

2019

2020



CIRCLE DE LUZ ANNUAL REPORT



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Class of 2023

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BARBARA RANDOLPH
COURTNEY ZUNIGA

Class of 2021

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ROSY CRUMPTON
MEGHAN MACIAG

Class of 2024

GABRIELA ANDRADE
BARBARA CONTRERAS
BETSY HAUER
ERIKA POPLIN

Class of 2022

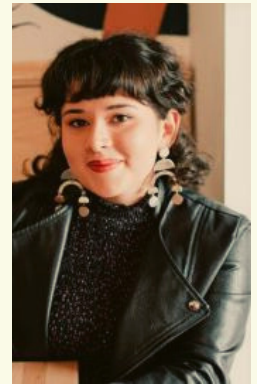
LISA ANSTEY
ANNA FREULER
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CRISEIDA RICO

Class of 2025

ELKA CEDENO
SILVIA ESPINOZA
KENIA MEDRANO
JESSICA ROJAS

RADICALLY EMPOWERING YOUNG LATINAS

This past year has been an eventful one for all of us, not only within Circle de Luz, but for our beautiful community as well. We are proud of our many accomplishments, and we are looking forward to an upcoming year full of changes and successes. In October of 2019, we had the privilege of welcoming eight new hijas to the Circle de Luz Class of 2025. We began our 2019-2020 year with a total of 40 hijas enrolled in our program, ranging from 7th through 12th grade. Working alongside our class captains, volunteers, and community partners, we were able to execute 65 programs across all of our classes, and we couldn't be happier with the experiences each one of our hijas had.



This year, we welcomed two new members to our team. Amanda Miller joins us as our new Adelante: College and Career Pathways consultant. Amanda has been an incredible asset to our program and has worked tirelessly to ensure that our hijas are prepared to take on their post-secondary educational journey without hesitation. In addition to adding a new Adelante consultant, we were so excited to welcome Vanessa Martinez as our new Program and Evaluation Manager. Vanessa graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies. Her professional experience ranges from media to planning. Volunteering and photography are two of her many interests, and two years ago she was able to combine those interests when she found Circle de Luz. After capturing photographs at several of our events and getting to know some of the staff, board members, volunteers, and hijas, Vanessa felt deeply that this was an organization with which she wanted to be more involved. Having experienced the program as a volunteer, she instantly connected with our mission and vision and is proud to officially be part of our Circle de Luz staff.

After 6 years of programming, we are happy to announce that our Class of 2020 hijas have graduated from high school. Angelica, Araceli, Alicia and Karla have completed their high school journey and are on their way to taking their first step into their post-secondary education adventure. Our hearts are filled with pride; we know that each of them will create incredible futures for themselves and their communities. We can't wait to see what comes next for them.

As we reflect on this past year, we understand that things have changed for all of us, and will continue to change as we move forward. After the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff, volunteers, and board had to pivot quickly and find new and innovative ways to continue safely providing content and programming to our girls and their families amidst this "new normal." We continue to look for ways to improve and innovate and develop best practices as our constant focus remains keeping our girls engaged and safe during these unprecedented and difficult times. Thank you for your belief in our mission and in each one of our hijas.

Mil Bendiciones, Lorena Priego and Vanessa Martinez

MISSION

Circle de Luz radically empowers young Latinas by supporting their transformation through extensive mentoring, holistic programming and scholarship funds for further education.

VISION

Immersed in an experiential culture of learning, Latinas served by Circle de Luz exhibit resilience, confidence and authenticity as they complete high school and pursue further education.



GUIDING BELIEFS AND COMMITMENTS

- Every child deserves access to education and the opportunity to pursue her potential.
- Latinas face numerous unique challenges that deserve our community's attention.
- Education is fundamental to personal success.
- Compassionate mentoring facilitates possibility and empowerment.
- Exposure to opportunity matters.
- Cultivating a community of leadership and service creates engaged citizens of the world.
- Supporting our hijas means embracing and being accessible to their families.
- Measuring impact and evaluating our processes is essential to our success.

2019-2020 CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Class of 2020

Our class of 2020 hijas had a wonderful last year of Circle de Luz programming. As always, we were so happy to provide our graduating hijas with programming that would support them now and in the future. One of the highlights of their programming was participating in a career experience at Ally Bank headquarters. Ally graciously shared extremely valuable information about budgeting, personal branding, and investing in yourself. Thank you to all the staff that participated in this event! Our girls were truly blown away by the experience!



Class of 2021

One of the most memorable programs our Class of 2021 hijas had this year was their leadership program facilitated by Toussaint Romain. This program touched on the importance of using their voices, the change they can create in the world, and reminded them that clear action should be taken in every aspect of their lives and education. This was such a powerful program, and our hijas felt inspired by Toussaint's words and work in our community!

2019-2020 CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Class of 2022

Our Class of 2022 hijas had the pleasure of having Tori Stevens host an insightful program for them. Tori taught the girls that they are in control of their destiny by the actions they take and what they choose to do with their lives. The girls participated in hands-on activities that allowed them the space to voice their fears and challenges and clearly name their goals for the future. We love seeing our hijas flourish in so many ways!



Class of 2023

Our Class of 2023 hijas had a great year. One of the most memorable programs they had was a "Farm to Table" program they experienced in Morganton, NC. Thanks to the wonderful support of our mijas, the girls visited a beautiful farm and learned about cooking with fresh food, feeding farm animals, organic farming, and enjoyed a light hike. It was great to see some of the girls out of their element and learn new skills.

2019-2020 CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Class of 2024

Our Class of 2024 hijas were excited for their last year in middle school, and couldn't wait to learn more about what was coming next for them. One of their favorite programs was going to see The Jersey Boys musical. This was an especially great experience because most of them had never attended a live performance. They learned about several aspects of the play, the actors, the orchestra, and other elements that create such an amazing show. We are so thankful for our partnership with the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center for making these opportunities possible for our hijas.

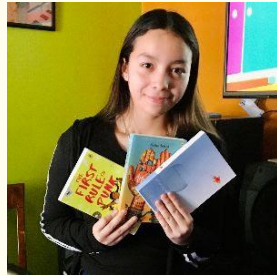


Class of 2025

As our youngest class, our 2025 hijas were eager to begin their six year journey with us. As an introduction to our focus on academic and college readiness, we took them on a tour of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus. Many of them had never stepped foot on a university campus before and were so impressed with everything that a university has to offer its students. On campus, they enjoyed a discussion about post secondary education and college life. We can't wait to see what each of them accomplishes in the next 6 years!



SUMMER READING



Every summer, we provide our members with three books to encourage reading, lifelong learning, and a broader understanding of the world. This year, we were so fortunate to partner with Main Street Books of Davidson, NC who created personalized book bundles for each one of our members (based on a survey they each completed). With the help of generous donors, we provided our girls with over 60 different book titles for their summer reading. Circle de Luz is so thankful to Adah Fitzgerald and Main Street Books' for their ongoing support and commitment to giving our members the opportunity to escape and explore in the wonders of an inspiring book.



Click to check out
and support
Main Street Books!



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



As the COVID-19 pandemic moved forward, we revamped our approach to provide quality experiences virtually to all our hijas. We developed great relationships with new facilitators who were open to hosting virtual workshops so we could continue connecting with our members and encouraging their growth while they were Safer at Home.

A few highlights of our virtual programming were Oscar Romero's public speaking workshop, I am NOT the Media's media literacy workshop, and Latina author Celia Perez's virtual discussion with our two youngest classes. We also hosted a family wellness program led by wellness coach and mija Lisa Konstandt who talked with our families about how to manage their stress and mental health during this time and mija and class captain Rosa Cordero who led a virtual yoga session. As we move forward with preparation for the new school year, we know that no matter the circumstances, we have such a phenomenal group of supporters and resources to provide meaningful experiences to our hijas and their families!



Thank you!



CIRCLE DE LUZ AND COVID-19

During the “Stay at Home” period, we have completely restructured our programming and internal processes and have found innovative ways to stay connected with our hijas and their families. Thanks to video conferencing platforms, our hijas can continue to explore different topics such as public speaking, the media, mental and physical health, and college planning.

Knowing the economic toll this pandemic created, our team responded quickly and effectively in order to meet our families’ immediate needs. We surveyed and identified each family’s need for food supplies, cleaning supplies, and academic support, completed referral training with a local food pantry, Loaves and Fishes, and were able to refer over 40 Circle de Luz family members for those services. In addition, we partnered with MiraVia, a local nonprofit that provides support to mothers in need of baby supplies. Families received diapers, baby food, and baby clothes. Lastly, we were so grateful to be recipients of a program launched by Doc Porters, a local distillery. They produced hand sanitizer for anyone in need and we were able to secure 10 gallons to bottle and distribute to our families who were having a difficult time finding cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.

In an effort to create joy during this difficult period, we pulled together to deliver care packages to each of our hijas. These care packages featured coloring books and colored pencils, wrist watch pedometers, stationery and games that we hope could bring joy to their day as well as give them different activities to include in their new routines. Additionally, a few of our mijas partnered with us so that we could deliver 3 masks to each of our 40 Circle de Luz families. Thank you to Nikki Moore, Colleen Thraikill and Andrea Wash for creating 40 handmade reusable masks for our families. We also would like to recognize Lily Angel, a mija and the owner of KLA Boutique, who donated 80 reusable masks to our families.



Thank You, Karina!



[Click here to watch our farewell video for Karina!](#)



We want to take a moment and highlight our Program and Finance Director, Karina Vogel. Karina started her journey at Circle de Luz in 2016. Throughout her time with us, she demonstrated such an enormous passion for Circle De Luz's mission and a deep dedication to the impact that was created everyday.

Karina led Circle de Luz to wonderful growth while keeping us rooted and focused on our mission. She was a light to our hijas and their families and a champion of the details!

Karina's heart was present in everything she did. While we will miss having Karina on our professional team, she will always be a part of our Circle de Luz family. We cannot wait to celebrate your contributions to Circle de Luz when we're able to gather again!

Mil gracias por todo, Karina, y un abrazo fuerte!

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020!



Always remember CHANGE IS A GOOD THING ! Do not be afraid of it. Embrace it! Circle de Luz can help you negotiate the life changes you will definitely experience along the way"
- Angelica Cabrera Paulino
Enrolled at UNC Greensboro



"Believe in yourself and your dreams and talents: GO FOR IT! I have not always liked school and I never thought I would reach HS let alone be attending CCCC. I am grateful for Circle believing in me even when I did not believe in myself. My Junior year of HS was when I began to BELIEVE! I have struggled with many obstacles but I am proudly working towards my goals."

- Araceli Franco Silveiro
Enrolled at Central Piedmont CC



"Be disciplined. Set goals for yourself; Do not be intimidated by anyone or anything; Embrace the power of Circle de Luz and the path for Latinas in the movement of women within the Latino Community."
- Karla Lara Perez
Enrolled at Queens University



"Look ahead to what the classes before you are doing, and how they are changing along the way. Alicia still remembers sitting at a Circle de Luz graduation ceremony and being totally impressed by a speech given by one of the graduating seniors. She decided that day that when it was time to give her speech, she wanted it to inspire girls coming up behind her."

- Alicia Moranchel
Enrolled at UNC Charlotte

2020 MIJAS

KATHLEEN BRANSON
BILLIE BUCK
KELLEY MACDONALD
KATHLEEN BALL
ROBIN MONCRIEF
EDWIN ORTIZ
JENNIFER KINNEY
LAURA PEPPER
KIRSTEN MARTIN
KIM KIRBY
DENISE AND BEN BEALL
JACKIE BENJAMIN
SUZANNE
CHOMICZEWSKI
NANCY COVINGTON
JODI HELMER
LESLIE JOHNSON
ANDREA JONES
ROSEMARY KLEIN
ERIN LANE
JUDY LATHAM
NANCE LONGWORTH
MAGDALENA MAIZ-PENA
ROSIE MOLINARY
ELAINE PETERSON
MARISOL RIVERA
KAREN RODRIGUEZ
MICHELLE SHAUL
COURTNEY SHEARER
JACQUELINE SONCEAU
ALICA SPARLING
VICTORIA SPEER
STEPHANIE STENGLEIN
LINDA VINER
MARGO WILLIAMS
DONNA TURNER AND ED
KOWALSKI
CAROLE MARTIN
CONNIE CORASANTI
ARIA LEVITAS
MARIZA RODRIGUEZ
KACIE RODRIGUEZ
PATTY LANE
ANNA GUEST-JELLEY
ELIZABETH "SITTA"
SCHAFFER
DAVIDSON UMC CIRCLE
JUDITH CONDON
AMY DIAMOND
JUDY MACDONALD
CLAUDIA MCGLOIN
KAY NORRIS
SHEILA SANGWINE

THANK YOU!

We would like to express our profound thanks to the Class of 2020 mijas who have believed in the mission of Circle de Luz since the early days. Your commitment provided a \$7,000 scholarship for each Class of 2020 hija! We are so grateful to our donors from all over the world who believe in empowerment and partner with us in this important work.

A special thank you to the Adelante: College and Career Pathways mentors. Your thoughtful guidance and relentless support of our hijas and their families has been amazing.

MIJAS

Our mijas support an individual Circle de Luz class by making an annual donation towards their scholarship fund for each year that the class is in the program. Because of their generosity, each hija will receive a scholarship of at least \$5,000 when she completes high school and pursues further education.

CLASS OF 2021

ALEIGH ACERNI
JEANNE ACERNI
TATIANA AUSTIN
ALINA BARTLETT
BETSY BLAIR
DENISE BURKHARD
ELIZABETH BURLSON
LUCY CALDWELL
LAURA CAPUTO
CAROL CHILDRESS
ROSA CORDERO
NANCY COVINGTON
SUSAN DANIEL
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GINA LEMONS
MEGHAN MACIAG
COLLEEN WILLIS
PATRICIA MACIAG
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JENNIFER STUART
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SUZANNE CARTER
JOANNE TATE
BEVERLY THIERWECHTER
CATHERINE THOMPSON
MARY WARE
MARLENA WERDER
COURTNEY ZUNIGA
KEY ENTERTAINMENT

CLASS OF 2022

PAM ABIRACHED
OWICE AITALLOB
LISA ANSTEY
JENNY BEAUMONT
EUNICE BENT
PATRICIA BOTERO
PATRICIA BRESCIA
SUZANNE CASSIDY
ASHLEY CLARK
KELLEY COCK
DENIS CORUZZI
ORGENE COWELL
JESSICA DELUCIA
ANNA FREULER
JENNIFER GEYER
MELISSA GONZALEZ
LAURA GREENO
ERICA HANKS
JODI HELMER
DANIELLE KOSIR
ISHA LEE
JUDITH MACDONALD
MAGDALENA MAIZ-
PENA
JANE MANGAN
WENDY MATTHEWS
SUSAN MCDONOUGH
CHRISTINA MILLER
ROSIE MOLINARY
KRISTEN MOORE
MAKEDA
PENNYCOOKE
LISA PHILLIPS
RUTH PITTARD
ABBY PUNTAR
JENNY PURTILL
DONYA QUESADA
CRISEIDA RICO
LISA SAUNDERS
CRISTINA SHAUL
BROOKE THOMAS
CHERYL TRENHAILE
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MARGARET VOGEL
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SUSANA CISNEROS
BARBARA CONTRERAS
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CORY FRITZINGER
CANDY FURR
LUCIA GRIFFITH
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MICHAEL GRIFFITH
KELSEY GRITT
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DEBORAH KEENAN
BARBARA KIRBY
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SUSAN LEATH
CARYN LEE
TAMMIE LESESNE
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AMANDA MARTINEZ
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KELSEY PRATT
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ANNA WHEELER

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Our Circle de Posibilidad donors and Community Partners fund our programming and operations costs. Their generosity makes our many diverse programs possible.

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ANNA FREULER
ANNA GUEST-JELLEY
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ASSORTED TABLE WINES
BAD DADDY'S BURGER BAR
BEN & JERRY OF DAVIDSON
BLOSSOM SHOP
BOB COLEMAN
BONNIE BOARDMAN JEWELRY
BRIXX WOOD FIRED PIZZA
BURTON'S GRILL
CAROLINA PANTHERS
CAROLINA RAPTOR CENTER
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CHARLOTTE FIND
CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS
CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS
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DAVIDSON UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN
DAVIDSON WINE COMPANY
DEFY GRAVITY
DILWORTH TASTING ROOM
DISH IT OUT POTTERY
DOWD OPERA CENTER
DUCK DONUTS
DULCE MANGE POTTERY
THE DUKE MANSION
E2D
ERIN MCDERMOTT JEWELRY
FIREBIRDS
FLAIR TRADE CONSIGN LAKE NORMAN
FLATIRON KITCHEN + TAPHOUSE
FLOWER CHILD
FLOWER POWER
THE FLYING BISCUIT

FLYWHEEL SPORTS CHARLOTTE
GYMBOREE - BALLANTYNE
HABERDISH
HEARTS ON FIBER
THE IMPROPER PIG
IRENE REYES
IRON BUTTERFLIES
JANE HARPER
JANE W. HOLLAND
JANINE DAVIS - GIRL TALK
JASON'S DELI
JEN FOWLER
JILL SEALE
JOANNA AVANT
JODIE HELMER
JOCELYN NEGRON-RIOS
JULIE WHITTED
KAREN TONEY
KATIE GAUNTNER
KENDRA SCOTT
KLA BOUTIQUE
LEE NAILS BAR & SPA
LEGION BREWING COMPANY
MAIN STREET BOOKS DAVIDSON
MANDOLINO'S ARTISAN PIZZA
MIA BELLA'S CANDLE
MINE BY SANDY BOWERS
MOOD INDIGO SOAPS
NASCAR XFINITY
OM SPA
PIP & GROW
THE PIZZA PEEL
POLISHED
POPLAR TAPAS WINE AND SPIRITS
PRP WINES
QUEENS UNIVERSITY
RACE TO EDUCATE
RACK ROOM SHOES
RECOVERY LABS
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE
RURU'S TACO
SABOR LATIN STREET GRILL
SAVORY SPICE SHOP
THE SCHIELE MUSEUM
SHINE SALON
SKY ZONE
SMILE SAVVY DENTISTRY
SOCCER SHOTS
SOTILE CENTER
SPORTS CONNECTION
THE STANLEY
SUAREZ BAKERY
SUNFLOWER BAKERY
TENDERS FRESH FOOD
THE TOWN OF DAVIDSON
THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION
VIBE 5 YOGA & FITNESS
THE VILLAGE AT DAVIDSON
WELLBEING NATURAL HEALTH
WHITE WATER CENTER
WHIT'S
YOGA ONE

CORPORATE SPONSORS



GRANT ROLL CALL

ALBEMARLE FOUNDATION	\$5,000.00
CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY FUND	\$10,000.00
CHRIST CHURCH CHARLOTTE	\$2,500.00
COCA COLA CONSOLIDATED	\$1,000.00
ORTHOCAROLINA	\$6,000.00
ROTARY CLUB OF DAVIDSON	\$229.00
ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH WALMART WILKINSON BLVD.	\$3,000.00
	\$1,500.00

2019-2020

BY THE NUMBERS



68

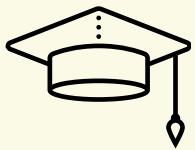
PROGRAMS
EXECUTED

302

MIJAS

21

CLASS
CAPTAINS



4

2020 COLLEGE
GRADUATES



23

ALUMNAE



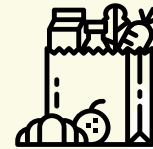
120

MASKS
DONATED



40

BOOK BUNDLES
DONATED



9

FAMILIES
REFERRED TO
FOOD PANTRIES



8

VIRTUAL
PROGRAMS

\$29,229

GRANT MONEY
RECEIVED



\$28,000

GRANTED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS TO
THE CLASS OF 2020



\$106,977

FISCAL YEAR
EXPENSES



\$19,117

AMOUNT
RAISED IN
FUNDRAISERS



7

BOARD
MEMBERS



3

STAFF
MEMBERS

3

CIRCLE DE LUZ
INTERNS



Be a Sparkler!

The light of one star is not bright enough to illuminate the darkness but the light of many stars brightens the night sky.

Today we invite you to help brighten this coming school year for our hijas. With the ongoing pandemic, we know that Spark, our annual holiday marketplace, is not a fundraiser that we can realistically host this year. And, yet, we need to be able to continue to holistically serve our members and their families - even if it must happen virtually to be safe.

If just 250 donors gave \$250 each, we could serve our hijas without interruption for the 2020-2021 school year and ensure their futures continue to shine as bright as the stars that illuminate their way.

What will your \$250 help Circle de Luz accomplish?

- Pay for a class program.
- Provide 3 hours of American Sign Language translation to make one of our programs accessible to all of our families.
- Cover a week of rent for our office and program location.
- Fund an hija and her family's Run Big Dream Big experience.
- Pay for 3 of our hijas to experience our annual high ropes course challenge.
- Provide several therapy sessions for an hija who needs support.
- Allow us to compensate our staff members at a competitive rate.

Click here to
[watch our
Be a Spark
video!](#)



Make your contribution today!

When you become a donor today, you will become a Sparkler and be recognized on our "Sparkler" wall of fame.

We welcome a full payment on the donation, or the option to defer half of the payment for 30 days.

You can complete your donation via our [website](#) or mail your check made out to Circle de Luz to PO Box 2, Davidson, NC 28036, please include in the memo "Sparkler Fundraiser"

Thank you!

On behalf of Circle de Luz



Stay Connected!



contact@circledeluz.org