



**HOPE**  
CommUnity Center  
Building Community. Enriching Lives.

# 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT







# Hope Provides a Pathway Towards Love & Success

*Yunion Ambrocio*

I am deeply grateful to you, the donors of Hope Community Center, because you have been a key part of my journey. My name is Yunion Ambrocio, and I am honored to share my story with you. My family and I moved to Apopka in 2005, but the transition for me was very difficult. I didn't know much English and found it difficult to make friends. I even thought about dropping out of school to simply begin working.

In 2006 I joined the tutoring program at Hope. I finally began feeling like I belonged the moment my grades began improving. During that time, I also became involved with Hope's *Sin Fronteras* youth group. There I learned how to get more involved with my community; Hope began to feel like my second home.

Hope also encouraged me to attend a college or university. I was motivated to continue my education, but my main obstacle was not having the necessary financial support. My parents could not afford to send me to college. With Hope's help, I was able to apply for and earn a scholarship, and I was so grateful because I could see my life changing for the better!

After high school, I volunteered in the Citizenship program where I helped other immigrants prepare their U.S. citizenship application. While teaching, I was also learning; I became a U.S. citizen in 2016! Thanks to Hope's support I have also completed degrees for my Assoc. of Arts, Assoc. of Science, and,

in July 2018, my license as a Registered Nurse. My dream is to earn my Master of Science in Nursing. I know I couldn't have accomplished these goals without the help of everyone at Hope.

***Yunion currently volunteers at Hope, assisting students who, much like himself, benefited from that extra little push to realize their postsecondary dreams.***



*Hope Community Center is a service learning community dedicated to the empowerment of Central Florida's immigrant and working poor communities through education, advocacy, and spiritual growth.*



*College graduates are celebrated every year at HCC's Senior High School Graduation.*

## Community Partners Nourish Central Florida Leaders

**Anallely Becerra** graduated with an AA from Seminole State College and will be attending Rollins College Hamilton Holt School in the fall of 2018.

**Agostina Bellini** graduated from UCF and is teaching at a local elementary school.

**Eli Garcia** graduated with a BSW from UCF, with financial assistance from the HCC Scholarship. Eli is currently a community organizer at Hope.

**Juan Carlos Morales** graduated with an AA from Seminole State College and will be attending UCF in the fall.

**Astrid Rodriguez** graduated with a B.A. from Rollins College Hamilton Holt School. She currently works at State Farm and will serve as a Board member at Hope.

**Amber Payne** graduated from USF with an M.A. and is currently working on her PhD. She was a *Sin Fronteras* Youth Group member and attended Kids Camp.

**Carlos Sanchez** graduated with a B.A. from Rollins College Hamilton Holt School and works at Verizon.

Local educational institutions- including Rollins College Hamilton Holt School, Seminole State College and Valencia College; IME becas from the Mexican Consulate in Orlando; and private donors help young leaders achieve their college dreams with scholarships.

Thank you new HCC grant partners!

Lucky's Market  
O'Neill Foundation  
Orlando Repertory Theatre  
Massey Services  
UF/IFAS Extension

Thank you for the coverage:

Telemundo Univision  
Apopka Chief Apopka Voice  
NPR  
Orlando Sentinel  
Spectrum News 13  
WFTV  
WMFE  
Telemundo Univision

Education • Advocacy • Spiritual Growth





# Brought Together By This Thing Called Hope

**212** children participated in summer enrichment programs provided by Hope, including Kids Camp, and Brightwood Summer Camp.

**5,871** Second Harvest Food Bank donated 5,871 meals that Hope served to low-income youth during summer programming, 855 meals more than the previous summer.

**100+** community members from South Apopka and Central Florida attended a Black History Month celebration featuring Dr. Kitty Oliver's presentation of story, song and embracing hope for racial understanding.

**200** students started off the school year right with donated backpacks and school supplies.

**500** community members had a warm, tasty Thanksgiving meal in the company of friends and family thanks to the Flor Foundation.

**450** families had a brighter Christmas. For the 43rd consecutive year, families shopped with dignity and raised money for Hope programming at the annual Toy Store.

**\$155,721** Students accessed \$155,721 in scholarship funds, including \$62,500 awarded through HCC scholarships, with assistance from Hope's College & Career Access team.

**1,200** Over 1,200 community members learned about their rights at Immigration Fairs, Know Your Rights workshops, and Dignity Plan workshops.

**59** HCC Citizenship Class participants became United States Citizens.

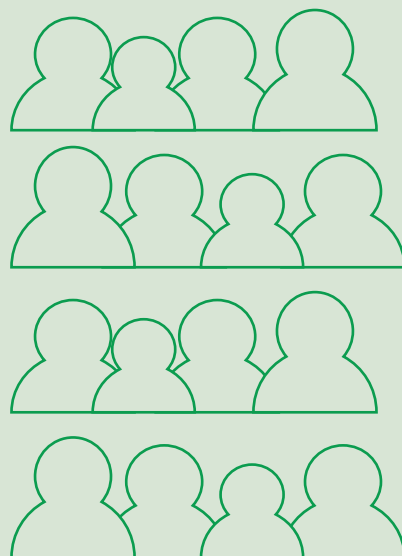
**9,145** 222 Service Learning participants from 16 educational institutions completed 9,145 hours of service.

**225** adults learned English-acquisition skills in HCC's ESOL program in its first year back since 2015. Of these students, 80% showed measurable improvements in English language proficiency.

## By the Numbers: 2017-18

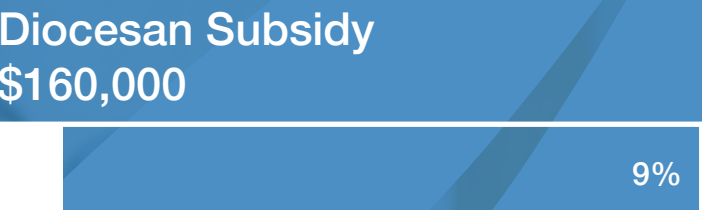
**6,500**

people were served at Hope in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Through social services, education, and advocacy, many lives were transformed!





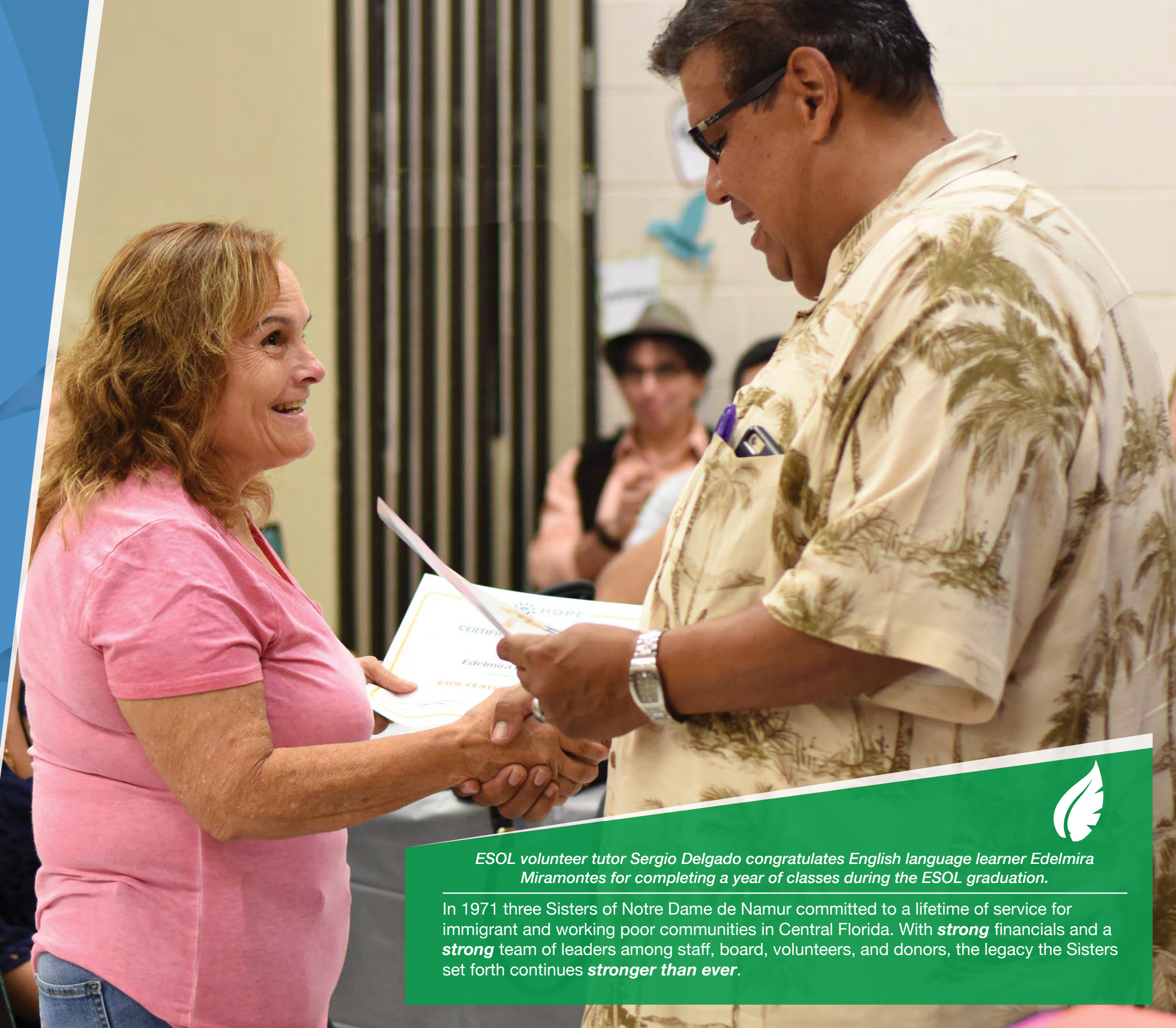
REVENUE \$1,768,355



EXPENSES \$1,604,492



A copy of our audit is available upon request. Current and previous annual reports, as well as a list of funders, are available at [hcc-offm](#).



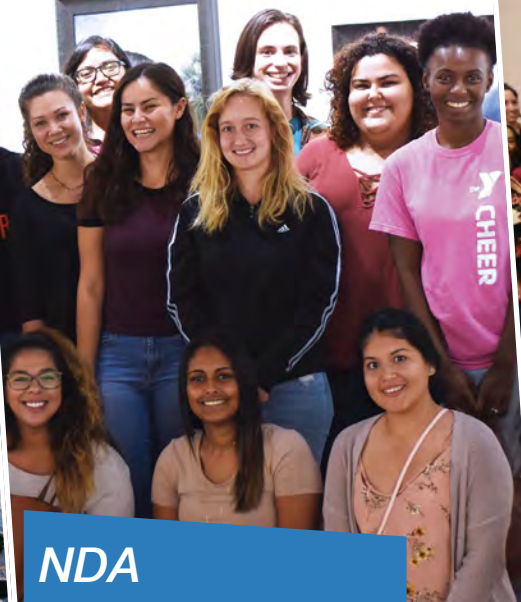
ESOL volunteer tutor Sergio Delgado congratulates English language learner Edelmira Miramontes for completing a year of classes during the ESOL graduation.

In 1971 three Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur committed to a lifetime of service for immigrant and working poor communities in Central Florida. With **strong** financials and a **strong** team of leaders among staff, board, volunteers, and donors, the legacy the Sisters set forth continues **stronger than ever**.





**Staff & Board**



**NDA**



**Volunteers**

### STAFF

Yenny Atuesta  
Dulce Barrera  
Anallely Becerra  
Ely Castillo  
Minerva Colón  
Lashae Copeland  
Ruth Cortes  
Abel Cortez  
Mariela Delgado  
Lynn Devanie  
Wendy Dominguez  
Reca Fernandez  
Laura Firtel  
Chris Furino  
Eli Garcia  
Sr. Ann Kendrick  
Roxana Martel  
Nilka Meléndez  
Maggi Noyes  
Elizabeth Ortel  
Karla Reyes  
Elizabeth Riebel  
Ivis Rodriguez  
Marlene Rodriguez  
Alejandra Salinas  
Alexander Saunders  
Jason Venning  
Teresa Young

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Almeida, Human Resources, Walt Disney Company  
Jean Bauman, Business Owner  
Mary Carroll, Licensed Mental Health Counselor  
Linda Landman Gonzalez, VP Orlando Magic  
Linda Ley-Siemer, Education Consultant  
Robert McIntosh, Retired Attorney  
Roxanne Rose, Rose Property Management  
Betsy Swart, Professor, U. of Southern California  
Maggie Woods, Retired School Principal, Seminole County

### Notre Dame AmeriCorps

Bianca Apollon  
Moniqua Cisneros  
Henry Goodman  
Sandra Hernández  
Elisabet Rivera  
Cristina Rodriguez  
Marisela Zamora

10,200

*Seven of the 21 Notre Dame AmeriCorps served at HCC, providing 10,200 hours of service.*

3,003

*In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, HCC's board contributed 3,003 hours of volunteer service across HCC's programs.*

### Volunteers

*HCC is able to fulfill its mission because of thousands of amazing volunteers.*

9,100

*1,060 volunteers and certified consultants contributed 9,100 hours of service, valued at over \$300,000.*



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