



Serving Latinos and non-Latinos  
in Longmont, Boulder County and  
surrounding communities  
since 1980

**El Comité de Longmont**  
*Sin acción no hay milagros    Without action there are no miracles*

# Annual Report

## 2012



## **El Comité in 2012**

Over the past 30 years, El Comite de Longmont has provided essential services to meet the basic, legal and civil rights needs of Boulder County's Latino individuals and families. Our clients are often unaccustomed to the operating culture, customs and laws, have limited English proficiency and have limited understanding of how to resolve the challenges they face. They are frequently low paid or unemployed, have no health insurance, face unstable housing, are targeted by unscrupulous businesses and others, face perplexing legal issues

Some of these issues have come to the forefront as a result of a broken immigration system. Some issues require more effort as a result of a challenging economy and increasing gaps between the greater community and communities of color. In our community, people of color, including Latinos, have lost ground in comparison to the Anglo community in areas of education, health, income and other crucial areas.

In the last year El Comite provided unmatched assistance guided by our four pillars of Legal Assistance, Addressing Basic Needs, Community Bridge Building, Advocacy and Empowerment.

We believe that we are stronger when we act in concert with other resources in our community. In 2012 El Comite in addition to the few hundred case assistances each month, we collaborated with the OUR center and Boulder County Work Force to hold a job and resource fair attended by more than 200, we collaborated with the YMCA, Salud Clinic, Boulder County Health and others to hold a health fair attended by more than 500, and we collaborated with many others to hold Cinco De Mayo, street fairs, and other events. El Comite trained interns to participate in a successful voter registration initiative and get out the vote calls (nearly 4,000). We continued to help about 80 permanent legal residents complete citizenship applications, held learning sessions at the YMCA, distributed healthy food to clients, and arranged for pro-bono attorneys to meet clients in our office.

In 2012 El Comite worked to get a wage theft bill introduced into the state legislature, supported the Colorado Asset bill, the school district over ride ballot measure and opposed bad legislation.

We are proud that our advocacy vision for 2013 has resulted already in El Comité playing a central role in the Community and Law Enforcement Act and legislation to reduce wage theft that takes money from our clients and reduces their ability to provide for their families. The death of SB-90 ended the dreadful impacts of that resulted in the separation of families We also supported the Colorado Asset bill that provides instate tuition to undocumented youth, and the drivers license act that will allow many of our clients to have a drivers license/valid ID.

In 2013, as we respond to breaking legislative events and continue to offer Latino Learning Session and citizenship classes, we will also highlight the vibrant and diverse culture of our community through Cinco de Mayo, Dia de los Muertos, and street fairs and will collaborate with the YWCA to make our community healthier through health fairs and recreational services.

We have been grateful on a daily basis of the help we received from our clients, who donated \$25,000 worth of professional labor and from the generosity from the Longmont City Council and board members, enabling us to transform our office to a brighter, welcoming and more efficient space. Our thanks also goes to the foundations and individuals who have supported our successful work to increase the knowledge and civic participation of Latinos who have chosen to make Boulder County their home.

*Gracias!*

Marta Valenzuela Moreno  
Executive Director

Tony Shockency  
President of the Board of Directors

## **Our Mission**

To act as a negotiating body for concerns brought forth by the Boulder County Latino community; to improve the social, educational, and economic status of Latinos; to promote inclusiveness; and to facilitate communication and understanding between Latino and non-Latino members of the county.

## **Our Vision**

El Comité will work with the systems and policy makers of Boulder County and the City of Longmont so that Latinos can feel safe and respected. El Comité will empower the Latino community to advocate for their social justice, education and economic status. El Comité will continue to work with the community, organizations and schools to recognize the needs to implement and provide access to appropriate services and meet the needs of the community.

## **Our Programs**

### **Case management and community resource referral**

We offer low or no cost walk-in case management five days per week to address emergency and everyday needs of Latino clients. El Comité serves almost 2000 clients and their families per year.

### **Civic and community engagement**

We provide programming and services to increase our clients' integration, awareness and involvement in their community

### **Health lifestyle and chronic disease prevention**

We offer extensive programming with our community partners to increase the health of our community and contribute to the strength and safety of our families.

### **Cultural outreach**

El Comité co-sponsors events to bring the county's diverse immigrant population together to share their customs, educate the broader community about their diverse and vibrant cultures.

# Special Focus 2012

## Working with youth



In 2012, we placed a special emphasis on our work with tomorrow's promise: Our community's youth. To that end, El Comité increased our support of Longmont Youth for Equality, LYFE. This group has advocated for the DREAM act and immigration reform. In doing so they have learned how to present ideas and develop leadership skills. El Comité is developing a working relationship with the "Folklórico México" dancers who livened up our February dinner. Their current efforts include raising money for students to attend college. This effort is benefited by a matching grant from the Bamboo Foundation. Thanks to a grant by the Community

Foundation of Boulder County and The Denver Foundation, our interns, Ana Tamu and Susana Gallegos and Jessica Rios conducted voter registration and other civic engagement activities.

## Welcoming our newest citizens

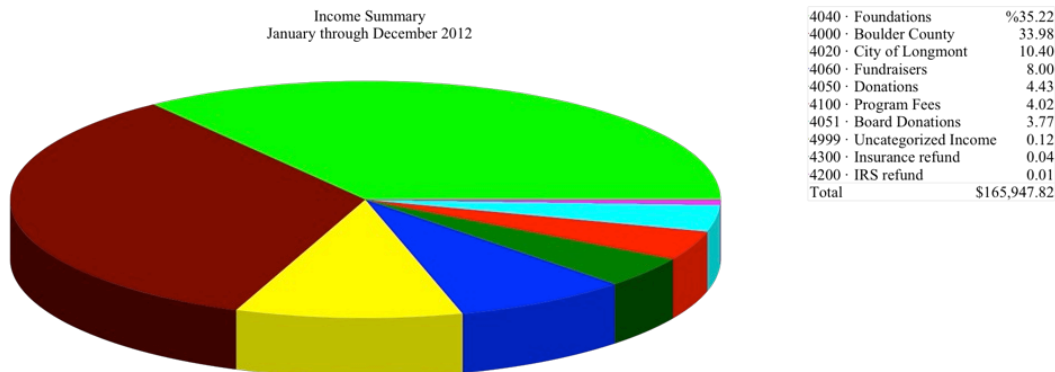
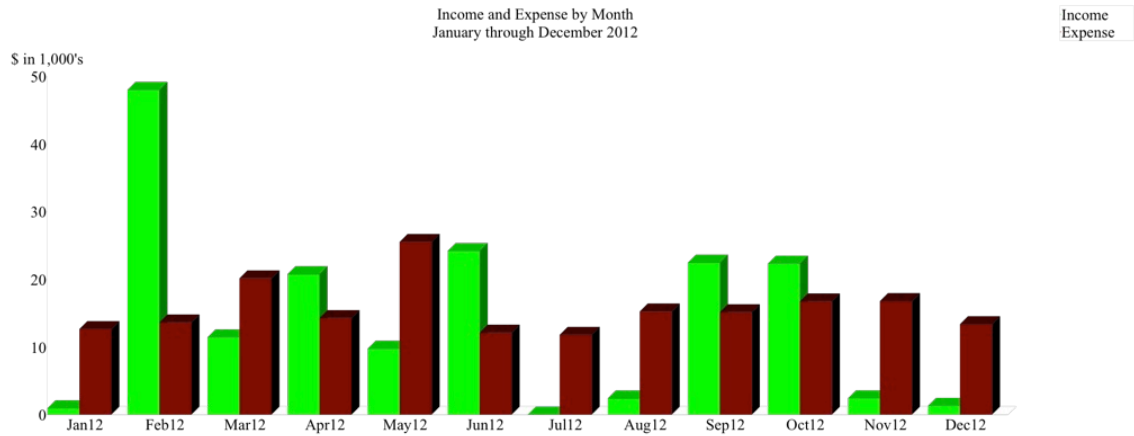
On March 2, 2011, 26 more legal permanent residents attended our naturalization workshop at the YMCA. El Comate holds four workshops a year to assist permanent legal residents to successfully complete their applications as required prior to their citizenship interview. Over three hundred participants are now United States Citizens.

## Supporting the health, welfare and civic rights of our community

In 2012 El Comité assisted over 2,000 individuals and families with access to basic needs, such as food, shelter, wages, and healthcare. We assisted with public benefits, legal assistance through pro-bono attorney's in office calls and attorney referrals, community bridge building, and advocacy.



# El Comité de Longmont Preview of Revenue and Expenses 2012



By Account

*Our audited financial statements are available upon request*

# **Thank you!**

*The generosity of our funders and donors  
helps us to meet our mission and support our community*

## **Private Foundations**

Virginian Hill Foundation  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
Wolcott Family Foundation  
The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County  
Longmont Community Foundation  
The Denver Foundation  
The Knight Foundation

## **Government Support**

Boulder County  
City of Longmont

## **Individual Donors**

Atun, Alicia  
Barstow, Libby  
Beery, Sandra J.  
Bustilos, Caroline  
Covidien, Matching Gift Program  
Franklin, Andrew  
Gardner, Deborah  
Hanson, Charles & Carolyn  
Heath, Carroll  
Herman, Phyllis & Michael  
Holdaway, Michael & Angie  
Itano, Christine (Boulder Unitarian)  
Malloy, S.  
McCoy, Tom & Mary  
Meija, Joe A.  
Melendez, Abe  
Mendez, Jose & Angelina  
Morsbach, Chip (Aaron's Leasing)  
Nafziger, Wendi (Twin Peaks Rotary)  
Olson, Tricia (Boulder Democrats)  
Paliaich, Robert (Margaretha Maloney)  
Pedrow, Gordon & Pamela  
Ramos, Joseph Law Firm  
Rannuci, Andrew, Dr.  
Slusser, Elena  
White, Jane  
Wiedemann, Frederic Ph.D  
Wilson, Don E. & Jerilyn  
Witt, Diane K.  
Wolfe, Sheridan

# El Comité de Longmont Board and Staff

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Block

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Community Activist

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Engineer

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Longmont Police Department

**Carmen Ramirez**  
Community Relations, City of Longmont

## Committee Member

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Data Analyst and Community Activist

## El Comité Staff

**Marta Valenzuela Moreno**  
Executive Director

**Claudia Gutierrez-Alvidrez**  
Operations Director

**Yolanda Silva**  
Administrative Assistant