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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Latino Giving Circle at Rochester Area Community Foundation Makes Largest Annual Investment

The Latino Giving Circle awarded more than \$41,000 in grants to 10 nonprofit organizations during its 2026 annual grantmaking, making this year's investment the largest to date. Giving Circle supporters and grantees gathered on September 23, 2026 for its Annual Grants Reception, celebrating Latino philanthropy.

The [Latino Giving Circle](#), established at Rochester Area Community Foundation in 2022 by local Latino residents, is made up of individuals who pool their money each year and decide together how it should be distributed to empower Latinos in the greater Rochester area. This giving group has distributed nearly \$90,000 in small grants over four years.

This year's grants support a variety of pressing needs within the Latino community: access to healthcare, bilingual services, programs that protect and share Latino culture, support for artists, and education.

One grant-funded program, by Voices for Equitable Learning, Inc., will offer a series of free trainings to twenty Rochester-area educators who teach Latino and bilingual students. The three founders of Voices for Equitable Learning are practicing Rochester City School District bilingual educators.

"Most teachers in Monroe County who serve Latino and bilingual students were prepared for monolingual classrooms. That preparation is not their fault, and it is not neutral. The child learns the lesson faster than anyone: keep the school-self and the home-self apart," reads a description of the grant-funded [program](#).

Another grantee, the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester, will use its grant to provide Spanish-language services so that families facing immediate barriers to receiving food are able to understand program requirements and advocate for their household needs.

“Maintaining strong service to our Spanish speaking public is not optional — it is central to equitable access and to our responsibility as a community food resource,” said a representative from the Community Food Cupboard of Rochester.

A nine-person Latino Giving Circle steering committee, comprised of local business and advocacy leaders, reviews nonprofit proposals and helps identify the projects that would create the greatest community impact.

This year, the Latino Giving Circle’s grants were made possible by contributions from members, supporters, people who gave directly from their donor-advised funds at Rochester Area Community Foundation, and a corporate partnership with Pike Construction.

“In 4 years, the Latino Giving Circle has built a powerful network of philanthropists,” says Dawn Perry, [Collective Giving](#) Officer at Rochester Area Community Foundation. “Its growing impact represents the community's commitment to creating opportunities and helping our region become an equitable, inclusive, and vital one for all of us.”

PHOTOS:

- Latino Giving Circle Grants Reception with supporters, nonprofit grantees, and RACF staff: [Link](#)
- Yolanda Rios, Latino Giving Circle Co-chair, and Karen Ramirez at the Latino Giving Circle Grants Reception: [Link](#)
- Latino Giving Circle Grantee, Voices for Equitable Learning, Enrique Santana Carballo speaks next to RACF Collective Giving Officer Dawn Perry: [Link](#)
- Latino Giving Circle grantee, Voices for Equitable Learning, Inc. program photo: [Link](#)

About Rochester Area Community Foundation

In partnership with generous philanthropists and community partners, [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#) works to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the eight-county region through its leadership and strategic grantmaking. As a leading grantmaker, the Foundation is focused on two broad goals: creating an equitable community and strengthening our region’s vitality. Since 1972, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$804 million in grants and scholarships.

About the Latino Giving Circle

The Latino Giving Circle at Rochester Area Community Foundation supports organizations, initiatives, and programs created by and for the Latino community to meet their needs and empower Latinos in the greater Rochester area. [Collective giving](#) is when a group of like-minded individuals pool their money and decide together how it should be distributed.