

## La Casa de Don Pedro FY17 Impact Report



*Highlights of La Casa de Don Pedro's key accomplishments from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.*



## TOGETHER WE RISE

*Board President Richard Roper Presenting at "Gracias a Ti" [Thanks to You] 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch event for donors with preschool students addressing the audience.*

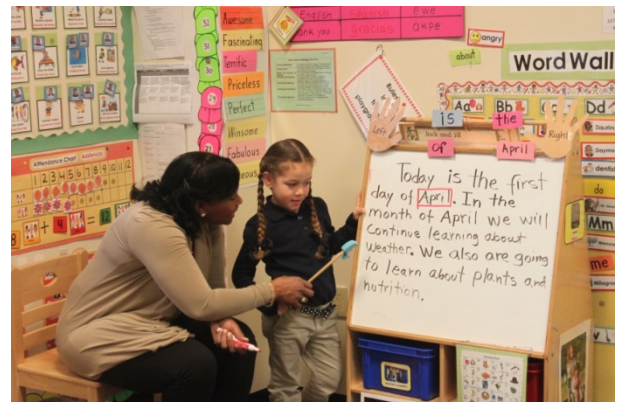
### **La Casa de Don Pedro commenced its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration "Together We Rise."**

La Casa de Don Pedro's legacy in Newark, NJ is one of resilience, of creativity, and of unity. We have built bridges that unite communities, empowered leaders who ignite social change and created opportunities for all to thrive. Forty five years later, we remember that together we rise. Together we triumph over adversity. And together we can build a brighter, more equitable future. La Casa de Don Pedro celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of special events, starting with "Gracias a Ti" [Thanks to You.]

### **Early Childhood Education**

La Casa de Don Pedro embarked in an expansion of early childhood education when it became an official Head Start Partner with the Federal Office of Head Start. Starting in September, 2016, La Casa prepared, retrofitted, and opened new centers throughout the City of Newark with the goal to educate an additional 405 preschool age children and provide Early Head Start services to 168 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

High standards in La Casa's traditional early childhood education centers were demonstrated with an invitation by the Newark Office of Early Childhood to participate in an evidence-based study on the implementation of the Revised Edition of the Creative Curriculum for Preschool. One classroom at La Casa's 202 First Street was identified as a "Learning Lab," a model classroom demonstrating the highest quality standards.



## Community & Economic Development

### Housing Counseling

- 374 individuals participated in housing counseling
- 148 people prepared themselves for homeownership through our HUD Certified First Time Homebuyer Education course.
- 12 new families became first time homeowners who participated in our counseling program
- 20 families stabilized their homes in foreclosure crisis by La Casa negotiating with their lender to receive mortgage modifications, debts brought current, and refinancing
- 125 individuals advanced their financial knowledge by attending Financial Capability Workshops and Trainings

### Community Organizing

- La Casa de Don Pedro planned, organized, fundraised, and executed the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival De La Familia with thousands in attendance in July, 2016.
- La Casa strengthened and empowered community groups and individuals with several outreach and community engagement events in the Lower Broadway Neighborhood including:
  - Gospel Night as part of Lower Broadway Live, an activity within the Lower Broadway Neighborhood Plan
  - Several cleanups of Coretta Scott King Playground and the Lower Broadway Commercial Corridor, engaging volunteers from New Jersey Institute of Technology, Jersey Cares, and the community.
  - Participation in several community forums and info sessions related to Education, Community Policing, Safety, and other issues relevant to the target community.
- The Lower Broadway Community Map was completed and distributed to community residents, businesses, and Newark's tourism industry.
- The Lower Broadway Neighborhood Association received technical assistance and financial support.



*The annual Festival de la Familia celebrates Newark's diversity by offering a free day of family friendly cultural, art, informational, and recreational activities. Credit: Tim Dingman.*



*Neighborhood forums inform residents and encourage them to be engaged in their community by share information and resources*



## Affordable Homeownership Development



The construction of Eaton Place Townhomes, four affordable 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath townhouses in East Orange for families earning 80% of the Area Median Income commenced, in partnership with the City of East Orange.

*Eaton Place Townhomes in construction.*

## **Youth, Family & Health Services**

- The Hunger Relief Initiative provided fresh produce to over 1,800 families and 900 children weekly. With Newark defined as a food desert, access to free, healthy produce has provided a significant health and financial impact.
- 12 Health Insurance enrollment sessions helped to enroll more than 75 individuals in to health insurance.
- About 700 individuals were tested for HIV, with all negative results.



*Hunger Relief Initiative food distribution, in partnership with Hispanic Federation and Walmart Foundation.*



Family Success Centers increased participation in all of its core services by 30%, from 1002 in FY16 to 1450 in FY17. Services include family health, parent/child engagement, employment and housing referrals, life skills, advocacy, and linkages to community resources.

*Storytime Adventures is one of many family activities at the Family Success Centers.*

La Casa de Don Pedro provided core after school enrichment services to 490 children throughout Essex County, from 14 different schools with the majority from North Newark Below. Services include transportation to the program, fresh, house-made meals, homework assistance, enrichment activities, math, science, art and history, etc.

*The gardening club with students in the after school enrichment program in partnership with McKinley Elementary School.*

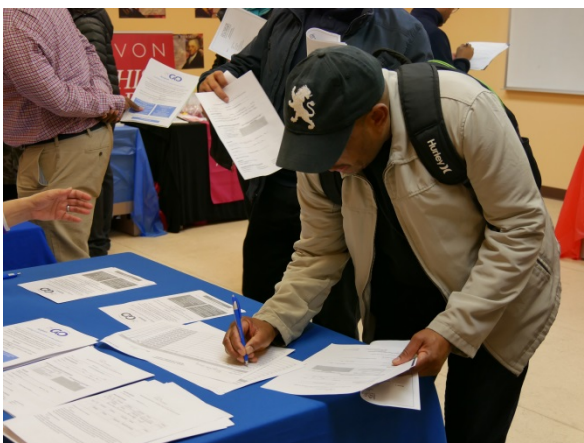


## Adult Education

- We provided 612 Immigration consultations and submitted over 300 successful applications for legal assistance.
- We educated 472 individuals in English as a Second Language classes on site and at various library branches through our partnership with Newark Public Library. 94% of post-tested students demonstrated progress.
- We helped place 131 individuals in employment.
- 20 of the 25 students in the Out of School Youth Program (Opportunity Youth Network) completed their High School Equivalency
- Supported 171 students enroll in Welfare to Work. 66% of those who completed the program made educational gains or were placed in employment.
- We tested 368 people for high school equivalency
- 145 individuals gained their High School Equivalency through our testing program as part of our Welfare to Work and Out of School Youth Programs that tested 368 people.



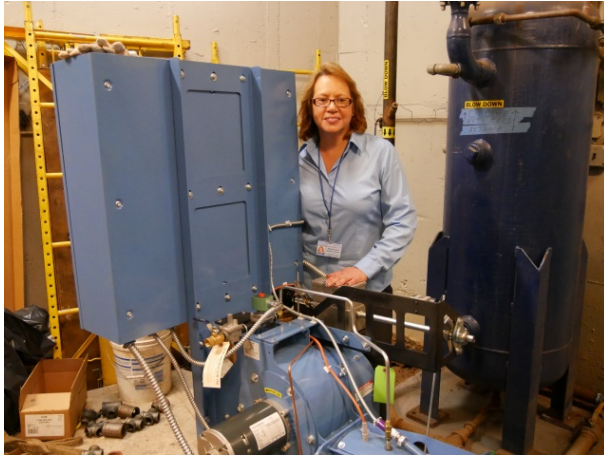
*Adult education students.*



*La Casa de Don Pedro hosts an annual job fair which attracts dozens of employers and hundreds of residents seeking to improve their financial well-being.*

## Community Improvement

- La Casa de Don Pedro successfully completed 17,000 Low Income Home Energy Assistance applications, assisting 17,000 cover the cost of their utility bill.
- Made more than 100 housing units more energy efficient with the Weatherization program



*New boiler installation in low-income apartment complex.*

## FY2017 Partners

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families  
U.S. Office of Housing & Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
NJ Department of Community Affairs  
NJ Department of Children & Families  
NJ Department of Health & Human Services  
NJ Department of Criminal Justice  
NJ Department of Education  
City of Newark  
City of Newark Ryan White HIV Emergency Relief Program  
City of Newark Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS  
Essex County Division of Aging  
Essex County SSH/TANH  
Essex County Division of Aging  
Newark Board of Education  
Newark Public Schools Opportunity Youth Network  
Newark Public Schools Family Workers  
JP Morgan Chase & Co. Foundation  
Capital One Foundation  
Victoria Foundation

The Prudential Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation  
Citi Foundation  
The Iolita Fund for New Jersey  
New Jersey Community capital  
Hispanic Federation  
Adult Basic Education Essex County College Program  
NJHMFA National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program  
Synchrony Bank  
Bank of America  
LISC  
NeighborWorks America  
#GivingTuesday Donors  
Festival de la Familia Sponsors  
La Casa es su Casa Annual Event Donors  
Burgers & Brew Donors