



Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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# MISSION STATEMENT

*Centro*  
*Hispanic*  
Centro Cultural Chicano, since its incorporation on February 5, 1974, has been dedicated to the advancement of the Chicano/Latino population, the largest ~~minority~~ *minority* in Minnesota. While Centro's original intent was to provide educational and cultural programs, it has since broadened its objectives ~~now~~ *Human Services*. In addition to our educational and cultural activities, we provide ~~human services~~ *Human Services* which are geared primarily to the bilingual/bicultural person and ~~and~~ *and* monolingual ~~people~~ *people of origin* who would not otherwise ~~utilize~~ *utilize* these opportunities and services that are available to the community at-large. We work towards helping Hispanics be strong and self-sufficient in all aspects of their lives as well as aware and proud of their Chicano/Latino heritage.

*including through*

## OVERALL AGENCY GOALS */ objectives*

- \* Provide skilled professional services to meet specialized needs.
- \* Make these services accessible to people within the community where needs exist.
- \* Support activities which stimulate an awareness within the majority population of the need for action to effect positive social change.
- \* Provide an opportunity for volunteers to become involved in service and social change activities and, thereby, supplement efforts of paid staff.
- \* Strengthen agency administration and management and program evaluation.

*Ultimately, we strive for economic self-sufficiency leading to a better standard of living and complete realization of our human resources.*

CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO

HISTORY

Centro Cultural Chicano (henceforth known as Centro) was incorporated in 1974 by the Minneapolis Chicano community due to the realization that there existed no bilingual social services for Spanish-speaking people residing in Hennepin County.

The purpose of the organization is to unite the urban Chicano/Latino people of the Metro area, so that they have greater access and use of social and economic resources in our community. Centro acts as a nucleus while advocating and translating to achieve accomplishment.

The current social service delivery system is unprepared to deal with the needs of the Chicano/Latino population. The under-utilization of social services by the Chicano/Latino population is related to the lack of professional bilingual and bicultural staff present within the currently existing system. Presently, they can use only those social services focused on the problems of survival. The major objective then is to provide human services to Chicano/Latinos in situations where age, poverty, language or cultural barriers may be a problem in obtaining services or meeting personal needs.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Centro can be said to have begun regular operations shortly after its incorporation on February 5, 1974. Centro originally intended to provide alternate or supplementary education to Chicano/Latino students attending schools in Minneapolis and, thereby, curb or reduce the student attrition rate. In the past six years, the members of Centro have broadened their purpose and now believe that the corporation can play a role in meeting the socio-economic needs of Chicano/Latino citizens in Hennepin County as well as their educational needs.

Despite the fact that there are many and varied services throughout Hennepin County, there is a dearth of services rendered and paradoxically, and all too frequently, those who are in most need are neglected, overlooked, or incapable of securing help for themselves, in one of the counties which contains Minnesota's largest minority population, namely the Chicanos/Latinos.

As a result of our involvement with the Chicano/Latino community and other service agencies, we have become consistently more aware that it is possible to develop of sense of identity with the community at large. Consequently, our immediate challenge is to organize and establish a visibility as a people of pride and culture.

## OVERALL AGENCY GOALS

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- \*Provide an opportunity for volunteers to become involved in service and social change activities and, thereby, supplement efforts of paid staff.
- \*Strengthen agency administration and management and program evaluation.



## Program Outline of Agency Services

I. UNITED WAY FUNDED	<u>% United Way Support</u>
A. <u>Family and Individual Counseling</u>	
Referral Services	68
Advocacy	
Short Term Counseling	
B. <u>Social Adjustment</u>	56
Referral Services	
Advocacy	
Short Term Counseling	
II. <u>NON-UNITED WAY FUNDED</u>	
A. <u>Educational Programs</u>	
B. <u>Support Programs</u>	
C. <u>Chemical Dependency</u>	

I. FAMILY COUNSELING

Race -- 100% Chicano/Latino and/or Spanish-speaking

Age -- Youth

Adult 138

Economic Status -- 90% lower-middle income

10% public assistance

II. SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Race -- 100% Chicano/Latino and/or Spanish-speaking

Age -- Youth 6

Adult 117

Economic Status -- 90% lower-middle income

10% public assistance

## UNITED WAY FUNDED --

## no. of persons served

'79 '80

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELINGFamily Counseling

Referral Service	14	
Advocacy--3 month	3	2
Short Term Consultation	189	89

Individual Counseling

Referral Service	8	4
Advocacy	12	36
Short Term Consultation		7

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Employment Referral	52	18
Vocational/Educational Referral	46	9
Nutritional Educational Class	0	36
Youth Programming	0	0
Adult (Seniors) Programming	120	60

## NON-UNITED WAY FUNDED--

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

English as a Second Language (E.S.L.)	24	30
Adult Basic Education (A.B.E.)	19	25

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

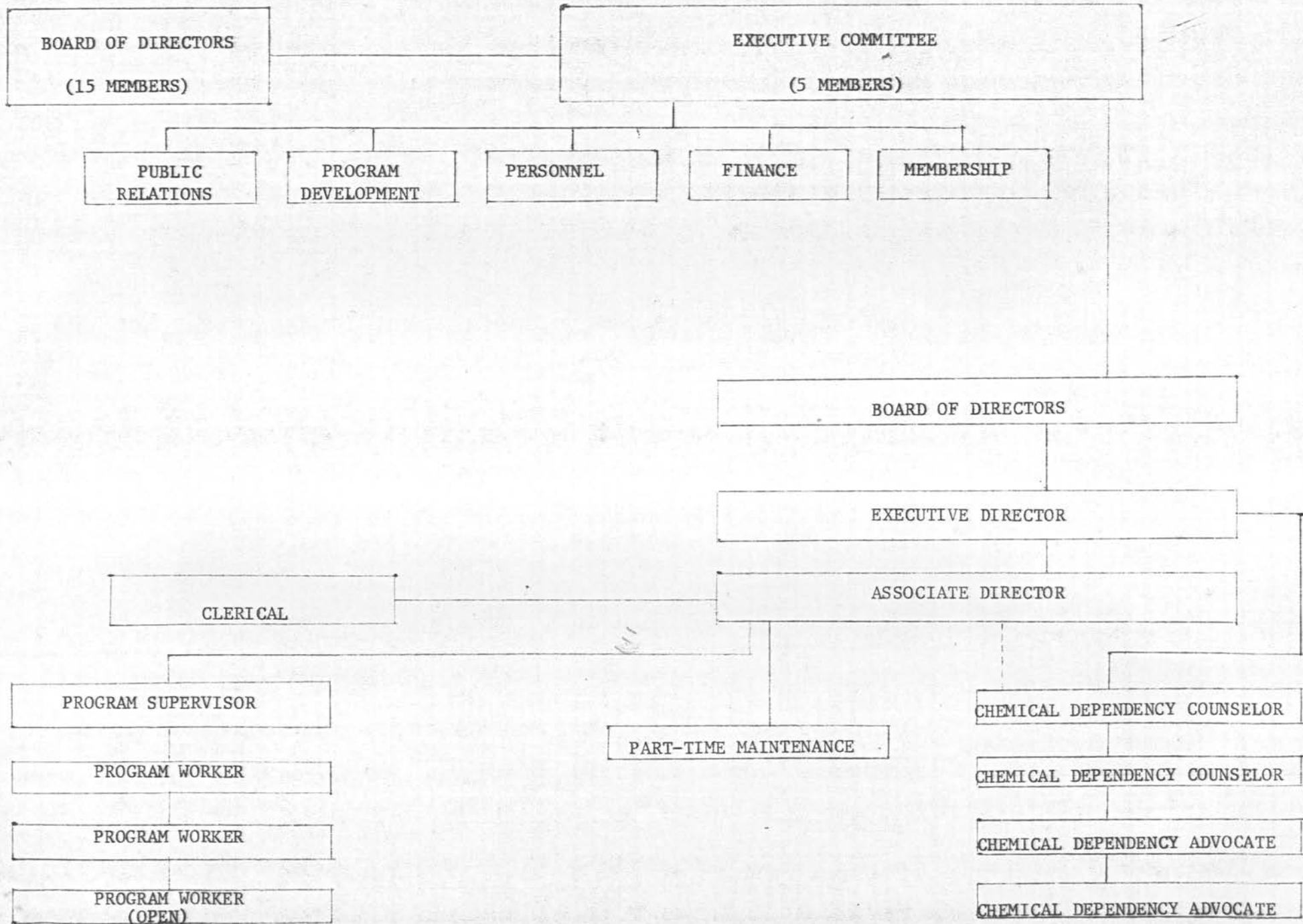
Monitor Hispanic Parents Advisory		180
Bilingual Program		

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROGRAM

Intervention	6	10
Advocacy	45	60
Group Activity	0	69
Referral	45	60
Family Counseling	0	4
Individual Counseling	45	54
Bi-weekly Support Services	20	35



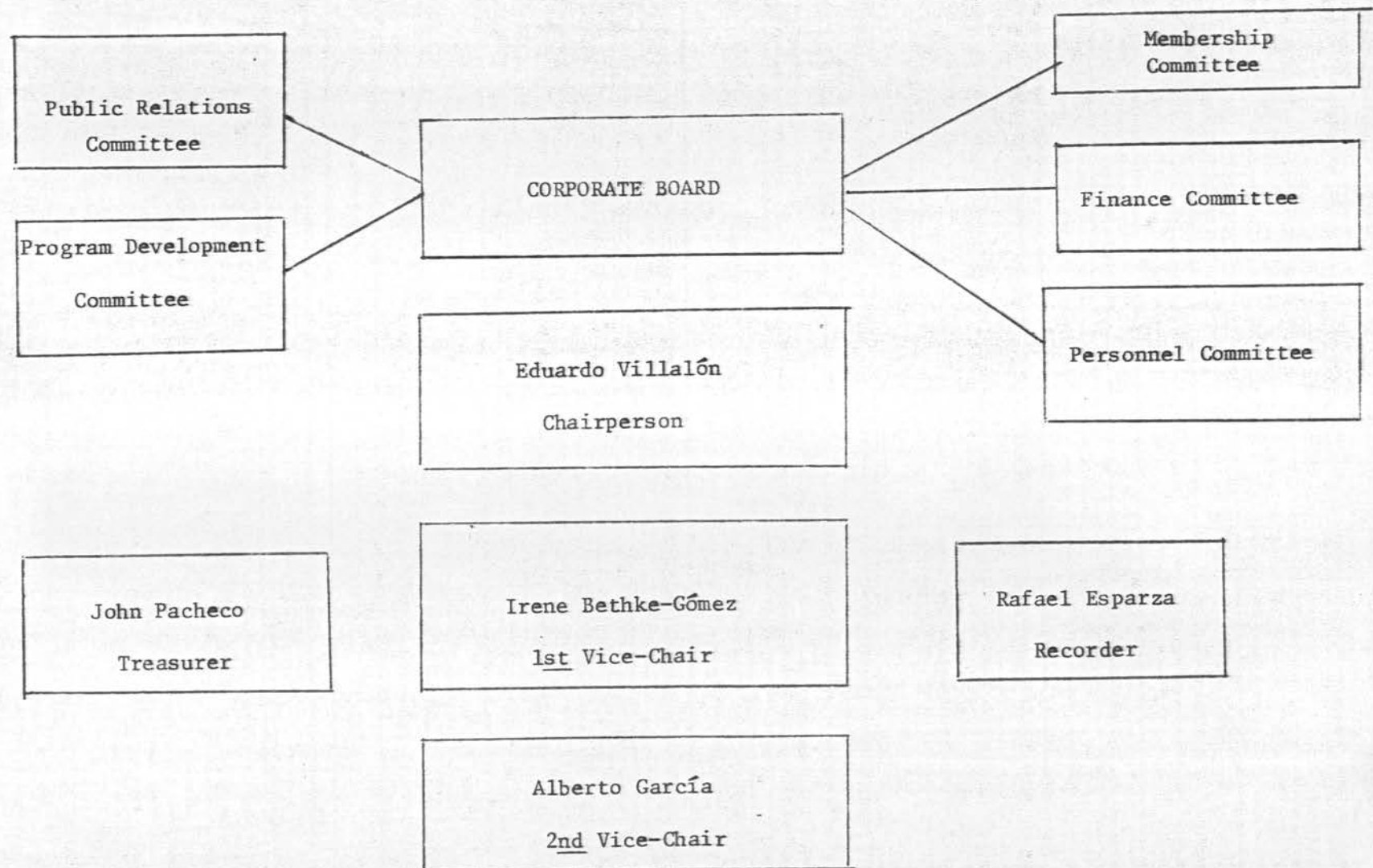
CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO  
AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO OF MINNEAPOLIS

CORPORATE CHART



CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO

ORGANIZATION CHART

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

<u>Family Counseling</u>	<u>Individual Counseling</u>	<u>Social Adjustment</u>	<u>Educational Programs</u>	<u>Support Programs</u>
Provide referral services, advocacy, short-term crisis intervention.	Provide referral services, advocacy, short-term crisis intervention.	Assistance to Hispanics in making adjustment from one culture to another.	Provide English as a Second Language (ESL) & Adult Basic Education (ABE) to monolingual Spanish speakers.	Provide coordination assistance to Hispanic Parents Advisory Committee to the Jefferson Bilingual/bicultural Education Program at monthly meetings.

<u>Chemical Dependency</u>	<u>Clerical</u>	<u>Administrative</u>
Counseling with individuals, families and/or concerned others requesting services unique to chemical or alcohol misuse or abuse.	1 senior secretary/receptionist 2 volunteer secretaries 2 volunteer receptionists	Central accounting and fiscal management of Centro Cultural Chicano.

## CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO

### (PROGRAM OUTLINE)

#### PURPOSE OF AGENCY

To ensure that disadvantaged Chicanos/Latinos in Minneapolis and its surrounding suburbs, are aware of and have access to the same social and economic resources accorded other disadvantaged people in our communities. This stems from research reports that indicate, that Chicanos/Latinos under-utilize available supportive services such as: Health services, Legal services, Housing assistance loans for low and moderate income families, financial assistance, and other social services etc., because of their inability to communicate and understand the English language. Centro acts as a nucleus while advocating and translating to achieve accomplishment. Centro proposes to aid the Chicano/Latinos in the necessary programs and services by providing them the equal opportunity to participate in and receive the benefits of our local society, thus allowing those involved to become more productive citizens of the state of Minnesota.

#### BRIEF HISTORY OF AGENCY

Centro Cultural Chicano (henceforth known as Centro) was incorporated in early 1974, by the Minneapolis Chicano community, due to the realization that there existed no bilingual social services for spanish speaking people residing in Hennepin County.

Centro opened it's doors as the first and only bilingual social service agency in December 1976, on the corner of Pillsbury and Franklin. The major objective of our program is to provide social services to the Chicano/Latinos in situations where age, poverty, language or cultural barriers may be a problem in obtaining services or in meeting personal needs.

#### NEED FOR AGENCY

According to the 1970 census, the Chicano/Latino population of Minneapolis was about 3,940. Given the historical inaccuracy of census figures, it could be safely assumed that this figure is low. Updated 1970 census data indicates that 12,000 Chicanos/Latinos now reside in Hennepin County, with an estimated 10,500 living in Minneapolis. This shows a significant increase in the Spanish speaking population within a very short period of time.



In Minneapolis there are limited bilingual services, or economic and educational aid designated to help Chicanos/Latinos. A greater percentage of Minneapolis Chicanos/Latinos, designated in 1970, as Spanish being their native language, than did all others of Minnesota Spanish speaking population as a whole. Slightly more than 64% of all Minnesota Chicanos/Latinos designated Spanish in comparison to 66.28% for Minneapolis Chicanos/Latinos.

Services exist but are not bilingual, therefore, exclude many Chicanos/Latinos that don't speak English. They can use only those social services focused on the problems of immediate survival.

#### NATURE OF PROBLEM

Unfortunately, as the Chicano/Latino population has increased over the years (see demographics) the social service agencies have not recognized the need for providing services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Cultural and linguistic barriers exist to obstruct the agencies provisional capabilities and the Chicano/Latinos participation in social services.

In our present service delivery system, the burden of bridging the cultural and linguistic gap is placed on the Chicano/Latino client. As a result, Latino clients feeling that they are not understood, drop-out of the treatment process after the first or second contact.

There is a scarcity of hard data on the characteristics of the Chicano/Latino population in the Minneapolis area. However, evidence of the aforesaid statement was documented in the Ramsey County Mental Health Study, which states that seven of the eighteen responding agencies with no Spanish speaking staff are seeing up to seventy-six Latino clients. Among some of the reasons mentioned for this, was the lack of Spanish speaking personnel. At least forty requests for services per month from Latino clients could not be met by agencies that reported.

#### STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

Centro is the first and only bilingual social service agency in the city of Minneapolis. At the present time there is no other Spanish speaking agency in Minneapolis that can provide multiple services for clients, besides offering information and referral services in areas of employment, housing, and other related social services. We act as interpreters and mediators with other social services agencies who do not have bilingual personnel.



### UTILIZATION OF SERVICE

The Centro has now located its operations (after two years on the southside of Minneapolis) at 1800 Olson Memorial Highway, which in fact is on the near Northside of Minneapolis, surrounded by a high concentration of Chicanos/Latinos in the area. The flexible hours of operation will meet the needs of clients use of home visits which take cultural and linguistic factors into account will increase accessibility to services. The availability of the services are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the week, however, this schedule does not prevent Centro from programming activities after 5:30 p.m. or on weekends. In fact a major portion of socialization activities for the community are now being done on weekends.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To provide social services to the Chicanos/Latinos in situations where age, poverty, language or cultural barriers may be a problem in obtaining services or in meeting personal needs.

### ACTIVITIES

Include: interviewing and/or counseling with persons needing services, providing information about services available, referral and escort (if necessary) to another agency, best equipped to handle their problem, and provide appropriate follow-up. The nature of Interventive Assistance requires that the agency act on behalf of the client as an advocate.

### PROGRAM SERVICES

### INFORMATION/REFERRALS

Direct help with:

Interventive assistance through advocacy	Legal matters
Employment placement program	Housing
Short term Individual and Family counseling	Translation Services
Spanish Speaking Senior Program	Escort Services
Transportation services (seniors only)	Chemical Dependency
Social and Recreation activities	Education/Vocational
Other related services	training

The services offered by the Centro, are not only valuable, but are also completely necessary for the improving of the socio-economic and psychological welfare of our people. If we are to gain any visibility, if we are to be intergrated; if we are to make an impact by gathering statistics and accurate counts of Chicanos/Latinos within the county. It is imparative that Centro be allowed to continue.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the period of January 1, 1978 to December of 1978, staff provided supportive services to 394 persons, through outreach, referral, and actual advocacy, of these figures 225 were referred to other supportive service agencies for assistance; actual follow-up was possible on 207 of the cases; 169 individuals were served within our agency.

Centro has also been successful in increasing the cultural awareness of the Chicano/Latino community, (which before was limited to community Mexican dances) we have been instrumental in providing cultural functions such as:

Centro's 1st Annual Banquet	(8-25-78)	300
Hispanic Week Celebrations	(3 days )	3,000
Spanish Masses	(monthly)	600
Childrens Christmas Party	(12-9-78)	150
Community Mexican Dances	(3 in 78)	600
Senior Citizens Dances	(2 in 78)	400
Senior Citizens Banquets	(2 in 78)	600

All figures compiled are approximate and/or through sight count. These functions are a instrumental tool in uniting the Chicano/Latino people of Minneapolis, also increased community support has surfaced through these activities. It must be pointed out that the above are only but two accomplishments, others are to numerous to list at this time.

The Centro has been in existence over a year now, and have accomplished a great deal in the area of Human Services and community cultural events. We have succeeded only through our unity as an organization and not as individuals. We are concerned with issues that affect the rights and well being of the Minneapolis Chicano/Latino community, as well as the state of Minnesota.

During 1979-1980, we must enlist the support of state and local public officials, as well as to solicit greater support from the church and private sector, in order to do our work properly. Generous donations in the past have allowed us to continue to offer the services of Centro.

It is my hope that as you read this program outline, you will find Centro Cultural Chicano deserving of your support. Dynamic movements like Centro are not sustained by some individuals alone, but need the help of everyone who believes in our cause.

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

In pointing out some of the concerns and needs of the Minneapolis Chicano/Latino community, it is essential that we state what is happening to the Chicano/Latino nationally, statewide and metro-wide.

The following is designed to give the reader an overview of important Chicano/Latino demographic facts, and to highlight our current status. The following table reflects the new updated figures (as of 1976) for Minnesota minorities.

Chicanos/Spanish Heritage	49,500
Black	46,300
Native American	45,100
Asian American	10,200

### NATIONAL

Data collected in the March 1978, Current Population Survey (CPS) Bureau of the Census, identified approximately 12 million persons in the United States who reported they were of Spanish origin. Estimate of all in the United States, including undocumented workers: 19 million. As the youngest and fastest growing ethnic group, it is estimated that by 1980 the Hispanics will be the largest minority nationally.

### MINNESOTA

Chicanos/Latinos represent the largest minority in the state of Minnesota. The current population is estimated at 50,000 of 1979, this figure reflects only permanent Minnesota residents. It is estimated that this figure swells by 15 to 20 thousand when migrants from the Southwest come into the state to harvest the crops.

### HENNEPIN COUNTY

There are 12,000 Chicanos/Latinos now residing in Hennepin County with an estimated 10,500 living in Minneapolis. There has been a significant increase in the Spanish speaking population within a very short period of time.



CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO

MISSION STATEMENT

SINCE 1974, CENTRO CULTURAL CHICANO HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO THE SOCIAL, CIVIC, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE HISPANIC POPULATION, THE LARGEST MINORITY IN MINNESOTA. IN ADDITION TO OUR HUMAN SERVICES, WE PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO THE BI-LINGUAL/BI-CULTURAL AND MONO-LINGUAL PERSONS OF HISPANIC ORIGIN, WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE UTILIZE OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

CENTRO WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THE CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF THE HISPANIC PEOPLES. ULTIMATELY WE STRIVE TOWARDS HELPING HISPANICS BECOME STRONG, SELF-SUFFICIENT, WHILE ACHIEVING A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING, AS WELL AS A CONTINUING AWARENESS AND PRIDE OF OUR HISPANIC HERITAGE.