
BUILDING USE IMPACT REPORT

2017 to 2020

Community Center located at 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue

Casa Chirilagua



Through the use of the community center located at 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue, Casa Chirilagua provides high-quality programming to youth and families in the Arlandria neighborhood and hosts a variety of activities that have benefitted the community of Arlandria. The community center allows for Casa Chirilagua to strengthen current partnerships and form new partnerships which have increased the access of vital resources to community members of Arlandria. Most notably, the community center allowed for Casa Chirilagua to provide vital emergency relief to over 600 families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following is a summary of the impact Casa Chirilagua has had in the city through the leasing of the community center located at 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Out-of-school Time and Summer Programming

Casa Chirilagua increased out-of-school-time (OST) programming from 30 to 120 elementary, middle school and high school students during the school year and the summer months between 2017 and 2020. Students receive targeted academic, social, and emotional support. Students enrolled in Kids Club are able to maintain or increase their reading levels. Teens Club students learn vital coping skills regarding peer pressure and depression. The first class of Casa to College students were the first in their families to graduate high school and be accepted to a four-year accredited university.

Casa's work is paying dividends directly back into the community. In 2020, Casa Chirilagua hired Diana Segovia, a former Kids Club student, as Elementary Programs Director. Casa Chirilagua OST programs lay the foundation for the emergence of leaders, ensuring the youth of Chirilagua learn skills to enter the workforce and be productive residents of the City of Alexandria.

- From 2017 to 2020, Casa Chirilagua provided **2,858 hours** of high-quality OST support to an estimated 120 students through Kids Club, Teens Club, and Casa to College.
- Estimated hourly value of Casa Chirilagua's OST programming is \$893.49, a total value of **\$2,553,594** (using the [Wallace Cost Calculator](#)).

Wallace Cost Calculator Costs:

Cost Ranges i	Low	Median i	High
WEEKLY Costs			
Hours per Week (projected)			15 ▲▼
Costs Per Slot	\$136.80	\$223.37	\$269.14
Total Program Cost	\$8,207.90	\$13,402.29	\$16,148.39
Cost per SLOT vs Cost per CHILD SERVED i			
ANNUAL Costs			
Weeks per Year (projected)			42 ▲▼
Costs Per Slot	\$5,745.53	\$9,381.60	\$11,303.87
Total Program Cost	\$344,731.73	\$562,896.24	\$678,232.44
▼ HOURLY Costs			
Cost Per Slot	\$9.12	\$14.89	\$17.94
Total Program Cost	\$547.19	\$893.49	\$1,076.56
► Daily Costs			
▼ MONTHLY Costs (assuming 4.33 weeks/month)			
Cost Per Slot	\$592.34	\$967.20	\$1,165.38
Total Program Cost	\$35,540.20	\$58,031.92	\$69,922.53

Mentoring

Participating students in Casa Chirilagua's OST program qualify to receive a mentor. Mentors are volunteers who are matched one-on-one with a student. The community center provides a safe and engaging place for mentors to meet with their mentees on a weekly basis. According to the National Mentoring Partnership MENTOR, youth who are mentored experience the following:

- 57% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to start drinking alcohol
- Fewer depressive symptoms
- Greater acceptance by their peers
- More positive beliefs about their ability to succeed in school
- Better grades in school

Since 2017, 89 mentors provided an estimated 5000+ hours of mentoring through Casa's Mentoring Program.

Pre-School Support

In 2018 Casa Chirilagua and the Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allowed CAC's weekly preschool play group offered to parents and children in the Chirilagua community at Casa's facility.

- From October of 2018 until February of 2020, 15 families attended this pre-school resource on a weekly basis.

NEW ADULT PROGRAMMING

Yo Hablo Inglés (ELL) and Spanish Literacy Classes

In the fall of 2017, Casa Chirilagua used the community center to add a full-fledged adult English language learner (ELL) program by the name of Yo Hablo Inglés. Simultaneously, Casa Chirilagua added a Spanish Literacy program after several adult community members expressed a need to learn how to read and write in Spanish. Due to limited access to education in their countries of origin there is a high Spanish illiteracy rate amongst the adults in Arlandria. Yo Hablo Inglés students pay a tuition of \$75 per semester. Spanish Literacy is provided at no cost to community members.

- From 2017 to 2020, Casa Chirilagua provided **240 hours** of ELL and Spanish literacy programming to **231 adults**.

“Padres Activos” English Language Learners (ELL) Classes

In the fall of 2018, Casa Chirilagua entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mount Vernon Community School (MVCS) PTA parent group “Padres Activos” to host their Thursday morning adult ELL classes, providing additional ELL classes to Arlandria residents. Ten students attended consistently week after week.

- From 2018 to February 2020, the “Padres Activos” classes provided **80 hours** of free ELL instruction to a combined total of **30 adults**.

Summer Adult Programming

In August of 2017, Casa Chirilagua began offering summer adult programming which included computer literacy and nutrition classes. The nutrition classes were made possible by a partnership with the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension.

- From 2017 to 2020, Casa Chirilagua provided **60 hours** of computer and nutrition classes to **40 adults**.
- In the summer of 2020, Casa Chirilagua provided virtual nutritional classes to 10 adults in a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parenting Workshops

In 2018, Casa Chirilagua offered four hour-long parenting workshops once a week in the evenings from May to June. An average of 30 parents participated.

FAMILY-CENTERED ACTIVITIES

Family Dinners

Casa Chirilagua’s programming is holistic in nature, inviting the entire family to be a part of the transformative work in the community. The community center allows for families to access Casa Chirilagua’s programming as well as resources provided through Casa Chirilagua partnerships.

Since March of 2017 to February of 2020, during the school calendar, Casa hosted monthly parent meetings followed by a family dinner sponsored and served by community partners. Some family dinner sponsors include:

- Alexandria Sherriff Department
- Alexandria Police Department

Celebrating Milestones

Casa Chirilagua has hosted vital celebration activities for families, providing spaces where families and the community can gather and celebrate safely. Celebration activities include:

- Annual 5th grade promotion in June from 2017 to 2020. (The 2020 graduation was held in the outdoor plaza connected to the community center due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)
- Annual adult ELL (Yo Hablo Inglés) graduations in May and November from 2017 to 2019
- High school graduation celebrations in 2018 and 2019

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Local Leaders

The Local Leader program is an employment opportunity program of recent high school graduates and young adults entering a higher education institution or trade school. Local Leaders develop professional skills as they lead Kids Club and Teen Club programs. The goal is for future Local Leaders to come from within Casa Chirilagua's OST programs. In 2018, Casa Chirilagua hired Jason and Angy, alumni of Casa Chirilagua's OST programs, as Local Leaders.

- Since 2017, Casa Chirilagua has provided part-time employment to eight community members.

Between 2020 and 2025, the goal is to provide employment to 20 young adults in the community through the Local Leader program.

PARTNERSHIPS

Alexandria Law Enforcement

Through the use of the community center Casa Chirilagua hosted meetings and activities between city law enforcement and community members.

- **Alexandria Police and Sheriff Department Forum:** In 2017 Casa hosted a forum between 50 community members and the Alexandria law enforcement leadership. The goal of this forum was to increase trust between law enforcement and the local community. The three-hour event consisted of law enforcement sharing their role in the community, reassuring community members of their dedication to serve and protect as well as a Q&A time where community members were able to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding safety in the community.
- **Coffee with a Cop:** In 2018 Casa Chirilagua hosted a casual community engagement activity organized by the Alexandria Police Department where 20 community members visited with officers and had coffee together.
- **National Night Out:** Between 2017 and 2019 Casa Chirilagua supported the logistics of the city's National Night Out summer activities between law enforcement and local organizations.
- **Conversation with Police Chief Michael Brown:** In October of 2020 Casa Chirilagua hosted a conversation with Alexandria's Police Chief as well as other police officers. Chief Brown and his team conversed with nine community members. They answered questions and addressed concerns regarding the safety of the community. This meeting allowed for the police department and the community to continue building trust after the national news regarding the killing of George Floyd and rhetoric around defunding the police.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)

- Mount Vernon Community School (MVCS): In 2017 Casa Chirilagua and MVCS entered into an MOU in support of MVCS's quarterly Parent and Teacher Association (PTA). From 2017 to February 2020 Casa Chirilagua hosted the quarterly MVCS PTA meetings, increasing for the first time accessibility for Arlandria families who do not have regular access to transportation.
- Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE): In 2018 FACE held an event where Casa Chirilagua family members and community members connected on the topic of the High School Project—a project organized by the ACPS. Additionally, Casa Chirilagua hosted FACE's parent meeting to further understand ACPS family engagement at the middle school and high school levels.

City of Alexandria

- **Alexandria Department of Planning & Zoning:** Early in 2020 Casa Chirilagua hosted two focus groups in order to gather feedback from community members regarding the new projects planned for Arlandria.
- **Alexandria Department of Health:** In March of 2020 Casa Chirilagua hosted a breast-feeding class conducted by the city's departments of health, ensuring access to maternity resources to mothers in the community.

CASA Inc:

- In 2019 from January to April Casa Chirilagua hosted monthly workshops on "know your rights" and immigration information conducted by CASA de Virginia INC.

Nueva Vida

- In January of 2019 Casa Chirilagua entered an MOU with Nueva Vida to host a one-time event increasing accessibility to healthcare through mammogram screenings, Nova Salud consultations, blood pressure screenings and blood glucose testing. Over 50 community members received healthcare through this partnership.

Arlandria Eggstravaganza

- In 2018 and 2019 National Community Church (NCC) of Potomac Yard and Casa Chirilagua partnered to host volunteers for the Eggstravaganza event. This event was held in the outside plaza and park and had over 5,000 community attendees. This event provided fun and safe family and kid-friendly activities, free food and an opportunity for the diverse community of Arlandria and Arlington to gather and celebrate.

Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA)

- In 2019 Casa Chirilagua hosted a bicycle accessibility information workshop for community members that WABA conducted and fifteen community members attended.

The Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) & ACT for Alexandria

- In 2018 Casa Chirilagua hosted two ACT for Alexandria and ACHSO meetings focused on sharing ideas, experiences and opportunities on how to assist Alexandrians who are most affected by federal immigration policies.
- In 2019 ACHSO used the community center to provide a workshop about building a racial equity culture in organizations.

Urban Strategies

- In 2018 Casa Chirilagua hosted the release of the first-ever Latina Maternal/Child review conducted by Urban Strategies.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)

- From 2017 to 2019 Casa Chirilagua hosted immigration workshops for students that IVCF conducted during the spring program Urban Plunge. These workshops educated college students on the realities of immigrant residents and the barriers that exist for undocumented individuals in the United States who are fleeing violent and fatal environment in their countries of origin.

Farmer's Market

- In 2017 The Four Mile Run Farmer's Market and Casa Chirilagua entered an MOU where the Farmer's Market uses the community center every Sunday morning from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM for its year-round farmer's market.

RENTALS

Between 2017 and 2020, the community center was used a total of **850 hours** through rental agreements. Rental agreements include:

- Lease agreement rentals for the Alexandria Parks and Recreation Department for their commission meetings.
- Several baby showers and birthday parties for community members in 2017 and 2018.
- A community wedding in 2019.
- In 2017 and 2018, Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva and Iglesia Elim, , a neighborhood Spanish-speaking church community, rented the community center for two of their church services.
- In 2018, the community center was rented by Landmark Church for their monthly Saturday evening church service.
- 2018 and 2019, Casa Chirilagua also hosted the one quarterly lunch for Alexandria's churches and their clergy organized by First Baptist Church of Alexandria and Chris Sicks, pastor of Alexandria Presbyterian Church.

COVID-19 IMPACT

The community of Chirilagua was negatively impacted by the pandemic. Hundreds of residents lost work, contracted the virus, and suffered medical and financial stress. Of the families Casa Chirilagua works with, 100% of families suffered job loss or a severe reduction in work hours. Casa Chirilagua was able to respond immediately to the needs of the community due to the community center. Being positioned in the center of the community, neighbors were able to access the resources that Casa Chirilagua made available.

To date Casa Chirilagua has paid over **\$255,000** in rent and utility bill relief to **90 families**.

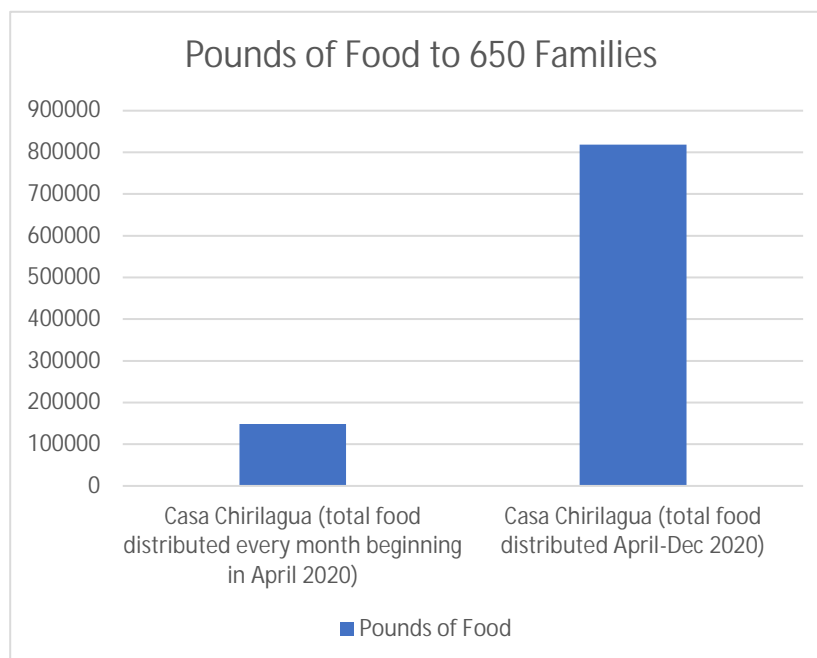
Onsite Food and Essential Items Pantry

- In March of 2020 Casa Chirilagua converted the inside space of the community center to a full-functioning pantry in response to the needs of the community. Pantry items are donated by individuals and church partners throughout the DMV area.
- To date, **2670 bags** of pantry items have been distributed to over **400 families**.
- Total value of pantry bags: **\$196,000**
- Pantry bag distributions are scheduled every other week with an attendance of 200 community members.

PARTNERSHIPS

Blessings of Hope

- Casa Chirilagua partnered with Blessings of Hope, a farm in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to distribute food made possible by the USDA program "Farmers to Families".
- **650 families** attended the outdoor weekly food distributions every Friday from April to September of 2020.
- **Over 400 tons** of fresh produce and protein were distributed.



Neighborhood Health

- Casa Chirilagua entered an MOU with Neighborhood Health in April 2020 to provide a COVID-19 testing site through February 2021. Neighborhood Health conducted testing outdoors in the parking lot of the community center.
- Over **460 hours** of testing were provided to the community of Arlandria.
- This testing site yielded data revealing that 57% of COVID-19 tests in the 22305 zip code resulted in positive results at the height of the pandemic.

Neighborhood Restaurant Group

- Since April of 2020 Casa Chirilagua has distributed **1,891 One-Week Boxes** to the neighborhood of Chirilagua.
- One-week boxes contain fresh produce and protein as well as prepared meals by restaurant chefs to feed a family of four for a week.
- Casa purchased boxes at a discounted rate of \$25/box and Neighborhood Restaurant Group delivered them. Total up-to-date cost: **\$47,274**

City of Alexandria

Department of Health

- Casa Chirilagua and the Virginia Department of Health organized two free community-wide COVID-19 testing events.
- Over 300 residents received tests during these events.
- Casa Chirilagua continues to partner with the Department regarding vaccine access to community members.

Department of Community and Human Services

- Casa Chirilagua participates in the Department's monthly resource meetings and then disseminates important information to the community related to the pandemic and vaccines.
- Casa Chirilagua is assisting the Department to ensure residents apply for the Rent Relief Program. Staff assist community members in completing required applications.

National Association of City Transportation Officials

- Casa and the City of Alexandria partnered with Casa Chirilagua for the grant provided by NACTO's Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery program. This grant brought free outdoor wi-fi access to the community as well as outdoor seating equipment. Casa Chirilagua executed the logistics of this program, ensuring students attending OST or learning hubs have reliable wi-fi and ensuring community members are aware of this free resource.

ALIVE!

- Casa Chirilagua continues to partner with ALIVE! in replenishing pantry items. ALIVE! delivers pallets of flour, oil and shelf-stable items on a bi-weekly basis.

ACPS

- Casa Chirilagua participates in a weekly community call with ACPS leadership.
- Casa Chirilagua formulized an MOU with ACPS which allows ACPS staff and school counselors to access the community center and schedule meetings with students and families onsite.
- Casa Chirilagua provided onsite learning hubs for students 1st-12th grade to ensure students have reliable internet and assistance during school hours.
- Safety procedures and protocols were implemented to ensure student and staff safety and to minimize virus exposure and infection.