



Rey B. Gonzalez, President & Chief Executive Officer

Rey B. Gonzalez has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of El Valor since 2013 after thirty-two years of serving as chairman of its board of directors. Prior to assuming his role at El Valor, Rey was the Vice President for Legislative and Community Affairs at ComEd, an Exelon Company that delivers electricity to approximately 3.8 million residential and business customers across northern Illinois. He was responsible for stewarding relationships with statewide legislators and community organizations. Prior to this position, Rey was the Vice President of Corporate Diversity for Exelon Corporation. He was responsible for developing Exelon's national external and internal initiatives. Before joining Exelon in 2002, Rey served as Vice President of Diversity for McDonald's Corporation. His primary responsibilities included the management and development of national External Diversity Partnerships, including philanthropy and employment.

Rey started his community involvement at the Chicago Urban League helping women and minorities acquire work in the building and construction trades. Within three years at the Urban League, Rey had placed more than 2,000 women and minorities in skilled high paying jobs. Prior to Rey's time in corporate America, Rey was the Regional Midwest Director of the National Council of La Raza where he advocated on behalf of Latino community organizations in the Midwest. Throughout his corporate career, Rey has provided opportunities for the advancement of Latinos and minorities in leadership positions. During his tenure as chairman of El Valor's board of directors, Rey elevated the visibility of the organization through his relationship-building with national leaders in corporations, government, universities, media, and the community. He was chairman early on when El Valor was a small organization housed in a building in desperate need of repair. Through Rey's leadership, El Valor flourished and became one of the top 20 Hispanic-serving organizations in the country.

El Valor, known for its innovation, is a model of bilingual, bicultural rehabilitation in the State of Illinois and also started the first computer programming training center for people with disabilities. El Valor built the first intermediate care facility in the state; initiated the Tocar El Futuro/Touch the Future early childhood education model; and developed an international public awareness campaign on the importance of early childhood development, Parents As First Teachers. Under Rey's leadership, four Children & Family Centers were built and opened. Each center provides services to thousands of children and families throughout the Chicagoland area.

Rey developed one of the integral parts of Tocar El Futuro, the university partnership component known as Leadership through Education. He initiated this component because, as he stated "One of the primary reasons more Latinos are not promoted within corporations, public education systems, and government is due to the lack of educational credentials. El Valor, in partnership with universities and colleges, helped bridge the educational gap and ensured Hispanic professionals had the necessary leadership credentials for success." This initiative led to more than 700 working adults, primarily from the Latino community, earning their degrees in the community at El Valor Children & Family Centers.



Rey has received many accolades throughout the years for his tireless work in advocating for the community. Rey has been ranked among the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America, received the U.S. Hispanic Hero Award from the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, and has a Children & Family Center named in his honor on the southeast side of Chicago.

Rey is the co-founder and board member of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, a Chicago-based national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes education, civic participation and leadership development for Latinos. He also serves on the board of directors for the Pilsen Neighbors and is a member of Little Village Rotary Club.

Rey and his wife, Hilda, have four children, Rey, Daniel, Adam, and Rachel.