

LSS Alumni: 30 Voices @ 30 Years



To celebrate the progress and accomplishments of 30 years of LSS, we're highlighting 30 alumni this anniversary year. This month, we highlight two LSS alumni who have contributed immensely to the Sandy Springs community: Class of 2003 members Maritza Morelli, Executive Director of [Los Niños Primero](#) and Keith Eigel, Co-Founder and Senior Faculty member of [The Leaders Lyceum](#). We asked these alumni to share their thoughts on their LSS experience.

1. How do you stay connected to the Sandy Springs community?

MM: In the 26 years since coming to the U.S. from Venezuela, Sandy Springs has shown me the importance of respecting diversity and embracing cultural differences. Most of the relevant roles in my life have been performed here like being a PTA mom at Spalding Drive Elementary, the first Fulton County Bilingual Community Liaison at Heards Ferry Elementary, and ED of Los Niños Primero. I've met exceptional people with a profound desire to make an impact on the world, whom now I can call my friends.

KE: My wife and I are in our 27th year of calling Sandy Springs home. From restaurants and recreation to our dearest friends, I'm so grateful for this community that has shaped so much of our lives.

2. What is your greatest achievement?

MM: Seeing the stereotype-breaking impact of Los Niños Primero's quality educational opportunities on the lives of children, parents and families in underserved populations as they discover their potential to expand their minds and build better lives. Seeing children who never imagined the possibilities perform in an orchestra or chorus and eventually be in college to teens of many backgrounds engaged in leadership roles and helping others.

KE: Having some level of continuing influence in the lives of our four children, and staying interesting enough to keep my beautiful wife, Leigh, hanging out with me.

3. What's on your bucket list?

MM: Expanding Los Niños Primero into other communities across the U.S. My vision is to help more children and families benefit from it and open it up to include other cultures. This project is already in process.

KE: Golfing Ireland and Scotland

4. How has LSS positively affected your professional and other areas of your life?

MM: Leadership Sandy Springs helped me expand my knowledge about the community, understand more of American culture, connect with others, and find resources that I did not know existed. I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

KE: The LSS experience was significant in shaping my understanding of how much happens to make a community like ours work. As a developmental psychologist, the exposure to so many diverse leaders in our community was formative for me in the work I do growing leaders.