

Organization Profile

Fuerza Unida Amig@s of Casa de Esperanza

Organization: Casa de Esperanza

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Brief Description: Casa de Esperanza, founded in 1982, is a national organization focused on ending violence through public policy, research, training, direct shelter, community capacity, and other services. Casa de Esperanza's community capacity initiative is called Fuerza Unida Amig@s.

Fuerza Unida Amig@s provides opportunities for Latin@ youth, Latin@ adults, and allies to enhance their leadership skills, receive training on domestic violence and learn about information and resources that positively impact the Latin@ community. Fuerza Unida Amig@s develop and lead community action projects and receive ongoing support. Additionally Amig@s have opportunities to be youth peer educators, provide workshops and conversation circles, support the work of Casa de Esperanza's Centro de Informacion y Recursos and the Family Advocacy Initiative.

Program Description	
Setting	The Fuerza Unida Amig@s initiative takes place in the Twin Cities, MN and surrounding suburbs.
Target population	Fuerza Unida Amig@s engages Latin@ community members and allies who want to take action by addressing issues impacting the Latino community in MN and promoting healthy relationships.
Program origins	Fuerza Unida Amig@s was developed as a response to what Casa de Esperanza heard from community members during their third comprehensive community listening process. The initiative has been implemented since November 2013.

Organization Profile

Voces Latinas, Inc.

Program Description	
Program goals	<p>Our work focuses on providing all Fuerza Unida Amig@s with peer education strategies and supporting their ongoing leadership development by strengthening their leadership capacity to lead and engage in social change activities that address community issues important to the well-being of their families and Latin@ communities.</p> <p>There are three primary goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community leaders take action2. Build community investment in ending domestic violence and addressing other community issues3. Build and support community networks to address community issues
Program components	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery of 12-16 hours of core training (community leadership, DV 101 and presentation skills).• Project planning and implementation (charlas, talleres, special awareness activities etc)• Additional coaching and training in areas relevant to their projects• Connecting to internal and external resources
Current evaluation practices	<p>The Fuerza Unida Amig@s initiative was developed in direct response from community listening sessions. In essence, it stems from good evaluative practice in that it was developed from the feedback that was given to Casa de Esperanza and is actively part of that feedback loop to the community. Because of this foundation, the Fuerza Unida Amig@ initiative stems from an evaluation culture and has processes in place for collecting information from the participants and improving its functioning from cohort to cohort. The evaluation includes tracking of change within the participants through use of a survey as well as in-depth one on one interviews; tracking of program improvements and changes through quarterly “check-ins” or meetings with participants to obtain their feedback about the program; ongoing assessment and documentation of action projects; and an ongoing network analysis to track the relationships that are built within the Amig@s themselves, as well as with outside organizations and resources.</p>