



# 2025 Yearly Report

[ksspanishspeakers.org](https://ksspanishspeakers.org)

## In this report

Our mission is to increase equity and bridge language and cultural barriers by providing essential resources, education, and advocacy. We work with Spanish and English speakers across Kansas with a focus in these areas:

- I. Education
- II. Healthy Living
- III. Workforce Development
- IV. Service

## 2025 Impact

# 750+

individuals served statewide



Querida comunidad,

As we look back on this past year, I'm filled with gratitude for the people who make Kansas Spanish Speakers what it is: learners, volunteers, partners, donors, and neighbors who believe that we can build stronger, more connected communities.

This year reaffirmed something we've known from the beginning—language is not just a skill, it's a bridge. Through classes, community events, and new initiatives across Kansas, we saw firsthand how shared language creates trust, opens doors, and helps communities grow with intention rather than fear.

We also took meaningful steps forward as an organization—strengthening our programs, expanding our reach beyond Emporia, and laying the groundwork for long-term sustainability. None of this happens by accident. It happens because people choose to show up, to learn, and to invest in a more connected Kansas.

This report offers a snapshot of that work and the momentum behind it. Thank you for being part of this journey and we are excited to continue our work together in the year to come.

Con gratitud,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'LeLan Dains'.

LeLan Dains  
Founder & Executive Director  
Emporia Spanish Speakers

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## Sí, ¿Cómo no?

# I. Education



At Kansas Spanish Speakers, we believe education is the foundation for opportunity, connection, and empowerment. Our programs are designed to meet learners where they are—whether developing English or Spanish language skills, building literacy, or gaining practical knowledge for daily life and work. Through interactive classes, community learning experiences, and culturally relevant programming, we help individuals expand their skills, confidence, and access to opportunities. By investing in education, we are strengthening both individuals and the broader community.



## WORKSHOPS ACROSS KANSAS

This year, we brought learning directly into communities across the state to help break down social barriers and strengthen cross-cultural relationships.

- **145 Kansans served**
- **600+ total hours of learning**



## COMPUTER LITERACY

In partnership with the Emporia Library, we launched our first Computer Literacy course offered entirely in Spanish.

- **10 individuals gained critical digital skills to help them develop professionally**



## LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Our monthly Language Exchange and Café y Conversación programs help both English and Spanish speakers practice language and build bridges through communication.

- **70+ Native English and Spanish speakers participated**
- **500+ combined hours of language practice**



“Kansas Spanish Speakers turned what felt overwhelming into something possible. Their support, guidance, and genuine welcome made all the difference for us.”

- Juan Pablo O.

## II. Healthy Living



At Kansas Spanish Speakers, we believe healthy communities start with access, inclusion, and movement. In 2025, we expanded our efforts to create opportunities for physical health, emotional well-being, and community connection.



### VAMOS A EXPLORAR: EXPLORING NATURE TOGETHER

Since March, we've introduced over 80 people to green spaces, parks, trails, and recreational spaces through our Vamos a Explorar program. This adds up to:

- **Nearly 600 hours of outdoor exercise**



### ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Latinos in Kansas are 2x more likely to be uninsured. We're addressing this critical need:

- **72 community members have health insurance or are in the process of obtaining it**



### FLINT HILLS MALL WALKING PROGRAM

In partnership with the Adult Learning Center, we launched a 6-week mall walking program for more than a dozen participants that delivered more than fitness:

- **130+ miles walked and 100+ hours of exercise**
- **Half a high school credit earned toward graduation**



### WOMEN'S CIRCLE: ENRICHING WOMEN'S WELLBEING

In 2025, we expanded this program with a second group to meet growing demand.

- **To date, 18 women have received emotional support and connection**



"Getting my immigration documents with the help of Kansas Spanish Speakers changed everything. I finally feel safe, recognized, and able to plan for my future. Their support made the impossible possible."

- Marielos

# III. Workforce Development



At Kansas Spanish Speakers, we believe that strong communities are built on opportunities for meaningful work and career growth. Our workforce development initiatives are designed to equip community members with the skills, resources, and confidence they need to succeed in today's job market. By investing in people's potential, we're helping both individuals and our community thrive.



## **JOB SEARCH & EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT**

From professional training and mentorship to support navigating employment systems, we focus on breaking down barriers and creating pathways to economic stability.

- **Assisted nearly 400 individuals with unemployment applications & weekly filing**
- **Supported 319 individuals with job searches and applications**
- **Assisted 116 community members with resume-building**
- **Co-hosted 3 job fairs**
- **Connected 400+ community members with employers**



## **BUILDING ENTREPRENEURS**

Mi Negocio Academy, a collaboration with the Emporia Chamber of Commerce, teaches Spanish-speaking community members how to start their own business.

- **13 individuals enrolled in our 5-class entrepreneurship course**



## **IMMIGRATION SUPPORT**

- **Assisted 19 individuals in completing immigration processes that allow them to reside and work in our community**



"Mi Negocio Academy helped me turn a dream into a business. The guidance and support I received changed my future."

- Gabbi C.

## IV. Serving Our Community



At Kansas Spanish Speakers, we believe that real connection happens when we show up—not just for our own programs, but for the wider community we’re proud to be a part of. We’re proud to work alongside so many incredible organizations and individuals who are equally committed to building a more inclusive and compassionate Emporia.



### SERVING ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Each month, our team members volunteer their time and energy at local events, lending a hand, building relationships, and supporting efforts that lift up our neighbors. Whether it’s serving community members at the Catholic Charities Resource Bus at St. Catherine’s, helping with free laundry services at Laundry Love by Newman Regional Health, or being present at cultural events such as Cinco de Mayo, we’re there.



### STEPPING UP IN MOMENTS OF NEED

At a time when vital assistance was being threatened, we stepped in to help ensure families did not go without food.

- **200+ boxes of food delivered valued at approximately \$50 per box**
- **Nearly \$10,000 in food assistance provided**



### LEADING INCLUSION STATEWIDE

Kansas Spanish Speakers was proud to play an instrumental role in helping Emporia become the first community in Kansas to achieve Welcoming Certified status, demonstrating our commitment to inclusion, belonging, and cross-cultural connection.

# Looking Ahead: The Work Continues

As we close out 2025, one truth remains stronger than ever: when we come together, our community thrives. Across every program—from education and workforce development to health initiatives, cultural celebrations, and Welcoming Certified efforts—Kansas Spanish Speakers continues to show up, create bridges, and foster belonging.

This report captures just a portion of the incredible work happening throughout our community. None of it would be possible without the dedication of our team, the generosity of our partners, and the trust of the people we serve. To everyone who has walked alongside us—gracias.

Looking forward, our commitment is unwavering. We will continue to listen, adapt, and respond to the evolving needs of our neighbors, creating spaces where connection, learning, and opportunity flourish. With your continued support, the work doesn't stop here—the journey toward stronger, more inclusive, and thriving communities is ongoing.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and for helping us ensure that Kansas remains a place where everyone can belong.

With gratitude,  
The Kansas Spanish Speakers Team



**Donate Online Now**



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**LeLan Dains**



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## *Sí, ¿Cómo no?*