

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025



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[www.iskali.org](http://www.iskali.org) | [www.casaiskali.org](http://www.casaiskali.org)



## WHO WE ARE

**Iskali empowers young Latinos by providing them with high-quality faith-based formation, guiding them to become transformative leaders.**

We meet Latinos where they are, recognizing their unique talents and creating a space where they feel they truly belong. We believe in the strength of our young people and the power of faith and community to help them reach their full potential. Our programs are designed to support their growth in all areas of life, offering faith-awakening retreats, small group communities, mentorship, scholarships, leadership, community college outreach, and development

## OUR APPROACH



**Faith & Community**

We promote spiritual growth and build supportive communities, helping individuals connect with their faith and make a meaningful impact.



**Mentorship & Scholarship**

We assist first-gen Latino students with financial aid and guidance, awarding 102 scholarships in 3 years to encourage academic and personal growth.



**Sports & Wellness**

Our programs, such as volleyball, basketball, and 5k runs, enhance physical health and strengthen community bonds through active lifestyles.



**Service to those in need**

We provide monthly support to those in need in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Indiana, offering essential aid and fostering community compassion.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Timothy Matovina  
**Co-Chair**

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**Board Treasurer**

**Members:**

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Vicente Del Real  
Zuly Gomez  
Elizabeth Sandoval  
Cabrera  
Giselle Campos  
Deborah Sanchez  
Edgar De la Cerda  
Jose Carlos Sandoval

Dear friends of Iskali,

As we come to the close of this year and celebrate the 15th anniversary of Iskali, our hearts are filled with gratitude. What began as a simple act of faith has grown into a community that continues to accompany young people, families, and parishes with hope. None of this would be possible without you.

First and above all, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness and providence. We also place this milestone under the loving care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who has guided and protected Iskali from the very beginning. Through her intercession, we continue to entrust this mission and all the people it serves.

We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors for their steady guidance, wisdom, and generosity. Their leadership has helped Iskali grow with integrity, remain faithful to its mission, and take bold steps forward while staying rooted in our values.

To all of our donors and friends, thank you for believing in this mission and for investing in the lives of young people. Your generosity has allowed Iskali to respond to real needs and to continue forming leaders grounded in faith, service, and community. Every gift has made a tangible difference.

Because of your support, this year we were able to launch the Iskali Missionary Program, expanding our presence in parishes and deepening our accompaniment of young adults. We also created an Emergency Fund to respond quickly to families facing sudden hardship, offering support in moments of great vulnerability. At the same time, our small faith communities grew to 28 communities, gathering weekly and touching hundreds of lives through prayer, formation, and shared commitment.

As we mark 15 years of Iskali, we do so with humility and hope. We are grateful for all that has been accomplished and confident that God will continue to guide this mission into the future.

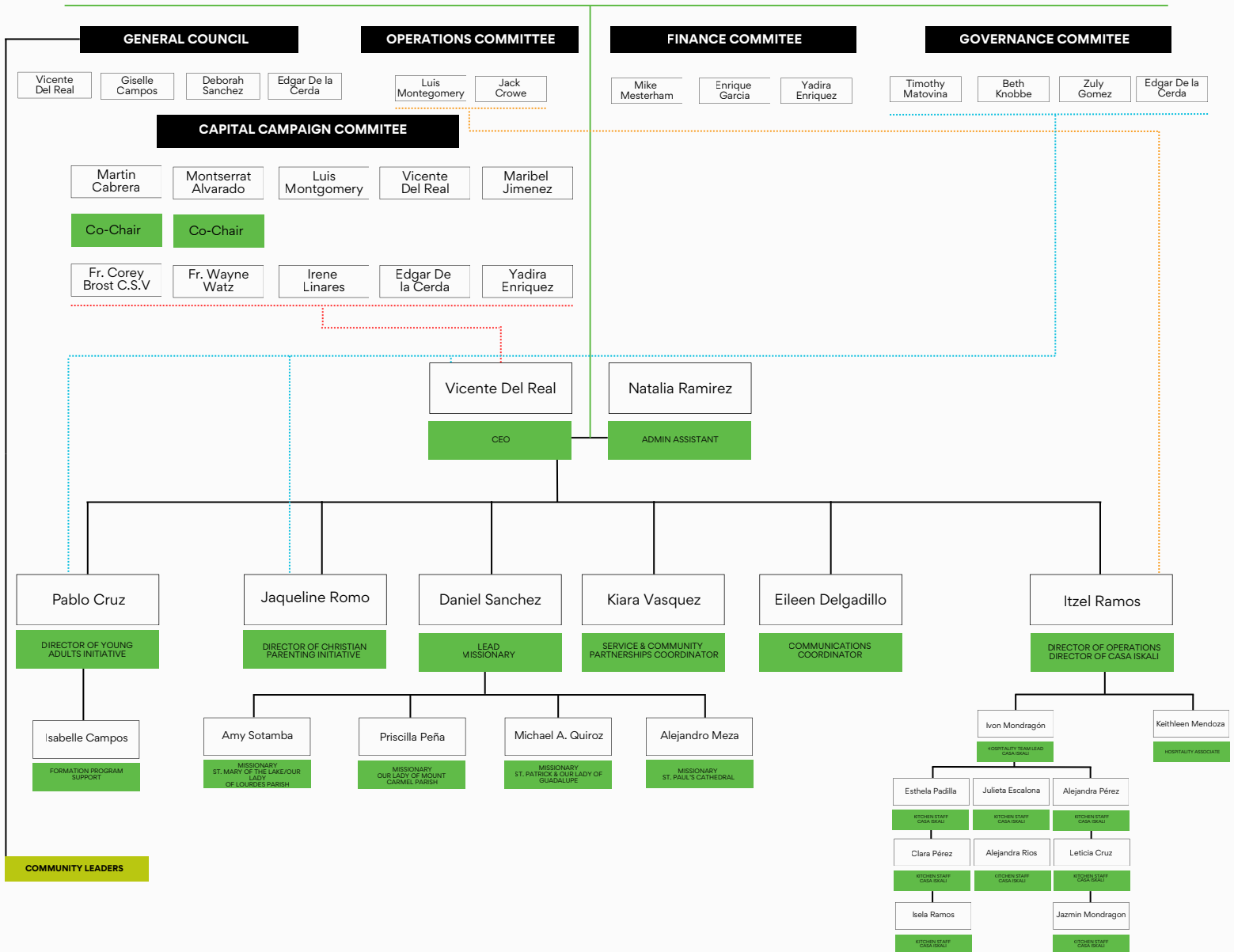
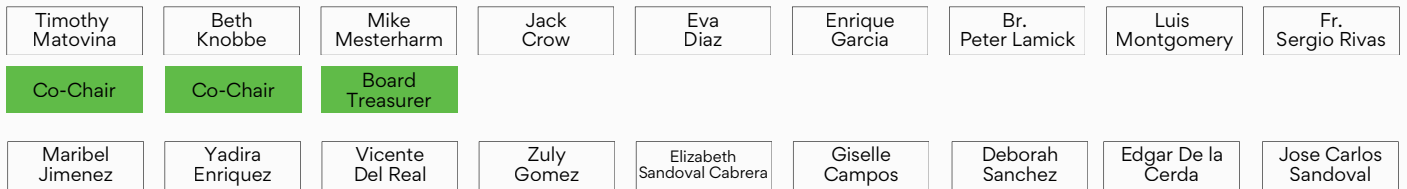
Thank you for walking with us, for your prayers, and for your continued trust. May God bless you abundantly, and may Our Lady of Guadalupe continue to intercede for you and your families.

With deep gratitude,  
Vicente Del Real  
Founder and CEO, Iskali

# OUR TEAM



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# OUR IMPACT

We revealed powerful moments of encounter, service and leadership growth. Across **6 retreats** and the 2025 Iskali Conference, we accompanied more than **526 total new participants**. These gatherings not only introduced new young adults to the Iskali mission but also deepened the commitment of those already journey through formation.

## ISKALI CONFERENCE

The 2025 Iskali Conference brought together over **150 participants**, creating a powerful moment of collective mission. Several young adults shared that meeting other leaders from different communities gave them renewed purpose and encouraged them to take ownership of their faith journey.



## RETREATS

At the Discipleship Retreat, we gathered **49 participants**, we witnessed young adults stepping into leadership, facilitating small groups, giving talks, and leading prayer experiences. Many expressed that this retreat confirmed their desire to serve their parishes, families, and communities with greater intentionality.



## SERVICE

These moments would have been made possible without the **118 volunteers** and servers who supported our retreats. Their dedication, often serving long hours, leading worship, cooking meals, and mentoring younger participants, became a living testimony of what it means to serve with love.





6

RETREATS

RETREAT PARTICIPANTS

318

INITIATION



49

DISCIPLESHIP

118

LEADERS WHO SERVED

28



FORMATION PROGRAMS

53

ISKALI 101 STUDENTS



28

COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHT

This past year, Jazmine answered God’s call to form a space for young adults at St. Procopius in Pilsen, a neighborhood filled with jóvenes but few present at Mass. With support from Fr. Louis, Vicente, and the JP11 community team, a leadership circle emerged, and by November 2024 the community officially launched with weekly gatherings focused on adoration, fellowship, and formation inspired by Iskali’s pillars.

Within weeks, young adults began showing up diverse in stories, united in their desire to grow in faith. What started as a dream quickly became a steady community. This year, the ministry was formally established, expanding its leadership team to include Lalo and Tony as Guías, Elsa as coordinator, and continued leadership from Diana and Citlally.

Pilsen now has a thriving community for young adults, a community being formed, healed, and led toward Christ. With gratitude for what God has begun, we look forward to the continued growth and impact in this neighborhood.



## COMMUNITY

## HIGHLIGHT

In 2025, the St. Dominic Iskali community experienced extraordinary growth and renewal. What began the year with 8-10 regular attendees quickly blossomed into a vibrant, Spirit-filled community of nearly **30 committed members** gathering weekly. Even more powerful than the growth in numbers was the depth of commitment: members didn't just show up, they invested. They volunteered across parish ministries, prioritized intentional time together outside of community, worked together in fundraisers and embraced one another as family. **8 members** lived their Initiation Retreats in March and August, igniting a strong desire for other community members to live their retreats in the year ahead. **7 members** of the community are also involved in the OCIA and Religious Education programs at the parish.

As the community matured, its unity, ownership, and leadership became unmistakable. Members joyfully worked together to fundraise, celebrate milestones, and build lasting bonds through shared meals, outings, and celebrations. When the community outgrew its meeting space, still, about 30 members showed up to clean and prepare a new room (some even bringing snacks and desserts) laying a foundation not just for a physical space, but for the future of the community itself. Through Bible studies, powerful temas, retreats, guest speakers, mental health reflections, and fellowship, faith came alive. This season of growth allowed us to finally form an official Coordination Table and representation on the Parish Council, marking St. Dominic Iskali as a thriving, faith-filled community on fire for Christ and poised to continue transforming lives within the parish.



## SCHOLARSHIP

### IMPACT

Melissa Parra is one of this year's Iskali scholarship recipients, a driven young leader whose story reflects perseverance, purpose, and service. A senior at Loyola University Chicago and the oldest of three siblings, Melissa carries the values of her Latino upbringing with pride: faith, hard work, and commitment to family and community.

Her academic journey began at Arrupe College, where she first discovered her passions and developed leadership skills through involvement on campus. Now pursuing a Psychology degree at Loyola, Melissa has earned a place on the Dean's List for all four years of college, demonstrating her dedication and excellence in the classroom.

Melissa dreams of becoming a first responder and ultimately a detective, driven by a desire to serve and protect her community. In Iskali, she has found a space that has nurtured her personal and spiritual growth — reminding her that leadership begins with connection and community.

Melissa shares that the Iskali scholarship has played a meaningful role in her journey, helping her continue her studies and live out her purpose. Her story embodies our mission to form young leaders who use their gifts in service of others.



25

Scholarship  
Recipients



21

Universities

**“My role in Iskali has been centered around being part of the community and growing personally alongside other Iskali members. This experience has been incredibly meaningful to me, and I believe it will help prepare me for future leadership roles in society.”**



**STORIES OF SUCCESS**

**MELISSA PARRA**

# HOLY FAMILY INITIATIVE

**1** RETREAT   **22** SERVERS   **33** PARTICIPANTS   **30** FAMILIES

*“Mom, I wish there was a retreat for parents.” And God listened because this year, Iskali opened that door for us. My husband and I were blessed to live that experience together.”*

This year Iskali families experienced renewed unity through the Initiation Retreat for Parents. These encounters created sacred space for healing, reflection, and deeper connection within their marriages and family life.

Young Iskali families especially those in the early stages of matrimony and parenthood discovered the importance of community and walking alongside other couples who share the same faith and values. Throughout the year, over **50 families** were served through this initiative.

As a fruit of these encounters, many parents stepped forward as leaders and are now preparing to guide and lead future retreats. More families are intentionally placing Jesus at the center of their homes, strengthening their foundations, their marriages, and their role as parents within a holy family. Through this formation, families are being empowered to build their own domestic church. This transformation is a direct fruit of the encounter and the continued support of the Iskali Holy Family community.



# MISSIONARY PROGRAM

The Iskali Missionary Program is the fruit of more than 15 years of volunteer service carried out by countless young adults within the Latino community in Chicago and neighboring cities. This program does not begin something new from scratch; rather, it builds upon the work the Holy Spirit has already initiated within the Iskali ecosystem of support.

## What the Program Offers

Through this initiative, Iskali forms full-time missionaries who dedicate themselves entirely to empowering young Latinos to become transformative leaders and missionary disciples.

Being a full-time missionary means living with radical availability to uplift the dignity and responsibility of their brothers and sisters in faith and to help parishes become true homes of missionary discipleship.

In recent years, Iskali has spread across the Midwest: Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Minnesota. Yet throughout the United States, thousands of young Latinos are still searching for what Iskali offers:

- a place to grow in faith and community
- a sense of belonging
- the formation needed to live as a missionary disciples

Many communities lack the spiritual, human, and structural resources that have allowed Iskali to thrive. Our Missionary Program exists to bridge this gap and respond to this urgent need.



**Daniel Sanchez**  
**Lead Missionary**

This year, Iskali welcomed Danny Sanchez as our Lead Missionary. He will guide and accompany young Latino adults discerning the missionary call. With over a decade of experience in youth and young adult ministry, including parish retreats, international pilgrimages, migrant outreach, and hospital chaplaincy, Danny brings both depth and passion to the mission. Rooted in the Father's unconditional love, his heart is set on forming missionaries who serve with compassion, healing, and hope.

# THE NEED

The Iskali Missionary Apostolate is the fruit of 15 years of Spirit-led service among young Latinos. We now send full-time missionaries across the U.S. to help parishes become homes of missionary discipleship. Each missionary begins with a three-week boot camp in human, theological, spiritual, and ministerial formation, followed by ongoing accompaniment, empowering a new generation of Catholic leaders to renew the Church and transform culture for Christ.

**16,279**

Catholic parishes in the US.

**4,479**

of those (about 28%) offer one or more masses in Spanish.

**2,760**

Latino presence or ministry even if they don't currently offer Spanish-language Masses.

**49%**

of U.S. Latinos now identify as religious unaffiliated.

While 28% of parishes (4,479) have Spanish Masses which is a strong indicator of a significant Hispanic population. The additional 2,760 parishes with Hispanic ministry suggests that roughly 7,200+ parishes (about 44%) have meaningful Hispanic ministry presence in some form.

**Michael A. Quiroz**

St. Patrick & Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Milwaukee, WI)

**Priscilla Peña:**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (Melrose Park, IL)

**Alejandro Meza**

St. Paul's Cathedral, (Yakima, WA)

**Amy Sotamba**

St. Mary of the Lake & Our Lady of Lourdes Parish (Northside Chicago, IL)



# MENTORSHIP

Iskali's **Mentorship Program** offers one-on-one support to young Latinos as they navigate college and establish their professional life.

Next year, we are excited to relaunch Iskali's Mentorship Program. This initiative offers one-on-one support to young Latinos as they navigate college and establish their professional life. The program creates space for growth, connection, and shared learning through meaningful mentor-mentee relationships.

We invite both mentors and mentees to participate. For mentors, this is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community by sharing your experience, guidance, and encouragement. For mentees, the program provides valuable support as you pursue your academic and career goals.

We look forward to welcoming everyone who is ready to learn, lead, and grow together.



## KIARA VASQUEZ

### **Service & Community Partnerships Coordinator**

This year, Iskali welcomed Kiara Vasquez to our team as Service & Community Partnerships Coordinator. Guided by a heart for service, Kiara strengthens the way we accompany our community by connecting our young adults to opportunities that inspire leadership, compassion, and impact. She facilitates service days, builds partnerships with local organizations, and has played a key role in launching our Emergency Relief Fund, while also supporting the re-launch of our Mentorship Program.

# SERVICE

6

Service Days

05

Served organizations

56,050

Total volunteer hours

4,500

Weekly Iskali  
Community  
Planning

45,000

Retreat  
Execution

6,000

Retreat Prep

550

Serving those in  
need



## SPORTS & WELLNESS



Each week

45

young adults engage in  
Iskali sports league.





# CASA ISKALI

Casa Iskali strives to be,  
“A space where everyone  
can feel welcomed,  
loved, forgiven, and  
encouraged”

(Evangelli Gaudium, 114)

Casa Iskali offers a welcoming environment for  
retreats, spiritual renewal, and community.

## 2025 IMPACT

**18,626**  
Plates served

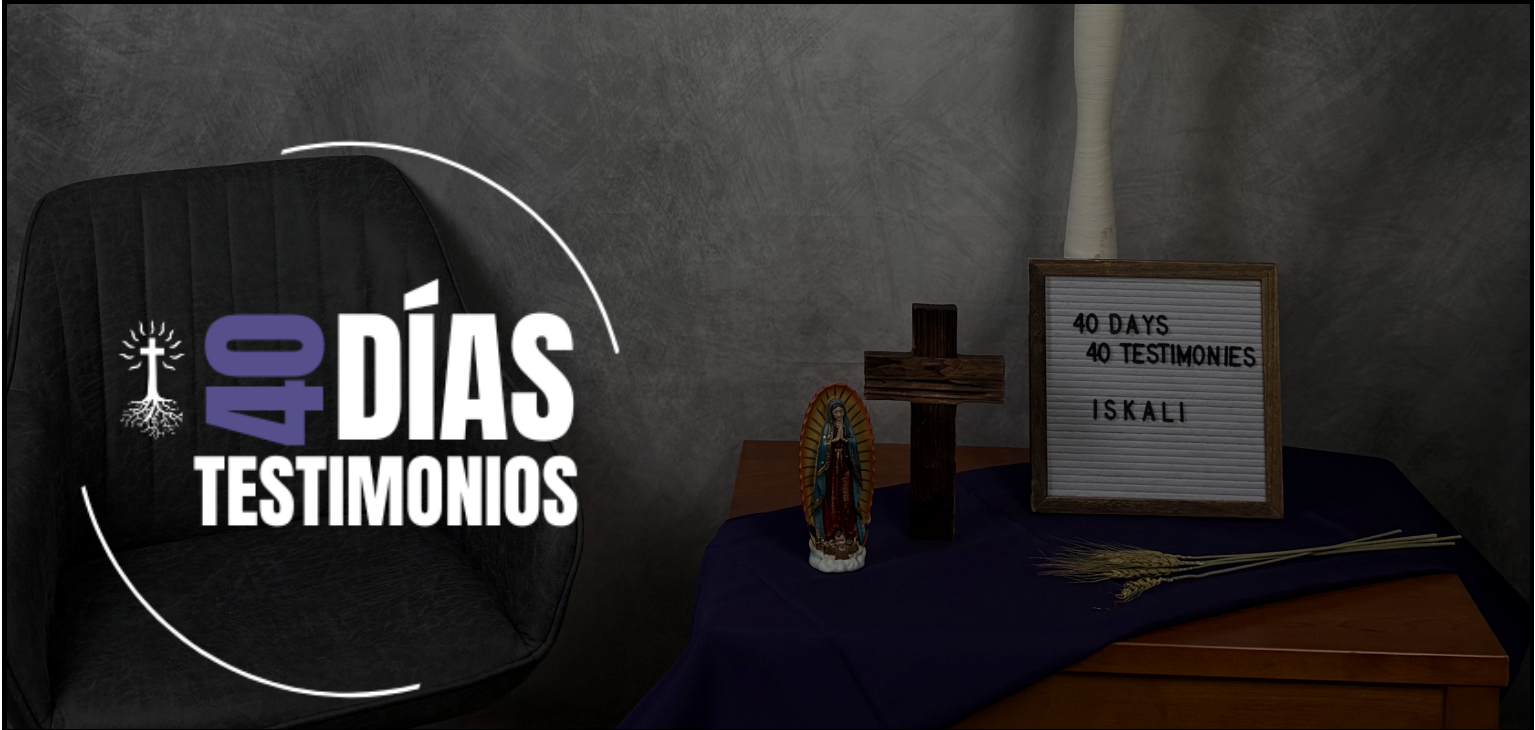
**37**  
Adults

**2429**  
Young Adults

**1163**  
Adults

**3595**  
Guests





**This past Lent 2025, we were blessed to share something truly special: the 40 Días, 40 Testimonios campaign. It became a journey of grace, growth, and transformation as we lifted up the personal stories of young adults from the Iskali community—stories that reflected God’s presence moving in real and powerful ways.**

Each story was an invitation to witness the power of God’s love at work in the lives of people just like us. Real stories. Real change. Looking back now, we are filled with gratitude for what God has done through this campaign.

Throughout Lent, our digital presence continued to grow. In 2024, our content received over 120,000 views, and in 2025, that reach expanded to more than 166,000 people across Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Yet the numbers don’t tell the full story. This wasn’t just about reach—it was about the hearts we touched and the connections we built.

Social media became a platform for something more meaningful: a space where young adults could find hope, share in the testimonies of others, and feel part of a larger community of faith. Through likes, comments, shares, and personal messages, we saw how deeply these stories resonated. People weren’t just viewing the content—they were engaging.

At the heart of this campaign was community. Iskali is not just about individuals—it is about walking together in faith, supporting one another, and growing as a family in Christ. These testimonies reminded us that we are not alone on this journey; we are united in a shared mission to serve others, share God’s love, and live out our faith in real and tangible ways.

As these stories were shared, we also invited others to join us in this mission—to be part of something greater than themselves, to take the next step in serving others, growing in faith, and sharing their own testimonies of God’s goodness. While Lent 2025 may have come to a close, the mission continues. We pray that the impact of this campaign will be long-lasting, inspiring lives rooted in joy, service, and love. And as we look ahead with hope, we cannot wait to witness the stories that 2026 will bring.



Scan to watch!

# ISKALI EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

To respond with compassion and walk with families in moments of uncertainty, Iskali launched our **Emergency Relief Fund** to accompany those directly affected by immigration enforcement actions. Rooted in our mission of encounter and solidarity, this fund allows us to stand beside families when they need it most making sure no one carries their burden alone.

Through immediate assistance for groceries, food for children, rent, and utilities, we hope to provide not just financial support, but peace, dignity, and the reassurance that the Church is family.

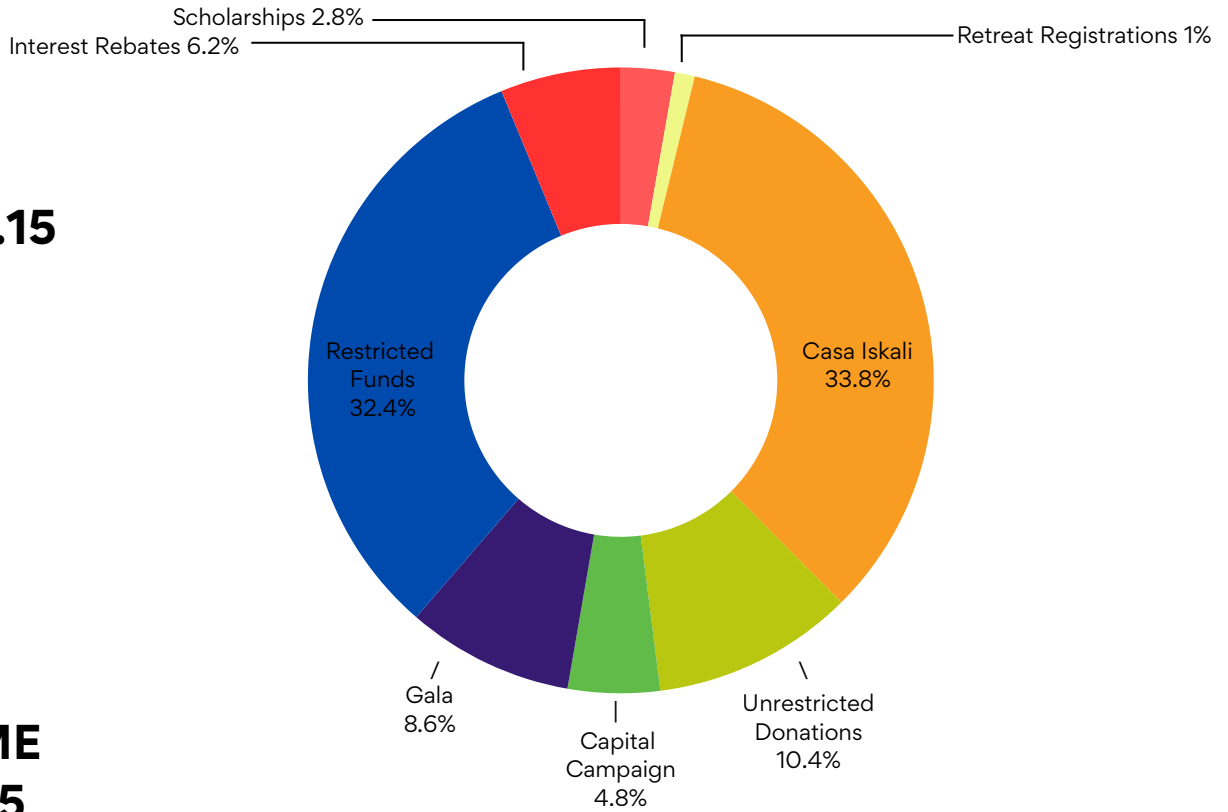
This year, over **60 families** have been supported through this effort, each encounter reminding us of Christ's invitation to be present, listen, and love. We also hosted **two service days**, visiting homes, sharing meals, praying together, and building relationships that go deeper than aid relationships marked by hope, community, and the promise that we accompany one another through every season.



Scan to learn more  
about Iskali's work!

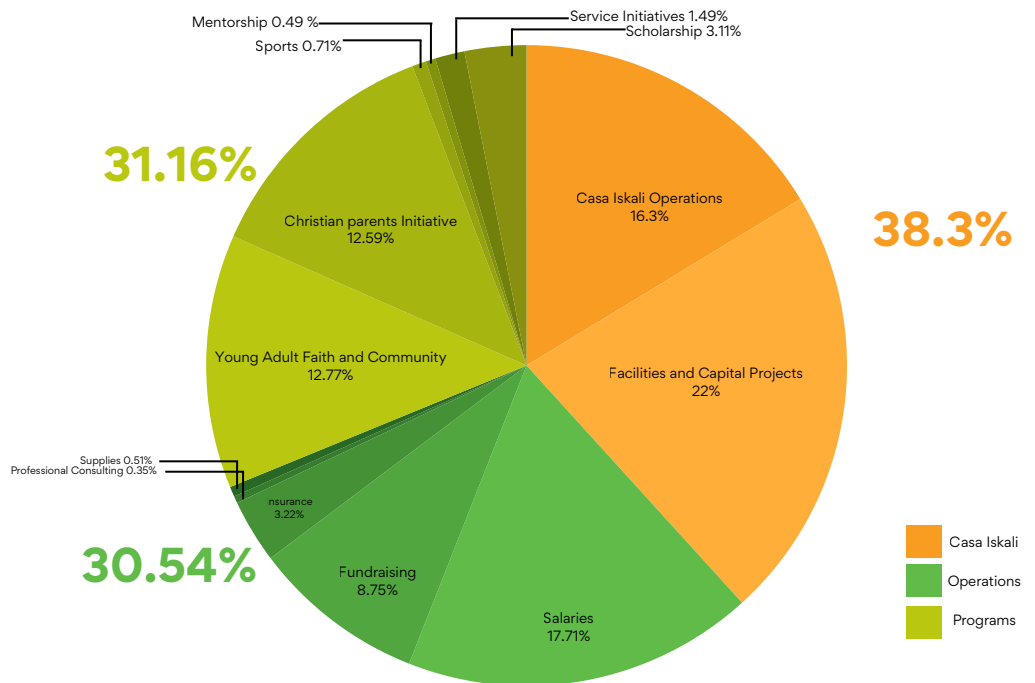
# 2025 EXPENSES

**INCOME**  
**\$1,805,982.15**



**NET INCOME**  
**\$196,312.65**

**EXPENSES**  
**\$1,609,669.50**



In **2025**, Iskali invested \$100,000 in grants to parishes, empowering them to create spaces where young adults could encounter community, faith, and belonging.

# ISKALI THANKS YOU!

## MONTHLY DONORS

Karla Garibay  
Diana Lara  
Daniel Chavez-Leanos  
Liz Saucedo  
Lucas Mrdak  
Fatima Orozco  
Diego Guerrero  
Juan Pablo Martinez  
Kiara Vasquez  
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Fastlane Video  
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Altagracia Sanchez Del Real

Altagracia Sanchez Del Real  
Natalie Sarracino  
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Jaime Gonzalez  
Braulio Castellanos

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Forma Architecture  
CIBC  
Wintrust Commercial Banking  
Clifford Law Offices  
Ambas Financial Services, LLC  
CRG  
Cabrera Capital Markets LLC  
Miramar Mechanical Group  
Enriquez Produce  
Geometric Home Builders  
Chula Vista Imports

## OTHER DONORS

Lilly Endowment Inc  
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Institute for  
Church Life  
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(James and Molly Perry)  
Anonymous  
Rivers Cives  
Cabrera Capital Markets  
José & Luz Maribel Jiménez

Calvin University  
Enríquez Produce Inc.  
Clerics Of St. Viator  
Knights of Columbus  
Friends of Young Adults Ministry  
Westlake Foundation  
Helen Brach Foundation



### Partnerships & Support

We are grateful for the generous funding and collaboration of the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, and Santa Clara University, whose support strengthens our mission and formation programs. We also deeply appreciate all the donors who contribute to our Capital Campaign and ongoing work. For further information, please contact [assistant@iskali.org](mailto:assistant@iskali.org).



# 2026

## ISKALI EVENTS

### JANUARY

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- ▶ 4-25 Missionary Training
- ▶ 16-18 Kickoff Retreat

### FEBRUARY

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

- ▶ 14 Service Day

### MARCH

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- ▶ 13-15 Initiation Retreat
- ▶ 21 Service Day

### APRIL

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27	28	29	30			

- ▶ 11-12 Holy Family Retreat
- ▶ 18 Service Day

### MAY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- ▶ 9 Service Day
- ▶ 15-17 Initiation Retreat
- ▶ 30 Leadership Training

### JUNE

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- ▶ 12-14 Initiation Retreat
- ▶ 20 Iskali Picnic Run

### JULY

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27	28	29	30	31		

- ▶ 11 Service Day with Holy Family
- ▶ 23-26 Iskali Conference

### AUGUST

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
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						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- ▶ 8 Service Day
- ▶ 21-23 Initiation Retreat

### SEPTEMBER

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- ▶ 12 Holy Family Camp
- ▶ 19 Service Day

### OCTOBER

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- ▶ 3 Iskali Fall Fest
- ▶ 9-11 Discipleship Retreat

### NOVEMBER

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- ▶ 13 Celebrando La Juventud Gala

### DECEMBER

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- ▶ 5 Encuentro De Comunidades
- ▶ 11 Iskali Pilgrimage

