congreso program, provides training, awareness, and knowledge of domestic violence; available for clients, professionals and community members (Domestic Violence Prevention Education, 2016).
- Last year (2015) 2,225 men and women requested Congreso's help, the organization offers counseling for both adults and children, emergency housing, a 24-hour hotline and education workshops (Tejo, 2016).

Access to Healthcare:

- In a Community Health Assessment by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health Hispanics were reported to have the poorest health in regards to unemployment, poverty, access to care and insurance among children and adults (Community Health Assessment, 2014).
- The zip code 19133 (where a substantial portion of Congreso's clients reside) had a poverty rate of 56.4% in 2011, double the citywide poverty rate (Figueroa, 2013). Uninsured rates are the highest in North Philadelphia a main area for many of Congreso's clients (Figueroa, 2013). In 2013 Latinos made up 12% of Philadelphia but 17% of the eligible uninsured (Sapatkin, 2013).
- In 2014 27.6% of Hispanic adults ages 18-64 years old reported no insurance in Philadelphia (Community Health Assessment, 2014). This is an increase of 0.5% from 2013's report where Hispanic adults of the same age range in Philadelphia accounted for 27.1% of those reporting no insurance (Community Health Assessment, 2013).
- Currently Congreso offers bilingual workshops during Affordable Care Act year round including enrollment periods to assist and help clients, as well as discuss how to manage medical costs (Affordable Care Act Education and Enrollment,

2016). Congreso's health center treats clients regardless of insurance status (Congreso Health Center, 2016).

Overall Health/Obesity

- **Access to healthy food:** Hispanics in Philadelphia are reported having less access to healthier foods than whites in their neighborhoods or local supermarkets (Risk Factors for Chronic Disease and Overweight/Obesity, 2011). 11.6% of Hispanics had limited access to healthy food in 2013 and 2014. (Community Health Assessment, 2013/14), 37.4 % have traveled outside their communities to access healthy foods at different supermarkets (Risk Factors for Chronic Disease and Overweight/Obesity, 2011).
- **Diabetes:** 14% of adult Hispanics either have or had been diagnosed with diabetes (Adult Diabetes Prevalence, 2014/15).
- **Obesity:** Overweight or obese individuals are more prevalent in blacks and Hispanics in the Philadelphia Community (Risk Factors for Chronic Disease and Overweight/Obesity, 2011). In 2010 over 70% of adult Hispanics were reported as overweight or obese (Risk Factors for Chronic Disease and Overweight/Obesity, 2011). Only about 50% of Hispanics in Philadelphia reported access to recreational facilities (ex: pool, parking, etc) in 2014 (Community Health Assessment, 2014). Congreso currently provides nutrition and wellness training to community residents through their health and education training team (Health and Education Training, 2016).
- In 2016 alone, Congreso assisted 226 clients in increasing knowledge of nutrition and disease (Summary of Outcomes, 2016). The health and education training team also provides training to medical sites, schools and government to ensure the latest practices in health topics (Health and Education Training, 2016).
- **Healthy Movimientos For Families:** Additionally in 2014 through a grant received from the Barra Foundation, Congreso launched Healthy Movimientos for Families attempting to improve childhood obesity by focusing on improving the health and wellness habits of entire families using classes and technology (Family Nutrition Meets Fitness Technology, 2014). Research has shown the connection between childhood obesity prevention and family (Family Nutrition Meets Fitness Technology, 2014). Therefore the goal is to allow both children and family members learn healthy habits together (Family Nutrition Meets Fitness Technology, 2014).
- Each one of the 75 participants in this program was given a fitbit for tracking progress and received inspirational texts messages (Family Nutrition Meets Fitness Technology, 2014). Results of this program were evaluated by Temple University (Family Nutrition Meets Fitness Technology, 2014). Lessons learned from this program were implemented into other Congreso programs and

the organization continues to seek funding to increase the scope of this program (Grantees: Past, 2013).

HIV/AIDS Efforts:

- In the 1980s the HIV/AIDS epidemic struck Philadelphia and the rest of the nation. Currently Philadelphia's HIV/AIDS infection rate is five times higher than the national average (HIV/AIDS facts, n.d.). Hispanics are at a higher risk for HIV/AIDS infection. Research has attributed this to cultural differences, where safe sex practices are a sign of mistrust in relationships (Vrazo, 1995).
- Congreso has been involved with HIV/AIDS epidemic since the late 1980s. Their program Programa Esfuerzo created in 1988, aimed to educate as well as prevent HIV/AIDS in the Latino community (Moore, 1988). There were 61 cases of HIV in Philadelphia in 1981; six percent of these cases were Latino individuals (Moore, 1988).

HIV/AIDS numbers rise for Latinos: In 1992, the HIV/AIDS numbers continued to increase, as the disease was largely becoming an epidemic of the urban poor (Collins, 1992). Blacks and Latinos combined had 461 newly reported cases in 1991, compared to just 166 for Caucasian individuals (Collins, 1992). Furthermore in 1995, Hispanics made up about six percent of the Philadelphia's population but 12% of HIV/AIDS cases (Vrazo, 1995).

Latina Women: Latina women were at increased risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, from the mid 1990s. Women made up 18% of AIDS cases in 1994 up from 7% in 1985 (Vrazo, 1995). In about 75% of these cases the women were Black or Latino (Vrazo, 1995). In 2000 HIV/AIDS was the fourth leading cause of death for Latina women aged 35-44 in the United States (Walker, 2002). The Center for Disease Control estimated in 2002 that Latina women made up 18% of all new HIV cases (Walker, 2002).

- The reasoning for these increased findings is attributed to cultural differences such as traditional gender role beliefs, poverty and sexual abuse (Walker, 2002).
- In order to combat this Congreso hosted AIDS house parties aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention (Vrazo, 1995). These house parties provided education including condom distribution and demonstration, HIV testing and information booklets (Vrazo, 1995). The numbers for increased condom usage were hard to report but increases in free condoms were requested (Vrazo, 1995).
- In an attempt to appeal and encourage Hispanic men to implement safe sex practices Congreso also hosted intensive workshops (Collins, 1992).

Declining AIDS rates

- According to the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office in 2014, Hispanics made up 10.5% of AIDS diagnoses, down from 18.2% in 2010 (Buehler, Johnson, Nutter and Terrell, 2014).

HIV/AIDS epidemic far from over

- Though new HIV diagnoses were reported at 14.5% in 2014 (down from 16.9% in 2010), Hispanics are still the second highest rate of new HIV diagnoses at 49.2 per 100,000 (Buehler, Johnson, Nutter and Terrell, 2014). In zip code 19133 where a substantial portion of Congreso's clients reside 52.93% of HIV/AIDS cases were Hispanic (Figueroa, 2013).
- **Increasing Community Awareness:** In order to help raise both client and community awareness of HIV/AIDS Congreso has hosted and participated in several events including World AIDS day which was held at Congreso's headquarters (World AIDS Day, 2016)
- Congreso also participated in the End AIDS conference in June 2015, with the intent to inform to the community about the latest research and prevention methods and created more combined outreach efforts (End AIDS Conference, 2015). Furthermore Congreso's Esfuerzo program offered Spanish language workshop (End AIDS Conference, 2015).
- **HIV Testing:** 11.5% of Hispanics aged 18-64 have never been tested for HIV according the Philadelphia Community Health Assessment in both 2013 and 2014. (Community Health Assessment, 2014). HIV/AIDS testing is available at Congreso's Health Center (Congreso Health Center, 2016). Additionally Congreso partnered up with Access Matters to form Brother's United, a program providing anonymous HIV testing in mobile units from 10 PM to 2 AM several nights a week in Philadelphia (Lozano, 2016).
- Congreso continues to address this epidemic through its Esfuerzo HIV / AIDS program providing education, prevention (including testing) and medical case management (Esfuerzo HIV / AIDS, 2016). In 2015-2016 166 clients achieved good adherence to HIV treatment (Summary of Outcomes, 2016).

Social Programming and Impact

The Historical Context of Congreso's Founding

Prior to the year Congreso was founded in 1977, Philadelphia's mayor, Frank Rizzo, and his administration redirected city funds in a way that influenced the need for an organization that supported crucial social services to the city (Weigley, Wainwright, & Wolf, 1982). Mayor Rizzo believed that the government

should be primarily focused on supporting agencies and departments that provided protection to citizens, such as the police and fire departments.

Under Mayor Rizzo's administration's budget, the police and fire departments were well maintained. However, there were funding decreases and severe personnel reductions ("up to 50 percent in some cases") made in several departments, including: the Department of Welfare and Recreation, the Fairmount Park Commission, the Committee on Human Relations, the Free Library, and the Streets Department (Weigley et al., 1982).

The Challenges Facing the Community Congreso Serves

Congreso's social services program aim to address the unique challenges facing the community it serves. The average median household income for the top seven zip codes, in which Congreso serves about 80% of its clients, is about \$26,320 per year (The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2015). Compared to the median household income of Philadelphia, of \$36,836, Congreso's clients are earning almost 29% less than the city as a whole.

The rate of poverty in Philadelphia in 2015 was 26%. In a stark contrast, all but one zip code, in the top 80% of zip codes that Congreso serves, show much higher rates of poverty, represented in Figure 1. These particular zip codes have an average rate of poverty of over 38%. See Appendix.

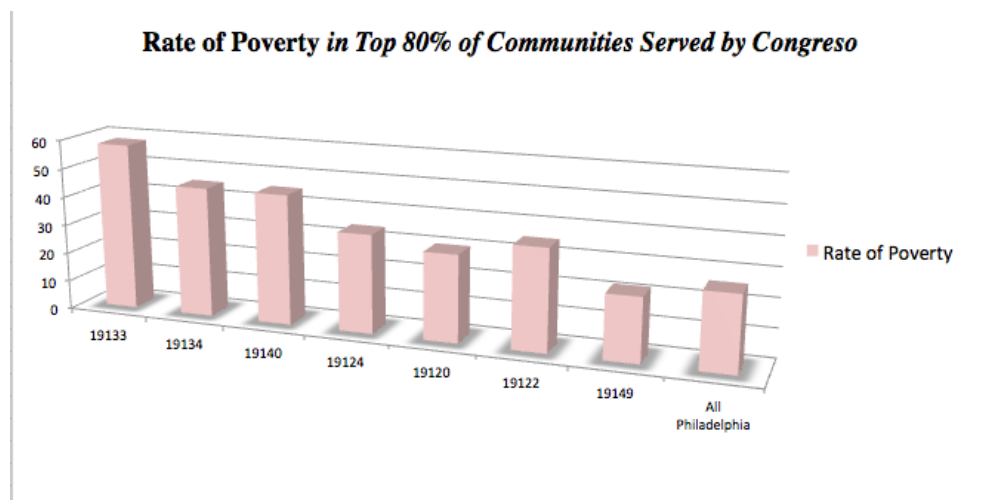


Figure 1. Rate of poverty in the top 80% of communities served by Congreso (American Community Survey Office, 2016h).

Family Social Services Programs to Address Low Income and Poverty

One of the main goals of Congreso is to empower families, rather than promoting continued dependency on an entity. Through the Family Empowerment Services (FES), Congreso provides comprehensive referrals to in-house programs for

food/clothing, shelter, domestic violence, preventive case management, etc. (Ramos, 2016). This program is designed to help address community members' short-term and long-term needs through helping them attain public benefits (e.g. income, rent, utility, and food stamps). The services Congreso offers include: assistance in completing Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications, rent rebate applications, cash assistance applications, medical assistance applications, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications; as well as providing language translations, and emergency food assistance.

In September 2012, Philadelphia was chosen to be a National Youth Forum city, selected to focus on how to prevent youth violence ("City of Philadelphia to Participate in National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Meeting", 2012). It was at this time that the Philadelphia city government realized that it needed to branch out into prevention services, with the Department of Human Services (DHS) case managers being overworked, juggling family caseloads of 40 and 50 cases each. Community Umbrella Agencies were created to lighten these caseloads. Community Umbrella Agencies (or CUAs) are accountable to the DHS and serve as "a collaboration, or affiliation of agencies that provides a continuum of services to children and youth at risk of abuse, neglect and delinquency" (Ambrose, 2013). These CUAs are located in specific geographic areas of Philadelphia. Congreso's Family Empowerment Services collaborates with the Department of Human Services' Community Umbrella Agencies to provide social services to the community. Congreso offers its support by working with "lower risk" clients and referring "higher risk" clients to the appropriate CUA or DHS office. Having many years experience working with the type of clients that the DHS was overwhelmed by meant that Congreso was uniquely qualified to fill the gap of service where the local government could not.

Addressing the Need to Support Senior Citizens

In Philadelphia, citizens aged 55 years and older represented about 24% of the population in 2015, up from about 14% in 2000 (The Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, 2003). Of the United States' population of citizens aged 60 years and older, Hispanics increased by 32.8%, from 2000 to 2010, and across all races by 24.3% (Administration on Aging, 2014). Hispanics are increasing in population at a greater rate than many other communities.

According to research by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 90% of senior citizens indicated that they intended to remain living in their own homes for up to the next ten years, but about a third stated that they felt "financially unprepared for the costs of long-term care" (American Association of Retired Persons, 2012).

In 2011, the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on aging released a strategic plan outlining how the City will work with its partners to ensure that "seniors can access critical resources that will support them as they age and enable them to

remain in their homes and in their neighborhoods” (Mayor’s Commission on Aging, 2011).

After Congreso’s leadership looked at its own data and demographic breakdown, showing that there was a gap in service for senior citizens, specific programming for this group was deemed a necessity. Congreso has committed to providing services to assist the growing senior citizen population by partnering with the United Way’s Aging at Home program (“Seniors,” 2016). This program, called VIDA (which means “life” in Spanish) provides community-based services to help older adults age in good health, live independently and remain living at home and is funded by the United Way. Congreso is now on the third year of this three-year program.

Truancy Prevention and Intervention Efforts

In a 2010 presentation, of University of Pennsylvania’s John Fantuzzo’s research, where he studied a third-grade cohort of public school students in Philadelphia, he revealed what Congreso already knew to be an unfortunate truth: large numbers of Latino students, who fell short of proficiency in core subjects, struggled with truancy, school suspensions and poor classroom conduct (Table 1). Though just about all children faced some type of risks that influenced truancy and academic performance in Philadelphia, 31% of Latino children versus 4% of children nationally had teen mothers and 35% of Latino children versus 12% of children nationally had mothers without a high school diploma (Fantuzzo, 2010). Other risk factors disproportionately affecting Latino students in Philadelphia are exposure to lead, maltreatment and poverty. What Fantuzzo discovered was that increased risks in children directly correlated to poor academic performance and likelihood of being truant. Poor attendance is an early indicator that a student may drop out of school.

School Outcomes	Latino	African-American	Caucasian
Not proficient in Reading	64%	62	40
Not proficient in Math	46%	45	22
Truant	40%	39	19
Suspended	12%	12	5
Poor Classroom Conduct	25%	28	15

Table 1. A racial comparison of school outcomes, focusing on a cohort of third-graders, in Philadelphia (Fantuzzo, 2010).

To address these challenges, Congreso works with Department of Human Services referred youth to encourage school re-engagement and provide support to keep students in school (“Truancy Prevention & Intervention Program,” 2016). This collaboration, called Attendance and Truancy Intervention and Prevention Services (ATIPS), involves fourteen different Philadelphia nonprofits, including Congreso, and the School District of Philadelphia. Its goal is to increase student attendance in school; aid students in academic achievement; keep parents and guardians informed about the truancy laws; and inform parents of what those laws mean for their families (“Philadelphia School District,” n.d.).

This prevention service at Congreso works with families to provide representation to students and families in truancy court (“Student Support Services,” 2016). This often means helping families by purchasing student school uniforms or working with families to provide better transportation for students. The service also includes providing case management to increase school attendance among youth and decrease the number of youth in Regional Truancy court, who move to Family court for truancy issues; having case managers accompany families to all court hearings, serving as an advocate; providing supportive services to address barriers contributing to family risk factors; ensuring that educational resources are in place and easily accessible for families of students who are at risk of being truant or that are already truant.

In addition to addressing school truancy, Congreso participates in the Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) program, assisting expecting or parenting males and females, under 22 years of age, to achieve academic success, college preparation, and career goals, while providing parenting education and resources. One of the issues that Fantuzzo identified as having an influence on a student’s success in school is their own parent’s success in completing high school and being prepared for a career. The ELECT program is a statewide initiative and Congreso is one of a few organizations in Philadelphia that use a comprehensive approach to keep students in school (“Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT),” 2016). This includes offering infant clothing, food, access to childcare, job placement, transportation services, academic support; and incentives for school attendance and grade improvement (“Student Support Services,” n.d.). In exchange, students must be enrolled in school or a graduate equivalency degree program in Philadelphia; be willing to participate in program activities; make their home available for home visits by program officers, among other responsibilities.

Serving the Economic Welfare of the Community

Within the last few years, great progress has been made to lift Latinos out of poverty nationally. “The percentage of Latinos living in poverty fell by 2.2% between 2014 and 2015 while the national poverty rate decreased by 1.2% during the same time” (Wang, 2016). One program that contributes to lifting many out of poverty is the Earned Income Tax Credit. However, not every eligible family is aware of their eligibility into the program (Maag, 2005).

Fiscal Year	Number of Clients Served
2012	463
2013	570
2014	515
2015	558

Table 2. Clients served at Congreso's Tax Site(Ramos, 2016).

Congreso utilizes Benefit Bank to complete tax returns for individuals and families (Table 2). Through the Volunteer Tax Site program, Congreso reaches out to community members to assist them in completing their taxes at no charge. Having a knowledgeable tax preparer assist in filing tax gives lower income families an opportunity to participate in all of the tax credit programs for which they may be eligible. All residents of Philadelphia making under \$65,000 per year are eligible (\$95,000 if filing jointly). It serves as an alternative to commercial tax preparation and helps families save hundreds of dollars in fees. Congreso has served over five-hundred families each year for the past few years in this capacity (Ramos, 2016).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Economics

Based on Hispanic economic history and trends, here are two examples of events that Congreso may consider hosting to celebrate Hispanic contributions to state and local economies and the impact that Congreso has had in ensuring those contributions.

In addition to honoring the past, these events will provide an opportunity to look towards the future and assess what must be done to ensure a thriving Hispanic economy in Philadelphia for decades to come.

- **Philadelphia Hispanic Economic Forum:** This event will be hosted in collaboration with the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GPHCC). It will be an engaging discussion of Philadelphia's economy as it relates to Hispanics and will consist of 3 one-hour panels featuring:
 - Current and former Congreso clients - They will discuss the personal economic challenges they have faced and overcome in Philadelphia, and how Congreso/GPHCC helped them live economically fulfilling lives.
 - Local Hispanic business owners - They will discuss the opportunities and challenges of being a Latino business owner in Philadelphia, and how Congreso/GPHCC helped them be successful in their roles.
 - State and local government leaders - They will highlight what is currently being done at the state and local levels to improve the economic well-being of Hispanics, and they will tell the audience how they can assist with these efforts.

The economic contributions and hardships of Philadelphia's Hispanics are not widely known, and this forum will provide an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and highlight their struggles. The forum will be open to anyone for a fee, but Congreso clients and GPHCC members will receive free admission. There will be time built-in for networking between panels as well as at the beginning and end of the forum.

As with every other program that Congreso does, the success of this forum will be determined by data. In addition to evaluating raw number of attendees, Congreso will survey attendees regarding the value of the speakers and how their engagement with Congreso will change as a result of the forum.

- **Philadelphia Hispanic Homeowners Fair:** This fair will help address the challenges faced by Hispanic homeowners by educating them about the many moving parts of buying and maintaining a home. This event will be hosted in

collaboration with the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The event will feature tables/booths for the above organizations as well as for local-area banks, real estate agencies and insurance companies.

All Hispanics who are current or prospective homeowners will be invited - for no fee - to speak with culturally competent housing professionals about a plethora of housing-related topics - such as financing, foreclosure, disaster preparation and recovery, and affordable housing options that exist throughout the Philadelphia area. The fair will not feature a formal program - attendees will be able to come and go as they please and speak with as many agencies and professionals as they want.

Congreso will also have a table/booth to discuss its own unique housing services. It will be manned by staff as well as current and past clients who will share with others how Congreso's housing services have assisted them.

As with the forum, this fair will be evaluated not just by how many people came. Congreso will collect feedback from attendees to determine if it was valuable for them and if they feel more strongly connected to Congreso as a consequence of attending.

Education

- **Charter School and Enrollment:** It is clear that Congreso's charter school came at a time where the Latino Community in North Philadelphia needed it the most. Its success and challenging curriculum continues to grow their waiting list constantly. Because of this, we believe that Congreso should consider opening a second school that would contribute to the increase in enrollment numbers from the Latino community in Philadelphia. Pan American Charter School already has a waiting list of over 1,000 students that would guarantee the school's success.

Since Northern Philadelphia still continues to be the most populated area by the Latino community, we would recommend opening the second school in the same area. Alternatively, going into another highly Latino populated area, such as South Philadelphia, would allow Congreso to further its reach by providing other areas with the same benefits.

Additionally, Congreso should consider opening a high school within the next 5-10 years where students from Pan American School can continue their studies and get their high school diploma. This would be particularly important since the Latino students are still the population most likely to drop out of high school. With this, Congreso can complement the afterschool programs they already have that

encourage students and provide them with the tools to ensure they get their high school diploma.

The opening of these schools would not only increase enrollment and decrease high school dropout rates from Latinos in Philadelphia, but it would also create jobs and contribute to the creation of a sense of community around the area. Increasing education and creating jobs contributes to the wealth of the population, which allows the community to access other resources that help strengthen it.

- **College Access:** One thing that is lacking from Congreso's programs is something geared towards college access. Although the main concern remains in increasing the high school graduation rate, it is important to make sure that students are able to attend college afterwards, if they wish to do so. High School students could benefit from having a program that only helps them with college applications and its requirements but also a program that can allow them to find the right college that will not leave them with a huge student loan after graduation. Congreso could partner with local Universities that have scholarships and that can provide guidance to such students in order to ensure they can further their education.
- **College and Career Fair:** As complement to the previous point, we advise Congreso to host an Annual College and Career Fair where its students can explore different opportunities in education and career wise. This fair would function as a supplement to the programs Congreso offers already and would allow students to network, get more information about college and possibly finding jobs in which they can put to practice all the skills they are learning during the after school programs. This event would also allow Congreso to promote the programs they already offer to students K-12 and could allow them to fundraise some funds that could benefit the programs by asking for a donation as an admission fee.

Health

Based upon the research, trends as well as Congreso's efforts over the past 40 years below are two examples of events for the organization's 40th Anniversary Celebrations.

Pop up Yoga Classes:

- This would include one or several pop up yoga classes in partnership with Philadelphia yoga studios and/or Congreso HIV/AIDS partnership organizations.
- The classes would be free or charge attendees a small fee, with the classes being open to the public. The purpose of these events would be to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS and yoga as an alternative avenue for treatment for mental health of those living with HIV/AIDS. Research has shown that those living with HIV/AIDS are at an increased risk for developing a mental illness

(HIV/AIDS and Mental Health, n.d.). Medical and counseling case management are essential for those living with HIV/AIDS but alternative methods should be explored. Yoga has many benefits including reduction of stress and anxiety and increased self-acceptance and improvement of mental health (The Benefits of Yoga, 2016).

- At each pop up class free HIV/AIDS testing will be available to all attendees. An information table will be set up with education and prevention materials. These events could also additionally serve as ways to encourage the Philadelphia community to focus on overall health and wellness.

Oral History Project:

- This project would include gathering personal stories of Congreso clients from their health and wellness programs. Obtaining personal stories from clients will accurately express Congreso's reach and scope regarding the health sector over the past 40 years. Many of Congreso's clients have not come to Congreso just for one service but for many, and this includes families as well. This oral history project can additionally be expanded to not just include health if the organization wishes. An oral history project would allow the organization to collect information and data as to how the organization has evolved and helped the Philadelphia community over the years of its existence.
- This would require researching Congreso's records and asking executive leadership, board and staff members for recommendations to create a list of potential participants. The amount of participants should be split as evenly as possible over Congreso's programs including Esfuerzo HIV / AIDS, Congreso Health Center, Domestic violence program, etc. After this list is generated, each person should be contacted to see if they are interested in participating.
- To make this process as simple as possible participants could send it a video themselves or go to Congreso's headquarters for to be interviewed. The set of questions should be predetermined and approved by the organization.
- These oral histories could be used by Congreso with the permission of the participant for their programs, on their website and at other anniversary celebration events. Additionally these interviews will provide the organization with another form of self evaluation. The participants will be able to provide insight into specific programs and services, helping to point out what worked and did not. These interviews can be used as a research tool to view analyze the community on a more personal level and determine what services and programs are still needed.

Social

Spreading Awareness of Congreso's Service Record

Congreso has achieved a great deal over the last forty years. An effective and exciting way to share the long list of its accomplishments would be to strategically place tents around the city of Philadelphia, offering passers-by a brief overview of some of Congreso's programs and history, in the style of a museum. Curating the pop-up museum would involve utilizing research from this project, as well as pivotal moments in Congreso's history. Ideally, this type of event would be held during warm weather months, when more people are spending time outdoors and the pop-up museums are most likely to benefit from lots of foot traffic.



Figure 2. This pop-up museum travels around the German region of Westphalia, providing residents rare insight into local architectural history (Hempel, 2013).

The pop-up museums could offer interactive information presentations that, while offering the information about Congreso's work, also provide a chance for people to learn how to become involved as volunteers or financial supporters of Congreso.



Figure 3. A pop-up museum of Sri Chinmoy's weights was presented in Prague in June 2012 (Exhibition, 2012).

This format of celebration event also has the potential of becoming four separate events; where each pop-up museum represents a different core area of programming that Congreso offers.

Major Outdoor Event and Exhibition

Congreso has managed to develop incredibly impactful programs that have served its community during its many years of operation. Congreso should create an event that represents its commitment to civic collaboration and community-minded programming.



Figure 4. The City of Knoxville's Festival on the 4th of July (Market Square District Association, n.d.).

A **concert** could be organized in a prominent outdoor space in Philadelphia. The program could include performances by artists that support Congreso's mission and goals, as well as speakers, who can provide anecdotal evidence of Congreso's commitment to Philadelphia over the forty years of its existence. Because Congreso will also be collecting oral histories of the work it has done over the years, this could serve as an opportunity to showcase some of the most moving accounts of Congreso's service.



Figure 5. Outdoor market and fair in Brooklyn, NY (Brooklyn Flea, 2016).

In addition to the concert and special speakers, **a fair, exhibiting Congreso's programs**, would offer attendees an opportunity to learn, more visibly, about what Congreso does to serve Philadelphia. Exhibitions could include a voter registration and education table; a station to explain how to prepare for filing taxes and to advertise Congreso's tax site; a space for representatives of the local government, who work with Congreso, who could benefit from connecting with the community; and a production station to capture more oral histories of Congreso's work.

Incorporating local businesses that may have benefited from or supported Congreso's work over the years will further promote the fair and also serve as an additional reminder of the scope of Congreso's work throughout its history.



Figure 6. Food trucks line the streets of Washington, DC, surrounding a public park (Good News on the Food Truck Front, 2013).

To get more of the Philadelphia commercial sector involved, it may be useful to invite local food trucks, particularly if this event can take place in a public square or park-like setting. Other types of businesses could serve as sponsors of the event, creating an opportunity for strengthening existing and developing new partnerships with local businesses.

Creating More Accessibility

During the year of celebration, Congreso should develop its own mobile application, in order to provide more mobile access to the community, regarding the programming Congreso offers. A mobile application would create a tremendous opportunity for Congreso to engage the community in a way that it has not in the past; continuing its tradition of innovating the way in which it serves the community.



Figure 7. Mockup of the Congreso de Latinos Unidos mobile application.

This mobile application will give Congreso a new way to disseminate the details of the celebratory programs for attendees; this will also push Congreso towards a more technologically savvy method of reaching its clients and the community at large.

The mobile application's usefulness goes beyond the anniversary events and programming. It can also be used as a way for donors to give to Congreso; community members to become involved as a volunteer; clients to get news and updates; and the general public to better understand the work that Congreso is doing. Connecting the application to social media, when appropriate, could also help to promote each event throughout the year; allowing the details to be more easily shared across social media platforms.

CONCLUSIONS (Amanda)

In Conclusion, Congreso De Latino Unidos is a client-centered organization aimed at strengthening Latino communities through a variety of avenues (Agency Profile, 2016). Creating a timeline of events for Congreso's 40th anniversary that showcases the organization's efforts and impact required researching the Philadelphia Hispanic community. Our research analyzed how this community has changed over time and how Congreso intersected with these efforts. Due to Congreso's scope of programs and services, research was divided into the four sectors of economics, education, health and social.

In the sector of economics there are stark contrasts in the Hispanic community with a high purchasing power but very high poverty rates. Drop out rates in the education sector are improving, but there is more work needed regarding racial disparities in education. In the health sector, there are many significant challenges facing the Hispanic community such as HIV/AIDS infection rates, which Congreso is striving to improve through education as well as their health and testing centers. The social sector is where the organization has had the opportunity to fill the gap created by a loss of government funding in the years before Congreso's existence.

Congreso has strived to address these trends and improve lives of the Hispanic community in all four sectors. In the economic sector, Congreso helps clients complete tax returns (Tax Services, 2016) and offers housing workshops to educate current and prospective homeowners and renters (Housing and Counseling, 2016). These workshops seek to ensure Hispanics do not fall victim to foreclosures such as those that occurred during the 2008 housing market crash (Ricks, 2009). In order to combat increased levels of poverty and help those who need housing assistance get back on their feet Congreso offers a rapid rehousing program helping those achieve more permanent housing at a subsidized or market rate (Rapid Rehousing, 2016).

In education, there are challenges regarding high school dropouts, and language proficiency. Congreso's charter school was founded in 2008 and is the only school to offer a dual language IB curriculum K-8 program (Pan American Academy, 2016). Expanding Pan American Academy to include a high school would help decrease dropout rates. Currently Congreso offers Education and Workforce Programs to increase high school graduation rates and increase success once they are in the workforce (Education and Workforce, 2016). With language budget cuts, increased dual language curriculums such as the Pan American Academy would help combat the language deficiency Hispanics encounter in education (Killon, 2014).

Regarding health and wellness, the Hispanic Philadelphia community has seen increased issues in domestic violence, overall health and HIV rates. Currently Congreso has a Latina Domestic Violence program offering support services (Domestic Violence, 2016), as well as a Domestic Violence and Prevention Education program to provide training and awareness to the Philadelphia Community (Domestic Violence Prevention Education, 2016). One area of health that has been an issue for Hispanics is HIV/AIDS while the number of AIDS rates is decreasing, Hispanics are still the second highest number of new HIV cases in Philadelphia (Buehler, Johnson, Nutter and Terrell, 2014).

Since the late 1980s Congreso has been involved with HIV/AIDS through their Esfuerzo HIV/AIDS program, which provides medical case management, education, testing and prevention (Esfuerzo, HIV/AIDS, 2016). One avenue requiring further exploration is the mental health of HIV/AIDS patients which Congreso could address through pop up yoga programs.

In the social sector a challenge for Congreso are the high levels of poverty facing their clients particularly in North Philadelphia. Congreso offers several services that support community needs in Philadelphia focusing on reaching the entire community. There services are aimed at increasing stability in families offering re-engagement programs to improve Latino dropout rates and providing assistance for seniors to continue to live independently. Specifically the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Programs works to keep children enrolled in school by providing additional support services (Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program, 2016).

These trends and efforts as well as others in our research have been analyzed in order to suggest and create the ideal events for each sector for Congreso's 40th Anniversary. Two or more events were suggested from each area, providing a variety of potential programs and events. Thus far suggestions among others, have included a Pop up Museum of Congreso history, an oral history project, a College Access Program and Career fair and a Philadelphia Hispanic Homeowners Fair. From these events a tentative calendar was created to provide Congreso with a suggested planning and implementation schedule for the next phase of the project.

By focusing on the four sectors of Congreso, the history of the community and organization can be fully realized. The events for their 40th Anniversary will help showcase the impact and scope the organization has on the community. Furthermore, all events will generate community awareness and information about past and current issues in the Philadelphia Latino Community. Cheers to Congreso De Latino Unidos and 40 years of dedicated and resilient service to the Philadelphia Latino Community.

Calendar of Events



Figure 8. Suggested 40th anniversary calendar of events

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Appendix

Rates of Poverty in the Communities Congreso Serves

In zip code 19133 (representing 35% of Congreso's clients), **58% of people were in poverty**. About 76% of children under the age of 18 and about 38% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016d).

In zip code 19134 (representing 16% of Congreso's clients), **45% of people were in poverty**. Nearly 59% of children under the age of 18 and about 33% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016e).

In zip code 19140 (representing 11% of Congreso's clients), **45% of people were in poverty**. Almost 63% of children under the age of 18 and 20% of people aged 65 years old and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016f).

In zip code 19124 (representing 7% of Congreso's clients), **34% of people were in poverty**. About 46% of children under the age of 18 and about 17% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016c).

In zip code 19120 (representing 6% of Congreso's clients), **30% of people were in poverty**. About 37% of children under the age of 18 and about 24% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016a).

In zip code 19122 (representing 3% of Congreso's clients), **35% of people were in poverty**. About 48% of children under the age of 18 and about 32% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016b).

In zip code 19149 (representing 2% of Congreso's clients), **22% of people were in poverty**. About 30% of children under the age of 18 and about 15% of people aged 65 years and over were living below the poverty level (American Community Survey Office, 2016g).