Working families deserve to live in affordable homes and own successful small businesses – but too many are unable to turn these dreams into a reality.

At LEDC, we equip Latinos and other underserved communities in the DC and Baltimore metropolitan areas with the skills and financial tools to create a better future for their families and communities. Participants in our programs learn how to buy and stay in their homes, take control of the decisions affecting their apartment buildings, and start or expand small businesses.

The entire Washington and Baltimore regions are stronger when all families have the power to achieve financial independence and join with their neighbors to improve their quality of life.
Leveraging Connections

2015 was a year of leveraging connections. LEDC understands that on the pathway to success no one goes it alone. We know that our clients’ success and our impact is rooted in our connections with our partners, supporters, and collaborators. It is these connections that make everyone who touches LEDC a part of our community. The stories featured here show how LEDC connected with the determination and talent of our clients to achieve great things with them, their families, and their neighborhoods.

It is the connection and collaboration between our organization, our clients, and our partners in the community that led to these and many more successes in 2015. These connections lay the groundwork for opportunities for ‘éxito’ in 2016 and beyond!

Leveraging Nonprofit Connections to Purchase Their First Home

The connection between our partners in the community organization, our clients, and LEDC understands that it is the connection and collaboration that makes everyone who touches LEDC a part of our community. The stories featured here show how LEDC connected with the determination and talent of our clients to achieve great things with them, their families, and their neighborhoods. It is the connection and collaboration between our organization, our clients, and our partners in the community that led to these and many more successes in 2015. These connections lay the groundwork for opportunities for ‘éxito’ in 2016 and beyond.

Residents Connecting to Secure Safe and Affordable Housing

Cynthia lived in her rent-controlled building for 6 years. She was grateful for affordable housing but issues with her electricity, water, and the building’s security became apparent early on. Her building’s owners would not address any of her or her neighbors’ concerns and instead notified them that their rent would be increased by 18%.

Cynthia and her fellow tenants immediately sought assistance from LEDC staff who connected them with a pro-bono lawyer. Together they filed an objection to the rent increase, which the landlord had filed as a “hardship petition.”

“I cannot express my gratitude enough for LEDC and I think that (LEDC’s) work here is very important.”

- CYNTHIA

The landlords informed the tenants that their building would be put up for sale. Our organizers then transitioned to assist tenants with the sale of their building by helping them navigate the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) process. Cynthia and her neighbors decided they would select a third-party purchaser and not purchase the buildings in a co-op. They shared their wants and needs with their selected buyer and were able to negotiate affordable rents for all 55 of their units.

Connecting with Community Resources for Business Success

“My experiences with LEDC have been great. I’ve been with them for six years and I’ll continue to work with them even if I don’t need another loan.”

- ADELA

Adela left her business behind in Peru, when she moved to the United States. After 11 years in the US she started A&A Cleaning. She visited LEDC in 2014 with plans to expand the capacity of her cleaning business in order to set aside funds to start her life-long dream. As a young girl in Peru, Adela painted nails for fun and Adela dreamed of opening her own nail and hair salon. After receiving technical assistance from LEDC, Adela applied for LEDC financing in 2015. With the funds and coaching she received she opened the Fresh Hair Salon on Main St in Reisterstown, MD. Adela has started to see a steady flow of clients and is hoping to grow this year by hiring another stylist to help serve her growing client base.