



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

2013



El Comité in 2013

Over the past 30 years, El Comité de Longmont has provided essential services to support the civil rights and meet the health, human service and legal 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.

El Comité provided assistance in the face of these challenges guided by our four pillars: Legal Assistance, Addressing Basic Needs, Community Bridge Building, Advocacy and Empowerment. The year 2013 presented the organization with unforeseen challenges.

In the spring of 2012, the St. Vrain Valley School District announced that its Adult Education program, which had been a vital institution of the community for forty-four years, would be closing at the end of the 2012-13 school year. This was an enormous blow to the community—the program was the only source of free adult education services for those seeking to learn English as a second language, earn a GED, improve their family's stability and/or become U.S. citizens. In concert with our mission to empower the neediest members of our community through education and tools for self sufficiency, El Comité took on the sponsorship of the newly created St. Vrain Community Adult Education program, born from the commitment of community members determined to continue services. Through the school we have increased our impact this year to encompass on 450 English language learners speaking 11 languages.

Answering the challenge that our clients faced in the aftermath of September's flooding crisis and with support from the Longmont Community Foundation, Foothills United Way, Boulder Community Foundation and several large and small donations, El Comité was active in helping clients reclaim vital paperwork, repair homes and keep families intact. We advocated for the necessary agency responses; and navigated our clients through confusing, complicated and emotionally draining processes.

We are proud that our advocacy vision for 2013 resulted in El Comité playing a central role in the introduction of legislation to reduce wage theft, which takes money from our clients, deprives them of their rights and reduces their ability to support their families. While the bill was tabled, it has already been rewritten by our allies in the legislature, such as Rep. Jonathan Singer, with optimism that it will be stronger and better supported by business and legislators when it is reintroduced. We also joined thousands of supporters of the Colorado Asset Bill that allows instate tuition to undocumented youth, and the Drivers Licenses Bill that allows many of our clients to have a drivers license/valid ID.

As we look forward to the future and the further support of legal residents of Colorado, one of our goals for the coming year is to promote our best kept secret: Our quarterly Citizenship Processing Clinics, offering pre-screening, one-on-one assistance by trained volunteers and naturalization application processing handled by expert immigration lawyers. With little else

than the cost of the application itself, participants can be assured of a respectful, trust worthy and effective process.

We are again grateful for the private foundations, major donors, individual donations and by the continued support of the City of Longmont and Boulder County Commissioners who have enabled us to offer these services and continue to increase the access of Boulder County's immigrant population to the services and the rights they came to our community to enjoy.

Gracias!

Marta Valenzuela Moreno
Executive Director

Lurbin Moore
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

Bi-lingual comprehensive case management is the only of its kind in the Boulder Valley and beyond. We provide a multitude of invaluable bi-lingual functions to almost 2,000 clients on a walk-in basis. Our clients receive trustworthy and knowledgeable navigation support, advocacy and effective referrals to health, legal, social, basic needs, educational and emergency services.

Civic and Community Engagement to inform our clients about issues that affect their lives and navigate safely and lawfully in their community. Our services include:

- Lifeskills “Learning Sessions,” informing individuals and families about their rights, responsibilities and the resources available to them in their community.
- Voter education, registration and Know Your Rights initiatives.
- Citizenship pre-conferencing and processing clinics with one-on-one expert assistance for the USCIS N-400 naturalization application.

Healthy Lifestyle and Chronic Disease Prevention to offer affordable options for children, youth and adults. We partner with county health agencies to host health fair/blood screenings, including immunizations, dental and eye exams; end-of-life care and domestic violence workshops; and community-wide nutrition fairs.

St. Vrain Community Adult Education to provide the tools that improve our students’ employment opportunities, community involvement and participation in their children’s education. We offer a state-accredited ESL/Civics and Pre-GED program including computer literacy, lifeskills and citizenship classes using best practice instruction and Colorado Adult Education System for Accountability and Reporting (CAESAR) CASAS guidelines.

Cultural Outreach to bring the county’s diverse immigrant population together to share their customs and celebrate with the broader community. Events include annual Dia de Los Muertos, Cinco de Mayo celebration and ArtLink for many hundreds of community members.

Special Focus 2013

Two major events impacted El Comité's focus during the past year. The first was the closure of St. Vrain Valley School District's Adult Education program. The second, much like other community-based human services along the Front Range, was the devastation of September 2013's flood.

St. Vrain Community Adult Education

El Comité stepped up to the plate when no other organization had, playing a major role in the program's survival. The school is staffed by an excellent team of teachers and follows rigorous Colorado Department of Education standards and assessments.

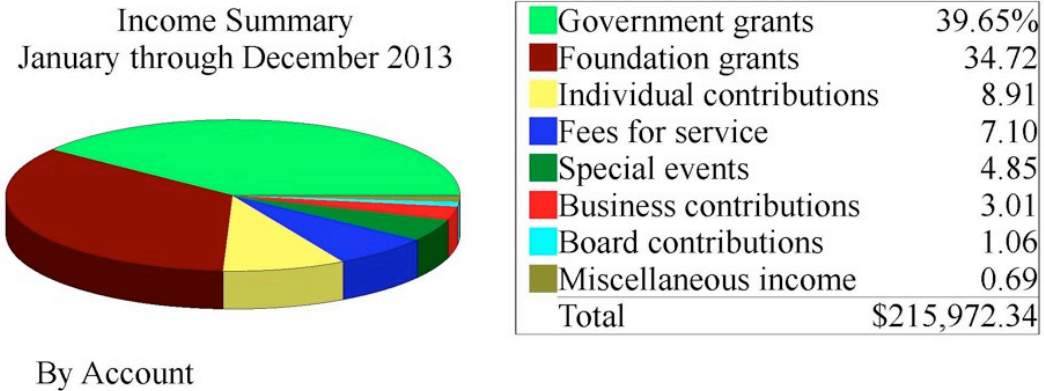
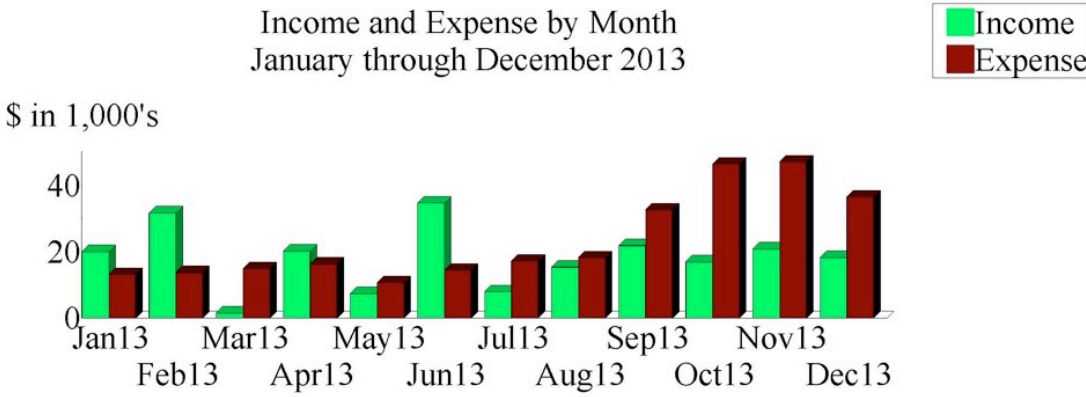
Its pre-GED curriculum prepares students for advancement through improved literacy and computer skills, lifeskills modules and citizenship coursework, enabling them to pass the US CIS naturalization written and oral examination and to find employment opportunities that offer a living wage and chance for advancement.



Flood Recovery

Natural disasters always hit the most vulnerable of its victims the hardest. They have lost homes, belongings, transportation, immigrant status paperwork and jobs. Many cannot return to work because their place of business has shut down. They lack understanding of how to navigate institutions, language skills and are confused and fearful to ask for help not knowing what their rights are and to what they are entitled. El Comité has been serving as an advocate to coalesce the necessary agencies and services specific to the needs of its clients at its office and emergency centers. Through El Comité's persistence and strategic advocacy, the Social Security Administration established a presence at the Longmont Emergency Center at Twin Peaks Mall, an essential first step for individuals to prove their citizenship, residence or children's citizenship. We worked directly with All Hands Volunteers, Life Bridge Church/Puente de Vida and World Vision, who deployed volunteers and materials, and advised community members, businesses and outside help who came to our doors wanting to assist victims.

El Comité de Longmont Preview of Revenue and Expenses 2013



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*

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

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