UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK INITIATIVE

LITTLE VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Since 2010, Latinos Progresando has convened the Marshall Square Resource Network to address the needs of Little Village residents living in a historically disinvested area of the community. In 2005, Enlace began its Quality of Life Plan to provide a strategic framework for addressing key community issues, guiding collaborative efforts to overall well-being in the Little Village neighborhood. When the 2020 pandemic struck the city, these two lead organizations collaborated to share resources equally across the neighborhood. In response to this approach, Latinos Progresando and Enlace continue to collaborate and share resources to ensure the immense needs of Little Village residents are anticipated, met, and supported. Through the Little Village Neighborhood Network, Latinos Progresando and Enlace Chicago work with United Way to coordinate services for their schools and families to provide high-quality resources and information that creates a healthier, safer Little Village.

Germans and Czechs first settled in Little Village following the 1871 Chicago Fire. The industrial development of the 20th century continued the expansion of the neighborhood, attracting more residents. In the 1950s and 1960s, many of the families moved to the Eastern European suburbs of Cicero and Berwyn where housing and employment opportunities for whites were expanding. At the same time, the expansion of the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) campus pushed Mexican families out of Pilsen and into Little Village. Today, the culturally rich and predominantly Mexican, Latiné community is home to the 26th Street shopping district, one of the busiest and highest-grossing districts in Chicago. Little Village residents are resilient and community-oriented, deserving of culturally relevant and substantive resources, programs, and services.

LEAD AGENCY

Latinos Progresando
Enlace Chicago

COMMUNITY VISION

Provide high-quality information and services to strengthen community conditions that improve education, access to health care, immigration support, and community safety, resulting in a healthier, safer, more empowered Little Village

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN LITTLE VILLAGE



NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK IN ACTION

The Marshall Square Resource Network (MSRN), led by **Latinos Progresando**, convenes a coalition of 60+ nonprofits providing resources and support within the Little Village/Marshall Square area. They organize their efforts to **increase resources and activate programs** around health, education, community response, peace building and safety, environmental infrastructure, immigration services, the arts, and preservation of the Cermak Corridor, the economic engine of Marshall Square.

Enlace Chicago collaborates with **50+ organizations** to **empower residents, strengthen community connections, and provide comprehensive support** in health, education, immigration, and community safety. Leading initiatives include the Little Village Education Collaborative, PAES (Promoviendo, Abogando y Educando por la Salud), Violence Prevention Collaborative (VPC), and the Little Village Youth Safety Network.

Together, these networks exemplify Enlace's and Latinos Progresando's commitment to fostering **interconnected systems** that enhance **safety, health, and overall well-being** in Little Village and beyond.

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Little Village stronger. Direct your United Way gift to **"Neighborhood Networks"** to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks

COALITION HIGHLIGHTS

Enlace Chicago

Mobilized a powerful community coalition of residents, nonprofits, faith leaders, labor organizations, businesses, and elected officials to respond to Operation Midwest Blitz

Raised more than $500,000 through the Roots of Resilience Campaign to provide legal services, mental health support, emergency assistance, and business relief

Organized and participated in nearly a dozen press conferences, elevating community concerns and advancing advocacy for humane immigration policies

Represented community voices through participation in the Illinois Accountability Commission, helping shape statewide discussions on justice and accountability

Strengthened community support systems by expanding mental health services and launching a partnership with Sarah's Inn to serve survivors of domestic violence

Achieved Department of Justice Accredited Agency status, significantly expanding access to trusted immigration legal representation for residents

Advanced neighborhood-wide collaboration through La Villita Neighborhood Network, deepening partnerships across health, education, safety, economic development, and civic engagement

Latinos Progresando

Hosted a Community Summit for residents to receive essential resources

Secured more than $2 million in direct investment for Marshall Square small businesses

Created community-led arts initiatives including a mural project and an arts event series

Responded to community crises by providing resources, cash assistance, and community care

Improved community investment in green spaces by conducting a bilingual Tree Keepers course, holding stewardship workshops at community gardens, and planting an additional 100 neighborhood trees

Equipped parents and caretakers through a signature mental health and leadership training course in partnership with four neighborhood schools

Hosted out-of-school-time programs, including a summer camp to support local families

Provided information sessions to direct service professionals on issues impacting the community, including DV 101, Immigration 101, and how to preserve mental health during times of crisis

Expanded service offerings at LP's community center, adding domestic violence response and accompaniment services to existing services including a legal aid clinic, mental health services, and nature-based youth programming



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