



Focus Points Family Resource Center

Vision

Known for its culturally-appropriate and community-driven programs, Focus Points' goals are to provide specialized programming and support that help our predominately Spanish-speaking and refugee families become self-resilient, enjoy an enhanced quality of life, and participate in the growth and development of both their communities and their families.

Mission

The mission of Focus Points is to help build better communities by strengthening families.

1994
Established

Serving
Denver Metro Area

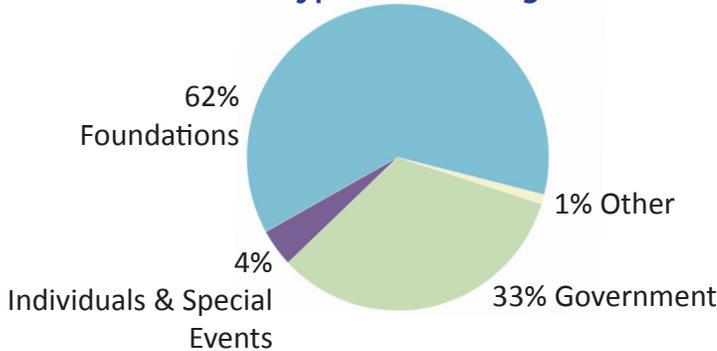
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Staff

\$2,500,000
2017-2018 Budget

1,000
families served annually

501(c)3
Org structure

Types of Funding



Key Programs

- Adult Education
- Basic Needs Assistance
- Economic Development
- Family Literacy
- Health and Wellness
- Mental Health
- School Readiness

Serving Our Community

For over 20 years, Focus Points has successfully worked to transform the lives of low-income families in Northeast Denver. Traditionally an underserved area, our predominately-Hispanic community continues to face a great deal of socio-economic pressures, particularly around health, employment, education, and housing. In addition to being both a food and childcare desert, our area is also in the midst of unprecedented infrastructure change and development, which is accelerating the rate of gentrification, and, unfortunately, the displacement of families. Focus Points has therefore moved very intentionally and thoughtfully to both advocate for the needs of our families, and create tailored programming that will build and strengthen their capacity for self-resiliency and achievement.

Focus Points' community-driven programs are aptly designed to address the myriad of challenges that our families face. The scope of our services is very broad, including early education, health and wellness, economic and workforce development, mental health support, basic needs assistance, public transportation, English Language Acquisition (ELA), and adult education.

The proven success of our programs serves as a testament to the effectiveness and impact of our work. As a result of our efforts around early education, Focus Points was recently recognized as a leader in developing successful models for school readiness by our mayor-led initiative to prepare Denver's children for school. Meanwhile, our food-focused social enterprise, Comal, has funneled over \$150k in profits back to the local entrepreneurs in the program. Finally, given the solidity of our adult education program, Focus Points received a prestigious federal grant in 2017 to expand its English classes to refugees. Each of these accomplishments represent the dedication of our staff and the strength of our programs in making a difference.



Highlights

For Focus Points overall, 2017 was a year of full of growth, change, and many valuable lessons learned. Many of last year’s accomplishments represented exciting new challenges to which our staff successfully—and creatively—rose to the challenge. In the end, Focus Points was able to further its mission to deepen and improve its engagement of our community. Among our best highlights were the following:

- Expansion and broadening of programs— In 2017, there were several examples of new and exciting ways in which we successfully widened the scope of whom we serve, including a new grant for refugee-targeted English classes and the stunning success of our social enterprise, Comal.
- Built up our staff capacity—in 2017, we created and brought on several new key staff members to effectively match the expansion of programs
- Strengthening and solidifying our role in community advocacy work—As an integral part of our community, Focus Points both continued to drive—and be a vocal advocate for—many important conversations about the future of both our neighborhood and city.

Family Success Story



One of our greatest and most moving success stories this past year came from a woman named Sylvia, one of the female entrepreneurs at Focus Points’ social enterprise, Comal. Comal is a heritage food incubator that cultivates and trains aspiring entrepreneurs with a desire to bring their culturally-inspired creations to their community and beyond. 60% of its revenue goes back to the female entrepreneurs, totally \$155,000 for our 31 participants after just one year of operation. Comal’s participants have also had the opportunity to gain both regional and national exposure through major events such as Top Chef and Slow Foods Nation.

Sylvia is a Mexico City native and initial member of Comal that played an integral part in designing its original concept. In addition to attaining her own business license in 2017, she is now one of Comal’s preferred catering partners, making her one of our most successful entrepreneurs to-date. Due to all her hard work, Sylvia is now in her final stage of Comal’s business training to open her own food truck, La Catrina Grill, which will serve heritage street-style tacos.



How You Can Help

- New Board Members
- Donations
- Volunteers

