

we are.



 **Esperanza**

2009 annual report



A message from the Board President and Executive Director

There is no shortage of issues that make higher education a seemingly unreachable goal for many in our Hispanic community. Of particular concern is the fact that our children are performing at the bottom of most indicators, including a graduation rate below 34%, the lowest of any group in the Cleveland school system. Our performance on state-mandated testing is abysmal at best, with more than 50% of our students failing reading proficiency tests, 60% failing math, and 70% failing science.

As startling as these statistics sound, they are opportunities to get involved, make changes, and offer help. We at Esperanza can assure you that there is hope.

Our efforts in 2009 were empowered through your support and our unique collaborations with community partners.

We serve our community with services that strengthen the entire family. Our summer enrichment program provided literacy and language-acquisition instruction to students kindergarten to eighth grade. Our Hispanic Youth Leadership and Junior Leadership Programs gave middle- and high-school students the resources they need—tutoring, mentoring, and life skills—to successfully graduate from high school. Adults were provided with ESL and computer-literacy classes, giving many of them confidence to continue their education. And of particular pride to our community, we provided over \$30,000 in scholarships to Cuyahoga and Lorain County students to attend college.

The great Hispanic Educator Jaime Escalante once said, “The day someone quits

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school, he is condemning himself to a future of poverty.” Equally important is the day that the community allows their children to quit school, we are condemning them, and ourselves, to a life of poverty.

Esperanza vows not to quit on our children. We will continue working hard to ensure that all Hispanic children in Cleveland have access to a quality education and a life of opportunity. The success of our students is vital to the prosperity of our community.

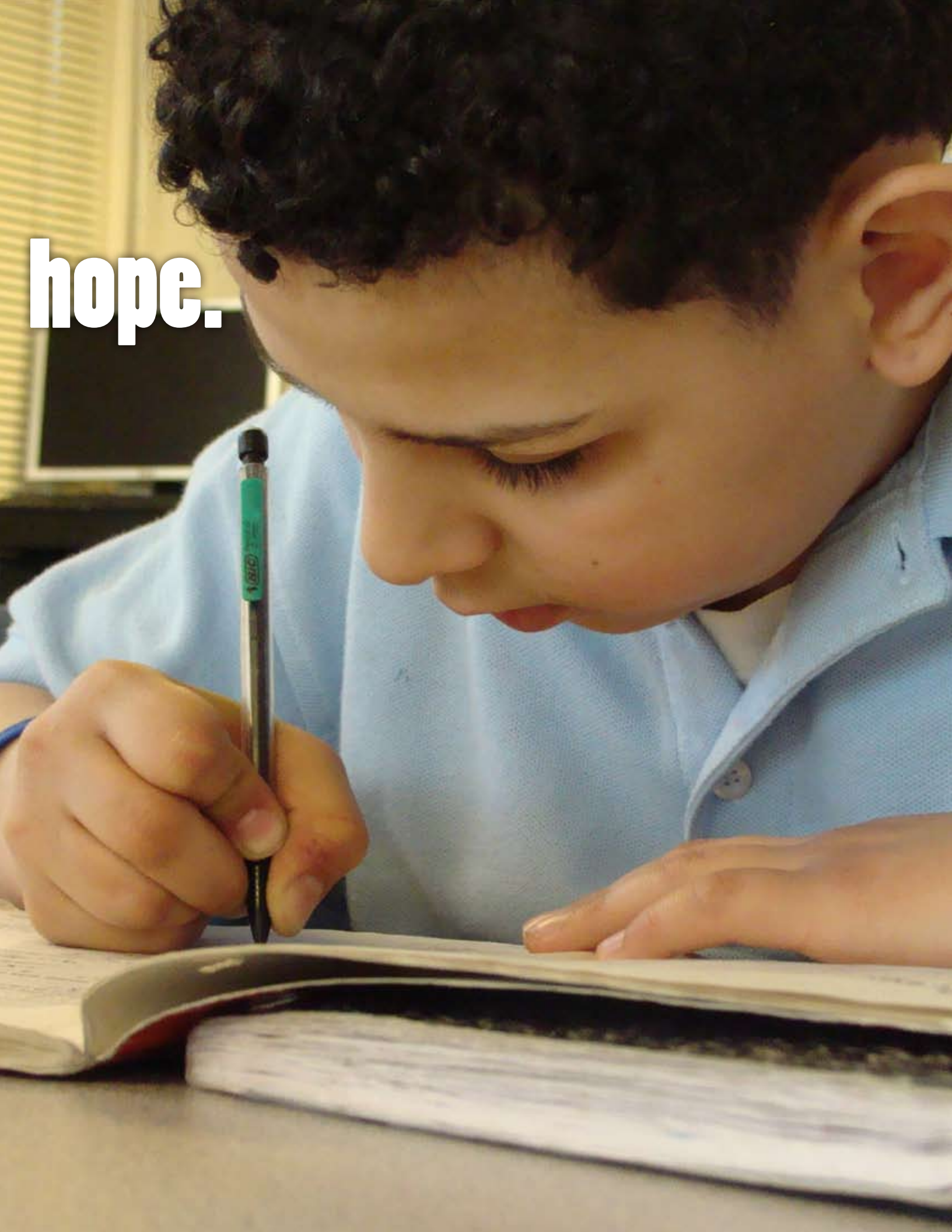
On behalf of the trustees, staff and students of Esperanza, Inc., we want to thank you for the support that you gave us in 2009. Your generosity allowed us to continue providing services to our community, even during tough economic times. While 2009 was a year of transition, we ended it looking forward to new opportunities.

Thank you, not only for believing in Esperanza’s ability to help students be successful, but for choosing to invest in our students’ future and our community.

Felicia Soto
President, Board of Trustees

Victor Ruiz
Executive Director

hope.





We not only offer services our community needs. We offer ideas and promote partnerships to reach even farther.

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Stay In School for College & Career Opportunities (SISCO)

SISCO focuses on middle-school students with tutoring, enrichment and mentoring designed to increase high-school graduation rates among Hispanic students. Our partners include the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and local colleges and universities.

180 students served

grades 6-8 at Luis Munoz Marin, Joseph Gallagher, Stephen Buhner and Scranton schools in 2009

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Summer Enrichment Program

Our six-week summer program focuses on language acquisition and literacy. Partners for this program included American Greetings, Baldwin-Wallace College, Case Western Reserve University, Children's Hunger Alliance, City of Cleveland, Cleveland HUMADAOP, Cuyahoga County Public Library, the Financial Literacy Workshop, Hope Academy, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center and Merrick House.

70 students served

grades kindergarten through eighth in 2009

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English as a Second Language (ESL)

The goal of the ESL Program is to develop English-language proficiency and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) in English language learners so that they can function independently in mainstream classroom settings. The focus of the program is primarily linguistic. Through Cuyahoga Community College's ABLE program, Esperanza was provided two certified ESL professors to offer a morning and evening course for adult English-language learners.

66 adult students served

in 2009

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A group of children, mostly young girls, are wearing bright red t-shirts. They are gathered outdoors, likely at a zoo, as evidenced by the metal fence and lush green foliage in the background. The children appear to be engaged in an activity or looking at something off-camera. The overall atmosphere is bright and cheerful.

collaborators.



**We have a responsibility to set an example and inspire change.
Our volunteers and students take this responsibility seriously.**

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Youth Leadership Programs

Our leadership programs provide youth in grades 6-12 with leadership opportunities and programming designed to help students achieve academically and in life. By encouraging healthy life skills through hands-on development and service activities, we believe real-world experiences offer valuable experiences for children at critical points in their lives.

Our leadership programs include the Hispanic Youth Leadership Program (HYLP), Junior Leadership Program (JLP), Esperanza's Latina Leadership Alliance (ELLA), and Esperanza's Latino Leaders for an Outstanding Society (ELLOS).

73 students served
in 2009

we are

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Esperanza Scholarship Program

Awarded at our annual Fiesta of Hope luncheon, our scholarships provide financial support for local Hispanic college students, some of which may be receiving their only opportunity for post-secondary education. This program is supported by individuals and corporations from the community. Scholarship recipients also have access to internship and mentoring opportunities before and during college.

52 scholarships
*awarded in 2009 to students from
Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties.*

\$30,500 awarded
as scholarships

mentors.



Hispanic Youth Leadership students prepare for mountain biking with Youth Outdoors, an initiative focused on outdoor adventure.



Creativity and collaboration can produce amazing results.

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Esperanza's Community Computer Resource Center

This resource enhances the academic and computer skills of young students, and also improves computer literacy for adults. The center provides a free-access location and free classes year-round. We offer 10- and 14-week computer-training programs in the spring, summer, and the fall semesters to adults. From basic lessons on computer and internet usage, to basic and advanced Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Power-Point) education. Special classes in Microsoft Publisher, resume writing and budgeting are also included.

450 students served

as adults and middle- and high-school students in 2009

We are

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Summer Employment Program

In the summer of 2009, as part of the Workforce Investment Act Summer Employment Program, Esperanza placed 120 high school students in jobs within Cuyahoga County. Every student received two weeks of training and at least six weeks of employment.

120 students employed

ages 14-21 in 2009

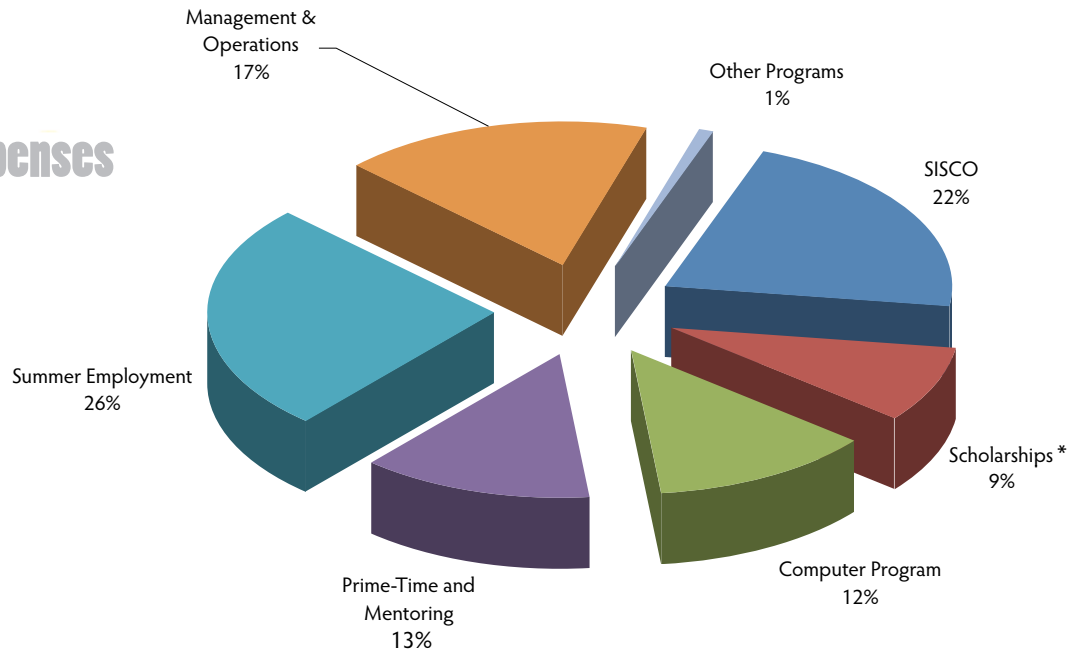
innovators.



Esperanza's ELLOS club, with volunteer Luis Gaitan of Turner Construction, toured a work site as part of the Summer Employment Program which served 120 students in 2009.



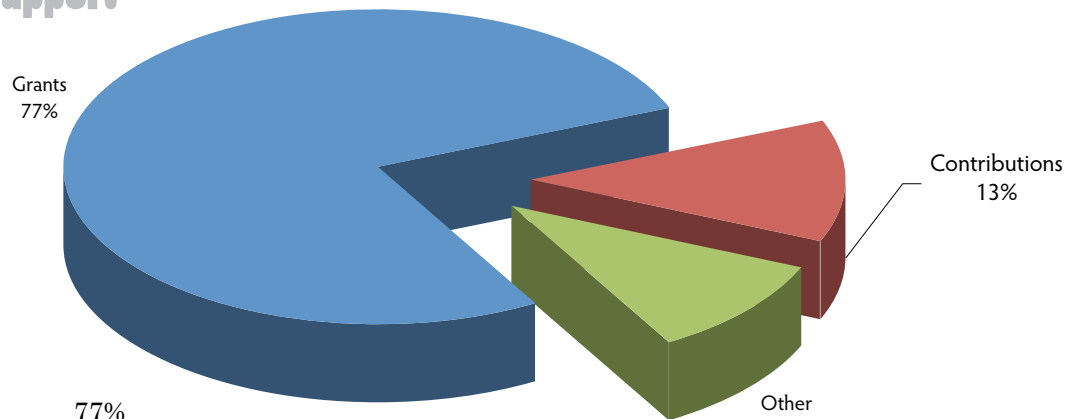
2009 expenses



SISCO	\$149,790	22%
Scholarships	\$59,608	9%
Computer Training	\$85,428	12%
Prime-Time and Mentoring	\$89,890	13%
Summer Employment	\$179,111	26%
Management & Operations	\$120,183	17%
Other Programs	\$5,429	1%
(Youth Leadership, campaign25)		
Total	\$689,439	100%



2009 revenue & support



Grants	\$429,421	77%
Contributions	\$69,643	13%
Other	\$56,828	10%
Total	\$555,892	100%

* Includes \$30,500 paid in scholarships.

The numbers presented are year-end financial position of Esperanza, Inc. Our annual 2009 Financial Statements were audited by KPFF, L.L.C, Certified Public Accountants, and are posted on Esperanza's website. Note that all contributions and grants are recorded as support when received or recorded as a receivable (once we receive an award letter). Some Funds received in 2009 are for 2010 Programs. Assets Released from Restriction are not current year revenue, but represent prior period revenue that became available for use in the 2009 Fiscal Period.

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3104 West 25th Street, 4th floor
 Cleveland, Ohio 44109
 216.651.7178
 esperanzainc.org