GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and supporters,

It is our great pleasure to see the young people we work with become engaged at school and in the community. They are at the heart of our work. We love that their parents have become involved, too, and that their families become stabilized with the help they need.

- Our after-school and summer program participants can be found taking part in structured groups and visiting employers to learn more about career and education options. Their parents take advantage of the opportunity to learn basic computer skills so that they can check their child’s school progress online, in real time, in Spanish.

- Our soccer players take great pride in their teams and their accomplishments while developing conflict resolution and leadership skills and having fun. Young people who have dropped out of school and don’t have work have found a listening ear at our Youth Opportunity Centers, as well as job readiness training, positive activities, and support in finding work and/or completing their education. Healing circles held in both Spanish and English offer help to youth who have experienced trauma.

- Our youth are not the only ones who have been busy: Identity’s leadership team and Board developed a new Strategic Plan for the organization. Through the planning process we decided to deepen our commitment to some existing areas of our programming—school-based programs and workforce development—and to add new emphases on education and advocacy. We also have made progress on strengthening our organization so that we can provide the support our programs need to be able to grow and thrive and continue to serve our young clients well.

Thank you to all of our funders for trusting us as the vehicle for providing services to the young people whose futures we all care about. Whether governmental agency or church group, corporation or foundation, individual or private group, we need you all, and are grateful to you for enabling us to do our work. We would not have been able to do it without you.

I welcome John Rumble as the new Board Chair, and I thank Elena Saenz for her service in that position. I look forward to working together as we steer the organization through the next phase of our development.

We hope you will enjoy reading about our clients, our programs and our accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Diego Uriburu
Executive Director
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Greetings to the Identity Community!

2014 has been an amazing year for Identity, as this Annual Report portrays. In many ways, this year has been a turning point—with recognition of past accomplishments, and with the launching of new programs as guided by our new Strategic Plan. Let me point out some of the highlights:

New Programs, New Successes

• We opened two new Wellness Centers at Gaithersburg and Watkins Mills High Schools, funded by new Montgomery County grants for which we competed.

• We published a major, comprehensive needs assessment—Connecting Youth to Opportunity—that identified the social, emotional, and environmental factors that challenge Latino youths from succeeding in school. Our public release of the report drew much favorable attention. More importantly, it provides facts on which we, the school system, county government, and others can develop targeted programs with meaningful metrics.

• Our Middle School Program started at Neelsville and Montgomery Village Middle Schools, funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, which provides $1.1 million in funding from the State of Maryland over three years. This model program is our first big education effort, and we are excited about it.

• Our Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2017 was completed and released, providing our detailed commitment to education and advocacy, the latter of which has been instituted with its own full-time staff position.

Awards and Recognition

• Diego Uriburu, Identity’s Executive Director, was named by the White House as one of ten “Cesar Chavez Champions of Change” for Identity’s work with the Latino community in Montgomery County. It is a reflection of the outstanding effort by the entire Identity staff and community partners over the past 15 years.

• Identity’s First Annual Courage Award was given to Program Assistant Tatiana Murillo for her success in overcoming difficult circumstances to succeed in college. Her courage and persistence is an inspiration to all of us.

On a last note, I want to thank several Board members—Henry Montes, Elena Saenz, Jorge Urrutia, and Laura Newton—who have completed their terms. Their contributions have been invaluable. We would also like to welcome new members Shirley Brandman, Sally Rudney, Marta Brito Pérez, Yonis Benitez, and Aggie Alvez to the Board. We look forward to their active participation in continuing to serve the Latino youth of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

John Rumble
Board Chair
OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
John Rumble, Chair
Charles Hess, Vice Chair
Gabriel Romero, Secretary
Maribel Torres-Pinero, Treasurer
Stewart Edelstein
Michael Knapp
Teresa Wright
Shirley Brandman
Sally Rudney
Marta Brito Pérez
Yonis Benitez
Aggie Alvez

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
Diego Uriburu, Executive Director
Candace Kattar, Director of Programs
Carolyn Camacho, Director of High School Programs
Tomas Alejo, Director of Youth Opportunity Centers
Leny Bautista, Director of Operations
Anne VanDercook, Controller
Helena Muñoz-Baras, Director of Development and Special Projects

SENIOR ADVISORS
John Savage
Gabrielle Vetter-Taffe
Identity’s mission is to provide opportunities for Latino youth to believe in themselves and realize their full potential. We aim to facilitate the successful transition of Latino youth into adulthood by providing skills, guidance, positive role models, and a strong sense of community. We accomplish this by reaching out to the youth and their families, one at a time, and working with our partners to overcome obstacles to their success.

**OUR GOALS**

- To reverse the negative trends affecting Latino young people, such as teenage pregnancy, school truancy, low academic achievement, and gang involvement.
- To empower Latino youth to become leaders in their communities by building upon their protective factors and reducing risk factors.
- To improve the health and well-being of Latino youth and families through direct services and linkages to other social service providers.

**OUR VALUES**

- We believe that:
  - Young people come first
  - Every child has great potential
  - Youth deserve more than one chance
  - Society is enriched by cultural diversity
  - To serve others is a privilege that requires excellence

**WHAT WE DO**

Identity works to improve the lives of Latino youth and families in Montgomery County through a variety of programs tailored to their unique situations. Latinos are the most vulnerable in the county and Latino youth face grave barriers to success in their studies, work and life. Identity provides the means to overcome these barriers. We create opportunities to ensure that youth are well educated and equipped with the necessary skills to build effective connections within their communities and become productive and contributing members of society.
Identity served more than 4,000 clients in FY14.

All programs are based on the Positive Youth Development model, and work to increase protective factors, such as self-esteem, conflict resolution skills, and self-efficacy levels—i.e., the factors that reduce young people’s potential for engaging in negative behaviors. These programs also help reduce risk factors such as substance abuse, involvement in delinquent activities, and feeling disconnected from school—factors that can lead to negative outcomes. Identity’s programs are supported by mental health and case management services.

CLIENTS SERVED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM: 675
- WELLNESS CENTERS: 1,111
- SOCCER PROGRAM: 233
- YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTERS: 391
- RE-ENTRY PROGRAM: 416
- HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING: 1,048
- CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES: 1,336
- MENTAL HEALTH: 372
SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

WELLNESS CENTERS
At Gaithersburg, Northwood, and Watkins Mill High Schools the Wellness Centers provide a safe and supportive space within the school, partnering with Health Clinics and school personnel. Based on an integrated, full-service delivery model, the Wellness Centers offer mental health services, curricula-based support groups, case management, as well as enrichment and service learning activities. Identity’s approach is based on a Positive Youth Development model which seeks to build upon the youth’s inherent strengths and reduce their risks for poor outcomes. Our programs promote social and emotional health through a series of planned activities designed to strengthen self-esteem, build skills for collaboration and teamwork, and enhance positive connections with school and family. Enrichment activities take students on retreats, outdoor adventures and field trips. Our programs also offer students internships, college and career exploration, and opportunities for leadership and community service.

More than 1100 students and their families were served at the Wellness Centers in FY14. Among those young people who initially reported such problems:

- 71% reported improvement in positive perception of school
- 72% reported improvement in self-esteem
- 67% reported improvement in expectations for a positive future
- 80% reported improvement in academic motivation
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Identity’s bilingual, bicultural after-school and summer programs—in seven middle and high schools—support the social, emotional, and recreational needs of Latino youth. Through a series of dynamic and interactive activities, young people learn to set personal goals, enhance their connection with their peers, take responsibility for their actions and wellbeing and develop a strong sense of community. Soccer and field trips enrich the programs. Case management services help families access basics like housing, clothing and food. We work with the entire family to address the socio-emotional factors that impede their children from achieving school success. Parents are active in our programs and become engaged in their child’s education, extra-curricular activities and overall wellbeing.

675 students participated in Identity’s bilingual school-based programs in FY14. Among those who reported such problems initially:

- 68% of youth reported improvement in academic motivation
- 51% of youth reported improvement in anger management
- 72% of youth reported improvements in symptoms of depression

HIGH SCHOOL SITES
Gaithersburg
Watkins Mill
Albert Einstein
Wheaton
Magruder
John F. Kennedy
Rockville
Montgomery Blair

MIDDLE SCHOOL SITES
Forest Oak
Neelsville
Montgomery Village
Tilden
Identity’s county-wide soccer program (for youth ages 12 to 24) is a result of the County Executive’s support for youth development services in Montgomery County. This is Identity’s first large-scale recreation program. Youth learn leadership development, goal setting and teamwork, while building their soccer skills. The program seeks to expose youth to recreational opportunities available within the county and support their participation in ongoing competitive and noncompetitive sports.

233 young people participated in the Soccer Program in FY14. Seventy-five of the youth were enrolled in County and/or Local Leagues as a result of their participation in the program.

Among those who reported such problems initially:

- 61% reported improvement in self-esteem
- 57% reported expectations for a more positive future
- 43% reported improvement in anger management and conflict resolution skills
- 73% reported lower levels of delinquent activities and gang-related risks
- 71% reported lower levels of substance abuse behavior
PROPOSES FOR DIENGAGED YOUTH

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTERS
Our Youth Opportunity Centers (YOCs) reach out to young people facing especially challenging situations. Many have dropped out of school and don’t have a job. Lack of English language skills may impede job seeking success. Some have been involved with gangs. Some struggle with substance abuse or mental health issues. Many have experienced trauma. The YOC represents a positive and stabilizing influence in their lives and a source of referrals to needed services. We offer bilingual and bicultural education support (GED classes), workforce readiness training, and support groups. Our healing circles offer help and community to those who were traumatized. Young people have an opportunity to forge positive and trusting relationships with caring adults. Our goal is to give these young people the skills to advance their education; make healthy, positive choices; join the workforce; and become contributing members of their communities.

391 young people participated in the Youth Opportunity Centers in FY14.

Among those reporting these challenges initially:

- 55% of youth reported a reduction in gang-related risks
- 62% of youth reported a reduction in delinquent activities
- 50% of youth reported a decrease in substance abuse behaviors
- 84% of the youth reported improvements in symptoms of depression

RE-ENTRY AND REHABILITATION SUPPORT PROGRAM
This program is conducted at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility and supports young inmates with a broad range of services, including workshops on behavior modification, conflict resolution, anger management, and problem solving. These activities engage inmates in interactive skill-building exercises and provide them with the tools and resources necessary to re-enter society upon release. The programs also provide case management services to inmates’ family members who are residing in the County.

Of the 416 inmates who participated in the Re-Entry and Rehabilitation Support Program:

- 349 inmates received pre-placement orientation services.
- 111 inmates participated in the weekly book club and conflict resolution sessions
- 62 inmates with limited or no English language skills received interpretation services.
MENTAL HEALTH, CASE MANAGEMENT AND HIV SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
All Identity programs offer bilingual mental health services, through its program sites throughout the county, at schools, Wellness Centers, and the YOCs. In addition, Identity has a full-time mental health therapist working from the Gaithersburg offices, who is available to serve uninsured or underinsured City of Gaithersburg clients as well as clients from Identity programs. Individual, group, couples, and family counseling are offered in Spanish and English. The program also provides internship opportunities for bilingual Bachelors’- and Masters-level students interested in serving the Latino community.

372 clients were served in our Mental Health Counseling Program in FY14.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Our bilingual Case Managers meet one-on-one with clients from all programs to assess family needs and develop action plans. Case management services are available to participants in all of Identity’s programs and to their families. We serve walk-ins, as well. We connect in-need youth and their parents to sources of food and clothing, emergency housing, health/mental health services, and legal assistance. When needed, the Case Manager accompanies clients to act as translator, assist with applications, and ensure that services are obtained promptly.

Families who have unaccompanied immigrant children have been among our recent walk-ins and are examples of multi-service cases. Our Case Manager has assisted with the documentation needed to obtain release of children to families’ custody and to enroll children in schools and Care for Kids. Clients are referred to orientation for children’s immigration sponsors and to legal services, as well as agencies that provide safety net services.

1,336 clients received case management services—aiding not only the clients, but their families, as well.

HIV PREVENTION
Identity offers individual and group HIV/AIDS testing and prevention programs that target high-risk adults and youth. The program provides free HIV counseling and testing services and referrals.

1,048 clients were provided HIV Prevention services this past year.
**SEPTMBER 2013 - TWO NEW WELLNESS CENTERS OPEN.**

After submitting winning proposals, Identity opened new Wellness Centers in Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill High Schools. These Centers are in line with Identity’s strategic plan to focus on programs that improve the academic achievement of Latino youth. They provide a safe and nurturing space within the school facility focused on supporting the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of the students.

**DECEMBER 2013 - THE FIRST COURAGE AWARD PRESENTED.**

Identity’s First Annual Courage Award was given to Tatiana Murillo for her success in overcoming difficult circumstances to succeed in college. Her courage and persistence is an inspiration to all of us.

**JANUARY - APRIL 2014 - DEVELOPING NEW STRATEGIC PLAN.**

Identity’s new Strategic Plan builds on our current expertise and draws a map to guide our programmatic direction and growth in the next three years. Developed with the participation of the entire Identity community in the months leading up to April 2014, the plan calls for Identity to build on its commitment to some areas of our program – school-based programs, workforce development - and to add a new focus on advocacy by and for the Latino community.

**APRIL 2014 - DIEGO URBURU RECEIVES THE WHITE HOUSE’S CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD.**

Diego Uriburu, Identity’s Executive Director, was selected by the White House as one of ten “Cesar Chavez Champions of Change” for his work with the Latino community in Montgomery County, MD. Although the award was presented to Diego, it is a reflection of the collective effort of the entire Identity staff and community partners over the past 15 years.
MAY - JUNE 2014 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMPLETED.

In April, Identity released its report Connecting Youth to Opportunity: How Latino Youth Perspectives Can Inform a Blueprint for Improving Opportunity in Montgomery County, Maryland. It presented the findings of Identity’s needs assessment on the social, emotional, and environmental factors that inhibit Latino youth from succeeding academically and result in their becoming disconnected from school and eventually to drop out. In addition to identifying risk factors, we found that a lack of job training leaves many Latino youth woefully unprepared for the job market whether they drop out of school or complete high school.

MAY 2014 - DEVELOPED A NEW MODEL FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Improving achievement of Latino youth in Middle School is a key element in our strategy for breaking the cycle of low academic achievement and social exclusion. A new competitive grant announced at the end of the fiscal year will allow us to provide an enriched, math oriented after-school program at Neelsville and Montgomery Village Middle Schools. Identity will receive over $900,000 over three years from Maryland’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to conduct this program for Latino middle school students.

THROUGHOUT FY 2014 - CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT.

Identity has strengthened our organizational infrastructure in accordance with our strategic plan to support our new larger size and future growth. We have added new program directors for high school programs and workforce development so that the organization has additional management capability. We also have increased our Operations with additions to finance, development, and human resources staff.
The following listings represent the generosity and commitment of a broad spectrum of donors—government agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals—who provided significant assistance to Identity. We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every donor on behalf of the youth and families whose lives you have touched with your support. Listings include gifts and grants made during the fiscal year 2014 (July 2013 – June 2014). We have made every attempt to provide an accurate listing of all donors. If there is an error in our listing, please accept our sincere apologies, and contact us at 301 963-5900 Ext. 16 in order to correct our records.

GOVERNMENT - FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES
City of Gaithersburg
Montgomery County Council
Montgomery County Department of Corrections
Montgomery County Department of Health
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
US Department of Health and Human Services
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• Office of Adolescent Health

FOUNDATIONS, FUNDS, AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS
America’s Charities
Aronson Foundation
Asbury Methodist Village, Inc.
Becker and Greaney Family Fund
Brickman Charitable Foundation
Calvert Social Investment Foundation
Clark-Winchcole Foundation
Comcast Foundation

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Gleicher Burness Fund
The Giving Fund
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
International Monetary Fund
Kerri Ann Kattar Memorial Fund
Phyllis Kattar Memorial Fund
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Mead Family Foundation
Mehlman Federal Credit Union
Montgomery Alliance for Community Giving
The Richard E. & Nancy P. Marriott Foundation
Rose and Harold Kramer Fund
Razoo Foundation
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Trinity Parish of Bethesda, MD
Sun Trust United Way Campaign
The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
The Robert Bensen Meyer, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
The School Without Walls of Washington, DC
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
United Way of the National Capital Area
World Bank Community Connections Fund

CORPORATIONS
A & A Painting
Borislow Insurance
Butcher Boy Market
Coco, Early & Associates
Community Bridge, Inc. (DC) / Community Bridges (Silver Spring, MD)
Dolce [international] Hotels & Resorts
Hess Construction + Engineering Services
Group Benefit Services, Inc.
Maggio + Kattar
MSI Universal
Oficina de Asistencia Legal, Inc.
Puebla Construction
R & R Data Services
Shapiro & Duncan Mechanical Contractors
The Bolger Center
Viridian Energy
Z.C. Russo Investment Trust

INDIVIDUALS
Judy Ackerman
Bruce Adams
Joseph Adler
Tomas Alejo
Charles & Quillie Alexander
Jim Alexander
Daniel Amaya
Michaela & Andres Aparicio
Stefanny Aramayo
Teresa Arene
Zaida Arguedas
William Arnold
Shaker K. & Gisele Asmar
Laurie Augustino
Annette A. Autiello
Maitri Babson
Christian Mixter & Linha M. Barnes
Victor Basile
Lery Bautista
Marcy Berger
Marisela Bernard
David & Elizabeth Beshara
Mabel Beshara
Fernanda Bianchi
Christa Bistany
Juliet Bistany
Maria del Mar Borrero
Carole & Nick Brand
Shirley Brandman & Howard Shapiro
The Brendston Family
Fran Brenneman
Peter Bross
Maria Ines Cabrera Martinez
Carolyn Camacho
Anthony Cano
Vanessa Carlo
Adele Saba & Sharon Carter
REVENUES AND EXPENSES

EXPENSES

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$4,917,873.00
REVENUE BY FUNDER

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</tr>
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</table>

$5,216,738.00
MAIN OFFICE
414 East Diamond Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 963-5900

Up-County Youth Opportunity Center
415 East Diamond Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 591-1790

Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center
7676 New Hampshire Avenue
Suite 411
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 422-1270

THE WELLNESS CENTERS:

Northwood High School
919 University Boulevard
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 649-8550

Gaithersburg High School
101 Education Boulevard
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 284-4690

Watkins Mill High School
10301 Apple Ridge Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
(240) 406-1545

www.identity-youth.org

INVEST IN YOUTH AND INSURE THE FUTURE