

# HOLA'S 2023 IMPACT REPORT



Dear HOLA Lakeway Community,

Describing 2023, I would say it was a year of numerous challenges and changes. As we reflect on the transformative journey of this year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude in presenting HOLA Lakeway's Impact Report. This report serves as a testament to the collective efforts, achievements, and profound impact we've made together as a community devoted to empowering immigrant and refugee families. This year witnessed significant growth, especially in our educational programs for immigrant and refugee families.

In response to escalating demand and enrollment, our leadership team made the crucial decision to relocate to a larger space. The move became necessary as our previous location limited our capacity, hindering our ability to meet the needs of the growing number of families attending our classes. In June 2023, we successfully secured a new building, although not without its challenges. Unexpected expenses and water damage from storms in August tested our resilience, yet we remained steadfast in our commitment to our mission and timeline.

To ensure a smooth transition, we initiated the moving process in August, allowing us ample time to prepare the new building for families, with programs launching in September. The new facility provides the space needed to deliver our programs effectively and accommodate the increasing number of families, including both children and adults attending our classes.

Within the pages that follow, you will find a detailed account of the initiatives, programs, and projects that have shaped the lives of those we serve. From overcoming challenges to reaching significant milestones, this report is a reflection of the resilience and strength of our community.

At HOLA Lakeway, we believe in the power of resilience, belonging, and education to create positive change. The stories within these pages go beyond statistics; they are narratives of individuals and families whose lives have been touched and transformed through our collective commitment.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each member of our community – our supporters, partners, volunteers, and the families who trust us with their journey. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success, and it is through your collaboration that we continue to make a meaningful impact.

Join us as we delve into the heart of HOLA Lakeway's achievements, challenges, and the remarkable stories that define our shared commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive community.

Sincerely,



  
*Betsy B. Jimenez Hurst, MBA*  
Executive Director  
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## Educational Programs Workforce Development

In 2023, HOLA remained steadfast in its commitment to providing diverse educational opportunities for our community. Our comprehensive range of programs, including HISET/GED preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish classes, the Elevate High School Program, Youth Adults/RAICES, and our Children's Program, continued to address the varied learning needs of our community. Notably, we expanded our educational initiatives beyond Hamblen County, introducing English classes in Grainger and Greene counties.

The transition to our new location allowed us to enhance our services further. We extended our operating hours, introducing morning and evening classes to accommodate different schedules. This positive shift became possible through the generous support of grants from Dollar General, Ballad Health, and the Howmet Foundation.

Thanks to the combined impact of these grants, we not only expanded our programs but also improved their quality. This extension enabled us to reach more individuals within the community, creating an inclusive and accessible learning environment. We take pride in ensuring that education remains within reach for everyone, fostering a community where learning knows no bounds.

**Individuals  
Served  
487**

**233 Days of  
classes**

**1034.50  
instructional  
hours**

**Family Engagement  
27.7%**

**HISET/ESL/Spanish  
40%**

**Youth Programs  
32.2%**





# Community Support Programs

**Families  
Served  
2040**

This year, HOLA has strengthened its community support programs by enhancing outreach efforts. Our diverse range of community support initiatives now include HOLA on the Move, La Tiendita, School Translations and our Bringing Navidad a Casa program.

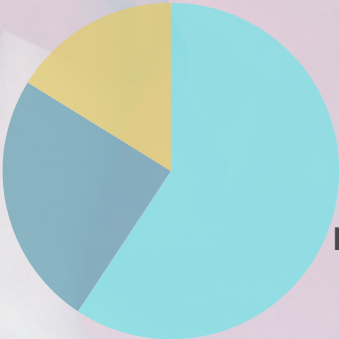
Specifically, through our HOLA on the Move program, we have extended our assistance to newcomer families, guiding them through the intricacies of the American school system. We offer individualized orientations for each family, aiding them in understanding how the school system operates here in America. Additionally, we provide crucial support during the school registration process, ensuring a smooth transition for these families.

Our commitment doesn't stop there; we recognize the importance of effective communication between parents and teachers. To bridge any language barriers, we provide interpreters during parent-teacher meetings, facilitating clear and meaningful conversations. At HOLA, our dedication goes beyond mere assistance; we aim to empower and support every family as they navigate the educational landscape in their new community.



**Tiendita/Food Mobile  
16.2%**

**Help Line  
24.5%**



**HOLA on the Move  
59.3%**





# Cultural Events

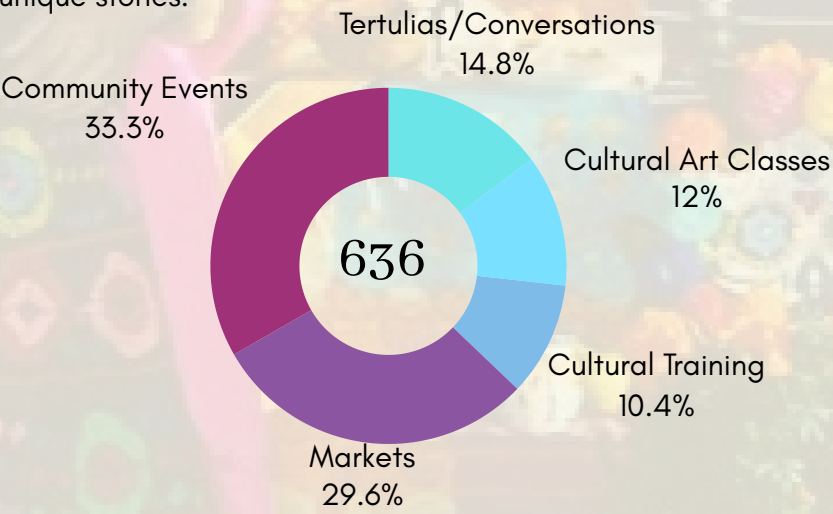
HOLA's cultural program reached new heights this year, notably with the resounding success of the Lakeway International Food Festival, drawing a remarkable attendance of 7,200 people. Sharing the rich cultural tapestry of the Lakeway area is a source of pride for HOLA, and we have curated a variety of events to achieve this.

Our cultural initiatives, including Tertulias/Conversations, Cultural Trainings, and Cultural Art Classes, have played a transformative role in fostering community integration and unity. The Tianguis Markets, occurring every third Friday of the month started in the spring, further contributed to this communal tapestry.

At the heart of our efforts are Tertulias, or conversational gatherings, which have become a cornerstone of our community engagement strategy. Monthly sessions provide a platform for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas, covering various topics from cultural diversity to shared experiences. The support received from different sources played a crucial role in organizing these tertulias effectively, covering logistics and food.

Cultural events, funded through the grant, have proven instrumental in breaking down barriers and celebrating diversity. Arts and crafts classes, cooking workshops, and cultural markets have provided avenues for individuals to express their cultural identities through art and cuisine. Simultaneously, these events create spaces where community members engage and appreciate each other's backgrounds.

HOLA's cultural programs empower individuals by communicating that our community thrives through diverse educational opportunities. Events like these are crucial as they underscore the importance of preserving and sharing cultural traditions, fostering connections, and celebrating the vibrant diversity that defines our community. This stands as a reminder that, through activities like these, we can continually build bridges of understanding and appreciation for each other's unique stories.





# Advocacy Program Highlights at HOLA in 2023



**Day on the Hill Initiative:** In a landmark move, HOLA embarked on its inaugural Day on the Hill in 2023, a significant advocacy milestone. Collaborating with students from Walters State Community College and Carson-Newman University, HOLA partnered with Education Trust in Tennessee to provide training for these fearless students. Their mission: to engage with state legislators, including representatives from their respective counties, and advocate on behalf of their needs. This empowering initiative not only equipped the students with essential advocacy skills but also marked a powerful step towards fostering civic engagement and grassroots advocacy within our community.



**Morristown Voices Project:** Initiated by HOLA Lakeway, the Morristown Voices project brings together a dedicated team of Morristown students, community members, and neighbors. Over three months, this collective conducted extensive research to delve into the experiences of the greater Morristown region concerning racism and prejudice. Through interviews and polls, valuable stories and images were gathered from individuals with ties to Morristown. The Morristown Voices project stands as a testament to HOLA's commitment to amplifying the voices of our community and addressing vital social issues.



**Champion Community Members:** At HOLA, our champion community members are the dedicated parents who passionately advocate for policy changes, striving to ensure equal opportunities for their children. These advocates play a crucial role in shaping policies that impact the educational landscape, fostering an environment where every child can thrive. If you share this commitment and wish to join our champion community members, please reach out to us below. Your involvement is a powerful catalyst for positive change.



# Student Highlight

Elizabeth's story is a testament to the transformative power of education. In 2021, she took her first step towards a brighter future by enrolling in the HSET program at HOLA Lakeway. With a determination to break barriers and create a better life for herself and her children, Elizabeth embarked on a journey of self-discovery and academic growth.

The road to success is often paved with challenges, and Elizabeth encountered her fair share. Balancing the demands of being a parent with the rigorous requirements of the HSET program presented its own set of obstacles. However, Elizabeth's resilience and commitment to her education propelled her forward, proving that with dedication, anything is possible.

Elizabeth's diligence and hard work have not gone unnoticed. She has successfully conquered four of the HSET tests, showcasing her academic prowess and determination. Each passed test is a testament to her commitment to excellence and her unwavering belief in the power of education to shape a better future.

As we pen down this success story, Elizabeth stands on the verge of a significant achievement—completion of her High School Equivalency. With just one more test to go, her dream of obtaining a diploma that opens doors to new opportunities is within reach. Her journey serves as an inspiration to all who face obstacles on the path to education and personal growth.

Elizabeth's success story is not just a testament to her individual accomplishments but also a celebration of the impact HOLA Lakeway has on the lives of those seeking educational opportunities. HOLA Lakeway remains committed to fostering success stories like Elizabeth's, as we continue to create a legacy of education, empowerment, and transformation in our community.



# Thank you!

As we reflect on the impactful strides made by HOLA in 2023, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you who has been a steadfast supporter of our mission. Your generosity and dedication have been instrumental in driving positive change within our community.

As we look ahead, HOLA sets an ambitious goal to raise **\$100,000** in 2024, aiming to further expand our programs and initiatives. Your continued support is crucial in achieving this milestone and empowering us to continue making a meaningful impact on the lives of immigrant and refugee families.

We invite you to join hands with us once again and be a part of the transformative journey at HOLA. Your contributions, whether big or small, play a vital role in fostering education, community integration, and cultural exchange. Together, we can build a more inclusive and supportive community.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to HOLA's vision. Your support truly makes a difference. Become an Amigo de HOLA by donating today!

[Givebutter.com/holafriends](https://givebutter.com/holafriends) or use the QR code below.



## Donate Here!