

BIW Members – Please Bring a Gift Card to Support buying presents for the children and teens at Para Los Niños. Any denomination from \$10 to \$50 will help the staff purchase gifts for the thousands of children served who otherwise may not receive holiday gifts.

OUR HISTORY – Para Los Niños

For three decades, Para Los Niños has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of children and their families who live at society's margins. With a clear and straightforward mission to help children and their families succeed in school and in life, Para Los Niños works to close the achievement gap created by poverty.

A newspaper article in 1979 described horrific conditions faced by children who lived in the Skid Row district in downtown Los Angeles. Latch-key children who wandered the dangerous streets unsupervised after school hours, they were the sons and daughters of immigrants and others who worked long hours in garment sweatshops and other low-paying jobs in downtown industries. They lived in crumbling single-room occupancy hotels and were surrounded by unspeakable sights and human degradation. Spurred to action, visionary social worker Tanya Tull rented a nearby warehouse to provide day care for these children. And thus, Para Los Niños — for the children — began.

Today, Para Los Niños continues to provide high quality day care and so much more. Through years of working with children who face unimaginable obstacles to success, Para Los Niños has pioneered innovative programs that put children first, value excellence in all areas, respect and embrace diversity and empower the communities it serves.

THE SOLUTION

Children can achieve their full and true potential only when fundamental barriers to learning are removed or resolved. Research and groundbreaking efforts by leading educators demonstrate that schools, in their traditional forms, simply do not address the multitude of needs faced by children who live in conditions of chronic poverty. An integrated system of education, mental health and family support services is crucial for helping students succeed.

OUR STRATEGY

Our programs and services focus on all areas of a child's development. We believe that education must consider the "whole child"— the academic, psychological, cultural and physical — because children live and learn within the context of family, and a family lives and learns within the context of its community. Our urban education model starts with the premise that the children and families we serve are strong, resilient and expert in identifying how to improve their lives and communities. We partner with them, creating responsive and integrated high quality education, family support, mental health services and opportunities for community engagement in high-poverty neighborhoods.

OUR IMPACT

Today our combined direct and indirect services benefit 10,000 children, youth, and their families throughout Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. Through early childhood development centers, charter schools, and other program sites, we provide a continuum of services that support children from infancy through each successive stage of school and life. After three decades of success and thousands of testimonies, Para Los Niños effectively improves school-readiness, academic achievement, home environments — and most importantly — children's lives.