



ANNUAL REPORT

LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

2020





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A MESSAGE FROM

MARIA MATOS, PRESIDENT & CEO



2020 plunged our community even deeper into an already distraught, heartbreaking way of life. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic dug deep into the discriminatory, demonic circumstances that the Trump administration had placed on the community. In the heat of family separation, aggressive deportation, and police brutality, only 16% of jobs held by Latinos could be done remotely. As a result, many members of our community lost their jobs or were essential employees who were placed at a higher risk of being infected.

The Latin American Community Center (LACC) resolved to continue providing essential services required by a devastated community. We immediately sprang into action by becoming one of the first emergency childcare sites, serving children ages 6 weeks to 12 years, so that parents could work.

As it became clear that schools would close due to the pandemic restrictions, we quickly acquired the resources to transition the Before- and After-School Program into support through virtual schooling.

The LACC also increased distribution of food by adding an additional food closet and accepting a tremendous amount of food donated by generous Delawareans from all walks of life. In addition, the creativity and leadership of the Delaware philanthropic community provided substantial funding opportunities to alleviate the financial crisis faced by families. The staff of the LACC learned very quickly how to provide services and programming by phone and virtually.

In April of 2020, in a partnership with ChristinaCare, LACC became the first COVID screening clinic on the West Side of Wilmington. With the support of Healthy Communities Delaware, the LACC launched ConeXiones in August 2020 to address the impact of COVID on Latinos in Delaware. The program offers access to COVID vaccinations, COVID testing, and connection to services that address the needs arising as a result of the pandemic.

In addition to our usual programs and services, the LACC was part of the emerging conversation on racial justice. On September 4, 2020, the LACC revealed a mural at the Manuelita Olson Building (3rd and Harrison Streets) created by the Social Justice Alliance at the Charter School of Wilmington. The goal of the mural is to celebrate diversity and amplify minority voices during these turbulent times of social injustice.

I send out a big "Thank You" to all of LACC's staff, friends, and contributors who helped us fulfill our mission during this difficult year. I am inspired by the next generation of youth, like the Social Justice Alliance, who stand against the inequality and injustice faced by Latinos and other communities of color. These young leaders will bring about social change and build a better future for generations to come.

As devastating as 2020 was, we received the great news that Delaware's son, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., was elected president. We look forward to these next four years of leadership where we can celebrate our perseverance and plan for a better tomorrow.

Muchas Gracias,

Maria Matos
President & CEO

LACC RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

CRISIS ALLEVIATION




866 households benefited during 2020.


\$ 792,729.27 in crisis alleviation funds
given to help our clients.

 **1,579**
Children

+

 **1,684**
Adults

=

 **3,263**
individuals impacted

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

\$ 23,018.40 worth of food distributed.



LACC RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

CRISIS ALLEVIATION

The LACC dramatically increased our distribution of crisis alleviation funds to those who were economically impacted by the pandemic.

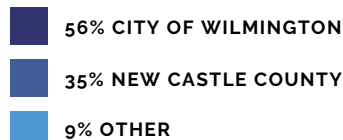
Funds were used to cover rent, utility bills, and mortgage payments.



76%

OF THE TOTAL AID
GIVEN WAS USED
TO PAY RENT

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AID



COMMUNITY IMPACT

A client's family moved to Delaware in the summer. The pandemic negatively impacted their financial security and led them to fall behind on monthly rental payments. During these tough times the client experienced unemployment due to strict regulations in her employment field. Her family was grateful that the LACC was able to provide crisis alleviation funds to help during this difficult time.

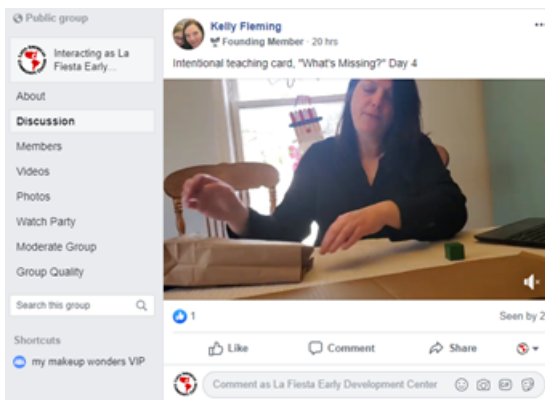


LACC RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SITE

The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect the LACC's commitment to providing exceptional educational programs. The agency pivoted quickly to offer emergency child care for essential employees who continued to work during the crisis from March to July.

During this time, the Early Development Center served 134 children; 110 of these children had a family income that was at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



Teachers found creative ways to engage with children who remained at home. Teachers created "Facebook classrooms" with videos of their daily lessons so that families could engage in activities with their children and continue project-based learning at home. Teachers and staff also delivered monthly at-home activity packets to each child who could not come to the center.

Overnight, the Youth Development leadership team jumped in to take groups of students and support them through the first stages of virtual learning. The program served 40 students and 100% were promoted to the next grade level.



The Early Development Center and Youth Development Department also collaborated to build an internal food pantry. Through this effort, 19 families received crisis alleviation support, 77 families received food, and 49 families received ShopRite gift cards. .

LACC RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

CONEXIONES PROGRAM

913 TOTAL COVID TESTS

712 COVID Tests

INDIVIDUALS WERE TESTED FOR COVID THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH CHRISTIANACARE. TESTING WAS OFFERED AT THE MANUELITA OLSON BUILDING (MOB) FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER.



201 COVID Tests

INDIVIDUALS WERE TESTED FOR COVID-19 IN 3 POP-UP TESTING SITES FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER.

160 Positives found

160 INDIVIDUALS WERE FOUND TO BE COVID-19 POSITIVE DURING TESTING EFFORTS CONDUCTED BY CONEXIONES AND CHRISTIANACARE. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE EQUIPPED WITH EXPERT GUIDANCE TO APPROPRIATELY ADDRESS THEIR DIAGNOSIS.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

COMMUNITY IMPACT

186 CHILDREN FROM 6 WEEKS TO AGE 5 WERE SERVED

82%

**CHILDREN QUALIFIED FOR FREE
OR REDUCED LUNCH**

In 2020, the EDC served a total of 153 children from families with incomes below 185% of poverty level.

83%

**CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILIES
RECEIVED LACC SUPPORT**

The LACC assisted the families of 155 children with emergency food or shelter needs during the pandemic.

14%

**CHILDREN WITH
DIAGNOSED
DISABILITIES**

94

**FAMILIES PARTICIPATED
IN A VIRTUAL PARENTING
CURRICULUM**

48

**CHILDREN SERVED FOR
EMERGENCY CARE
DURING THE PANDEMIC**

86

**CHILDREN SERVED
VIRTUALLY DURING
EMERGENCY CARE ONLY**



EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

WWW.THELATINCENTER.ORG

EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

COMMUNITY IMPACT



65%

**ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
LEARNERS**

The Early Development Center (EDC) reflects the diversity of the community it serves.

121 children in the Early Development Center were English Language Learners.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

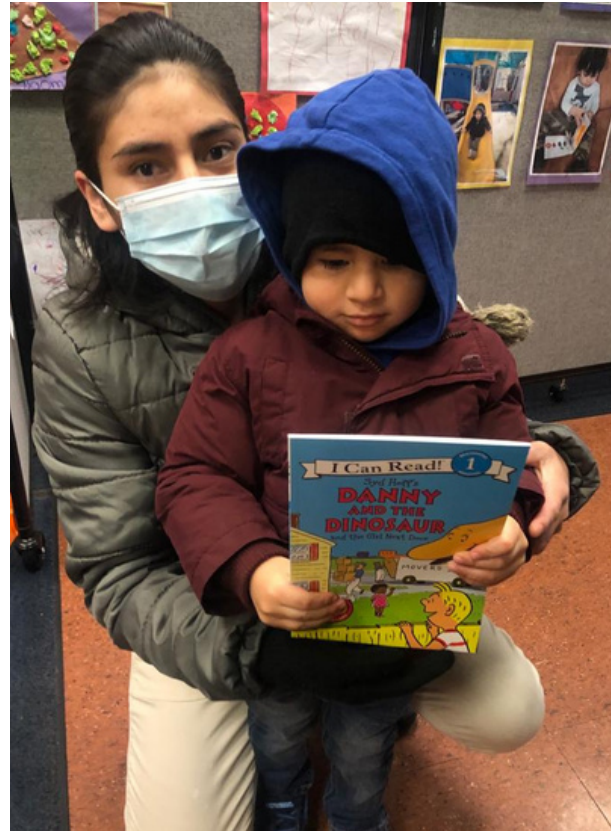
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EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

IMPACT STORY

My journey with LACC started almost five years ago with our oldest son back in 2016/2017. I was nervous and scared as this was the first time I would officially not be with my son. I was heading back into work after having him (first time mom jitters). The staff and teachers at LACC assured me that everything would be fine, and that I had nothing to worry about. With tears in my eyes, I nodded my head and drove off to work. Later when I arrived to pick him up, he was just as happy as when I dropped him off. As the days went on, it got easier.

I felt safe and secure knowing that our son was well taken care of. When it was time for our youngest son to enroll at LACC, there was no hesitation. I look at many of you as our sons' other mothers! When I speak about the teachers at LACC, I often say, "They are with their Daycare Moms!" You love our sons and show such compassion, empathy, and respect! There will never be enough thank yous to express how much you all mean to us! Thank you for being such a vital piece to our sons' puzzles by helping them learn, grow, and evolve!



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER CAMP

150

**STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
IN SUMMER CAMP.**

Activities included:

- Academic Enrichment
- Main Event
- Bowlero
- Christiana Skating Rink
- Crestmoor Swim Club
- Outside Recreation



CREDIT RECOVERY

5

**SENIORS
GRADUATED
IN JUNE**

Students from Credit Recovery were working from home due to the pandemic. Despite the challenges of virtual schooling, **18 credits** were completed through the Credit Recovery Program.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CENTER



20

**STUDENTS ENROLLED
PROGRAM OFFERED IN
A HYBRID MODEL**

Activities included

- Cooking Class
- Art Class
- Cosmetology
- Breaking Barriers Fitness

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER HUB

140

SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS SERVED

25

DIFFERENT SCHOOLS ACROSS 4 DISTRICTS
AND MULTIPLE CHARTER SCHOOLS

116

CHROMEBOOKS WERE PURCHASED
FOR STUDENTS TO CONNECT TO
VITRTUAL CLASES DAILY

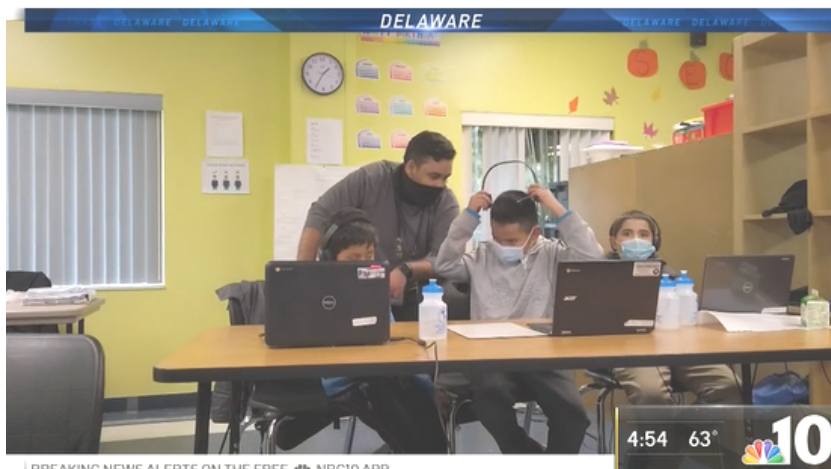


PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

The LACC worked with school partners to accommodate IEP/504 plans and continue occupational and physical therapy sessions while in the remote learning setting.

In partnership with the Center for Child Development, our K-12 students had access to a bilingual therapist to assist families in addressing their students' social and emotional needs throughout the pandemic.

BECOMING A MODEL FOR ONLINE LEARNING



LACC's learning hub was used as a model for other organizations to set up similar programs for their students. We were recognized multiple times by United Way of Delaware and Red Clay School District for our efforts in supporting our students.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

BREASTFEEDING PROGRAM

2,144

CLIENTS WERE
CONTACTED

250

MOTHERS BREASTFED
EXCLUSIVELY



903

WOMEN, INFANTS,
CHILDREN (WIC)
ELEGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

40

SUPPORT GROUPS
CONDUCTED

VICTIMS OF CRIME



29

VICTIMS SERVED

19

POLICE REPORTS FIELD

12

QUALIFIED FOR THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

109

VICTIMS SERVED

8

GROUP SESSIONS



99

COUNSELING SESSIONS

7

PROTECTION FROM
ABUSE ORDERS

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

270

ASSISTED WITH
JOB SEARCH

185

CLIENTS ASSISTED
WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

33

JOB
APPLICATIONS

70

EMPLOYERS
ENGAGED



ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

231

ENGLISH AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE STUDENTS

5

ADULT DIGITAL
LITERACY STUDENTS

12

NATURALIZATIONS

IMPACT STORY

"Since I started the course, I have learned to lose the fear [...] of speaking in English, especially to have visions for the future, proposing new goals, reaching them and realizing that everything we propose can be accomplished with care and effort. I am grateful to LACC for the great opportunity it gives us to learn and continue to succeed. I myself measure my progress and I'm happy and amazed that every day my progress advances more. I can communicate with people in my work, when I go shopping, and I can already buy food at the drive-through".

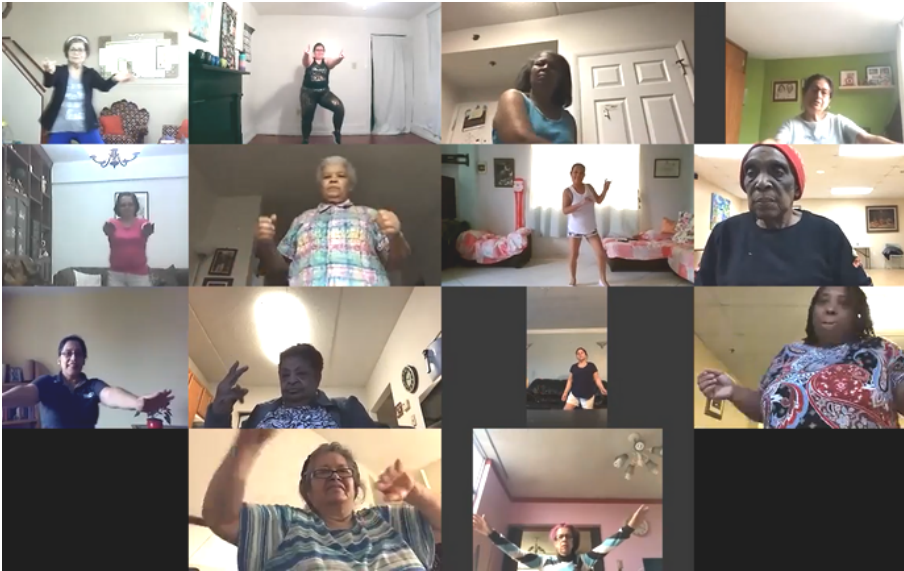
ESL Student



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

LOS ABUELOS PROGRAM

The Los Abuelos program served 21 seniors who live at Los Jardines, and an additional 69 seniors who live throughout New Castle County



PRE-COVID ACTIVITIES:

- Healthy food distributions
- Nutritional services
- Education sessions
- Group recreational activities
- Field trips

DURING COVID ACTIVITIES:

- Online Bingo
- Raffles
- Book club
- Zoom Zumba classes
- Arts and crafts
- Educational sessions with Christiana Hospital and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

90

SENIORS SERVED

291

ACTIVITIES OFFERED

IMPACT STORY

"I want to thank the Latin Center, Los Jardines and Bianca and now Yumira, for the collaboration that are having with us during the pandemic. That has really been of great support. We feel entertained and thanks to the food, it makes it more possible that we do not spend money and go through so much trouble at this stage. Thank you from the heart. It is very helpful to us since we don't have transportation. Others don't have work, others have no income, and so on. Thank you wholeheartedly".



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

WWW.THELATINCENTER.ORG

PREVENTION & ADVOCACY

HIV EARLY INTERVENTION

270

INDIVIDUALS
TESTED FOR
HIV/AIDS



The HIV Early Intervention Program was unable to offer testing from March to June due to COVID-19 regulations. Since resuming testing, however, the program team developed innovative ways to provide services in a safe and COVID-conscious manner.

PREVENTION PROMOTERS



94%

INCREASED
KNOWLEDGE
ABOUT DRUGS
AND ALCOHOL

The Prevention Promoters program provided education sessions to 67 community members, 94% of whom increased their knowledge about drugs and alcohol. The program hosted a total of 8 Alcohol or Drugs free events to promote alternative activities to substance use.

PREVENTION & ADVOCACY

CONEXIONES

ConeXiones advocates for rights of the Latino community by providing COVID-19 care, testing, vaccine distribution, education, and other resources that will empower them.



The ConeXiones Program aims to educate and inform the Latino community on their rights.

Throughout 2020, we held several virtual community engagement workshops on various topics such as "Know Your Rights," DACA, the U.S. Census 2020, election information, and COVID-19, with experts answering questions posed by community members.

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



In 2020, the LACC worked with the Social Justice Alliance -from charter school of Wilmington- (pictured here) to bring a vibrant mural to our Manuelita Olson Building on Harrison St.



In March, we also partnered with the Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia to bring a Mobile Consulate event for our clients in Wilmington.

PREVENTION & ADVOCACY

\$TAND BY ME (FINANCIAL LITERACY)

Jennesis Rodriguez who closed on her house in December 2020



"Jennesis worked hard to achieve her dream of owning a home with the help of her \$tand By Me coach"

76% OF OUR CLIENTS INCREASED OR INITIATED SAVINGS

85% OF OUR CLIENTS INCREASED THEIR CREDIT SCORES

440 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ONE-ON-ONE FINANCIAL COACHING

HEALTHY HOMES & HEALTHY FAMILIES

284

HOME RISK ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED

69

APPLICATIONS FOR SCREENING FOR LIFE AND HEALTH CARE CONNECTIONS COMPLETED

49

FAMILIES RECEIVED HEALTHY HOMES SAFE CLEANING SUPPLIES



143

INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED TO HEALTH SERVICES

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MARIA'S VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY BASH



While we were unable to have our Annual Grand Ball, we were still able to have a virtual fundraiser to celebrate Maria's 70th birthday and raise money for LACC COVID relief efforts..

MOBILIZING THE COMMUNITY



During the COVID-19 pandemic, our community jumped into action to provide for the needs of our clients. Between donating food and necessities, hosting their own fundraisers, participating in Adopt A Family, and lending their expertise to virtual events, the LACC is grateful for all of the support we have received over the past year.



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 Wilma I. Mederos
 Wilson Gualpa
 WSFS Bank
 Yash Pahwa
 YourCause, LLC
 Yvette Santiago

*We apologize for any names that may have been omitted from this list.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

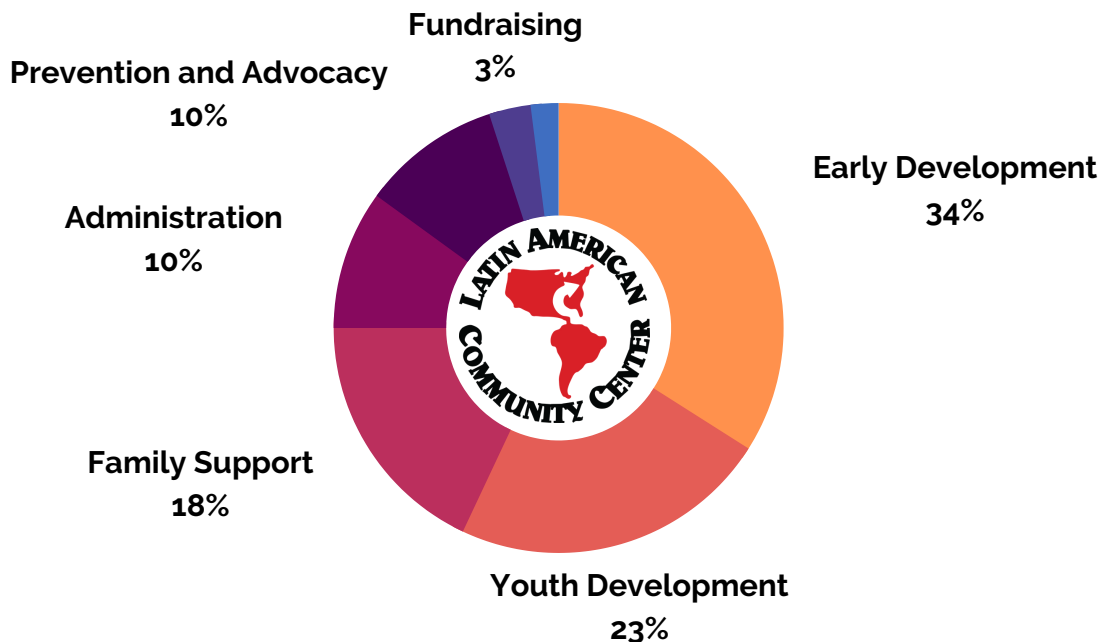
United Way	\$ 286,468
Federal Grants	\$ 1,823,858
State & Local Grant, Donations & Fees	\$ 4,928,200
Other Revenue	\$ 120,522
TOTAL	\$ 7,159,048

EXPENSES

Early Development	\$ 2,104,013
Youth Development	\$ 1,404,048
Adult Education	\$ 148,515
Family Support	\$ 1,147,872
Prevention and Advocacy	\$ 646,087
Fundraising	\$ 207,692
Administration	\$ 650,282
TOTAL	\$ 6,308,509

NET ASSETS (beginning of year)	\$ 1,829,040
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 850,539
NET ASSETS (end of year)	\$ 2,679,579

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS: WHISMAN GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, LLC



FINANCIALS

SERVICES

LIFELONG LEARNING

La Fiesta Early Development Center

- ECAP (Early Childhood Assistance Program)
- FACET (Families & Centers Empowered Together)
- Early Head Start Program

Youth Development

- Before and After School
- Summer Day Camp
- High School Credit Recovery
- Youth Achievement Center

LIFE EMPOWERMENT

Family Support Services

- Breastfeeding Peer Support Program
- Crisis Alleviation
- Victims of Crime Program
- Domestic Violence Program
- Workforce Development
- English as a Second Language
- Adult Digital Literacy
- Los Abuelos Program

Prevention & Advocacy

- ConeXiones
- Prevention Promoters
- HIV Early Intervention Program
- \$tand by Me Financial Literacy
- Healthy Families
- Healthy Homes





CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1969

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