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# Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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### ONE STEP CLOSER TO OUR GOAL

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– The Healthy Workforce ABQ initiative is now a step closer to becoming a reality for the more than 100 thousand families in Albuquerque who do not enjoy the benefit of earned sick days.

Since early May of this year, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, began gathering signatures from registered voters in the the City of Albuquerque, with the purpose of collecting enough signatures as required by the City Clerk in order to consider the initiative for the upcoming November ballot.

The initiative sets a platform where all workers within the Albuquerque city limits can earn paid sick leave in case of illness. This benefit would allow workers to earn 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. This is an essential and necessary tool for all working families in our city.

Our most recent victory comes after our coalition was able to gather the over 14 thousand verified signatures required by the City Clerk to be able to put the petition in the general election ballot. The coalition was able to gather a total of over 24 thousand signatures within a 60 day period.

On Monday, Aug. 1, this initiative was presented before the ABQ City Council, which had the obligation of deciding if this initiative would be placed on the general election ballot for November. Following a unanimous vote, the Council passed a resolution to place the initiative on the election ballot for November 8th. This proposal will now be presented before the Bernalillo County Commission on August 23rd. This victory comes after the Albuquerque community pressured

for this issue and also testified before the Council. Just like our compañeras Claudia and Marian, who had the chance of expressing the need that currently exists in our city for this benefit, giving our families a greater sense of financial security and it promotes our local economy growth by ensuring that our workforce is healthy and can better perform. El CENTRO along with our YES! Youth, took part in a video campaign that highlighted workers' testimonies to create pressure for a favorable decision from City Council for all workers in our city.

Our efforts continue! After learning about the decision by the County Commission, we have a responsibility to inform our community on the importance of this initiative and to motivate every registered voter in Albuquerque to get out and vote during the November elections. It's vital for our community to understand that their voice matters in all matters that our city faces. Albuquerque has the opportunity of setting a progressive platform for labor rights and to send a clear message to the rest of nation that in our city "The contributions from working families matter!"

If you would like to learn more about the Healthy Workforce ABQ initiative visited the website: [www.healthworkforceabq.org](http://www.healthworkforceabq.org). If you are interested in learning about opportunities to get involved in the initiative, contact us by phone (505) 246-1627 or send us a message through Facebook. You can also visit our website [www.elcentronm.org](http://www.elcentronm.org) where you can learn more about the current labor justice needs in our city and how you can help us in our fight for labor rights in our community.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN NM?

With the November general election coming up, it is important to know what are the necessary requirements to be able to register to vote for the general election. Here are the basic requirements that you will need to keep in mind:

#### ELIGIBILITY

- A resident of New Mexico
- A citizen of the United States
- Eighteen years old or older at the time of the next election
- A convicted felon who has satisfied all the terms and conditions of sentencing. A certificate of completion must be provided.

#### HOW DO I REGISTER?

- You must completely fill out an application for voter registration and sign it.
- Answer all questions, including the citizenship and age questions.
- A Social Security Number and in most cases the address where you live.

#### WHERE CAN I GET REGISTERED?

- At el CENTRO! Ask for someone who can help you get registered.
- Bernalillo County Clerk's Office Monday-Friday 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Secretary of State's Office
- Any County Clerk's Office in New Mexico
- Motor Vehicle Department, Human Services Department, public libraries, colleges, universities, and at organized voter registration drives.
- Online through the Secretary of State's website: [www.portal.sos.state.nm.us](http://www.portal.sos.state.nm.us)

**\*ATTENTION:** To be eligible to vote during the next General Election on November 8th, 2016, you must register to vote before 5 p.m. by Tuesday, October 11th.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WAGETHEFT WORKSHOPS

WHEN: August 10, 17, 24 and 31st  
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call us at (505) 246-1627 to reserve a place.

### LABOR RIGHTS' WEEK

WHEN: Wednesday, August 31st, 9 a.m.

WHERE: (Mexican Consulate) 1610 4th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

DESCRIPTION: Acompañanos en un taller totalmente gratis para aprender sobre tus derechos laborales sin importar tu estatus migratorio. También descubre que recursos existen para involucrarte en la lucha por la justicia laboral.

### FREE CLINICS - DACA2012

WHEN: August 10, 17, 24, and 31st  
1 pm - 5 pm

WHERE: (El CENTRO) 714 4th St. SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center invites you to their Free Workshops to learn more about DACA 2012, to find out if you are eligible, where you will receive help filling out your application and you'll have a chance to speak with a lawyer about your DACA case. (Appointment is not necessary).



\*P1: Youth Leaders with the program YES! - El CENTRO



\*P2: Mauricio de Segovia, Labor Rights Organizer- El CENTRO

## DEVELOPING THE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE (PHOTO: \*P1)

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– This month it is important to take the time and recognize everyone who worked, during the 60 day period to gather signatures and in the design and implementation of our informational forum regarding the most recent decision on DACA+/DAPA in July. We are talking about our exceptional youth group from YES! Who worked with El CENTRO on this initiative. Also on behalf of El CENTRO we want to recognize all the effort and commitment shown by our El CENTRO's volunteers. Without your collaboration, the victories achieved by our coalition would not have been possible!

Our YES! Youth spoke about their experiences working with El CENTRO, our volunteers, and for the Healthy Workforce

"This summer our youth –in a collective effort along with workers, members of the community and coalition's organizers– collected signatures daily and attended different events regardless of climate conditions with the purpose of putting the initiative on the November ballot. Thanks to their great effort, we were able to exceed our own signature gathering goal with El CENTRO for this campaign!" said Marian Méndez, YES! Group Coordinator.

"My best experience was canvassing for Healthy Workforce ABQ. This was a real challenge for me but at the same time I know I've grown thanks to the variety of skills that I learned through this experience," said Adrián Cabral, YES! leader with El CENTRO.

"The best part was living the sincerity and diligence that my compañer@s showed about the fight for labor rights," said Yuridia Loera, YES! leader with El CENTRO.

"This summer was my first time participating with the YES! program and I'm very grateful of having had this opportunity. I was able to improve my public speaking skills and was able to live experiences that I'm sure I will hold dearly for the rest of my life. A special thanks to everyone in the program!" said Eduardo Esquivel, YES! leader with El CENTRO.

"The most interesting part of my work this summer was listening to the stories of everyone I had an interaction with," said Santiago Carrillo, YES! leader with El CENTRO.

"This campaign helped me open my eyes to the injustices that are lived in my community. It was a pleasure participating and knowing that I was making a difference," said Eduardo Casas, YES! leader with El CENTRO.

## IT'S NOT A GOODBYE, IT'S A SEE YOU SOON (PHOTO: \*P2)

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– In this segment we would like to recognize our talented labor rights organizer Mauricio de Segovia. After 5 extensive and hard working years with El CENTRO de Igualdad y derechos, our compañero and friend has left a great legacy and record of always being ready to fight for labor justice in our Albuquerque community.

Mauricio, originally from Chicago, Illinois, descendant of Mexican immigrants, started working for El CENTRO on 2011 as a youth leader organizer. In his 5 years with our organization, he had the opportunity to organize hundreds of workers and show them all that the true power of the community resides in the collective work of our working community. Mauricio's main focus was our Labor Justice program due to the great needs that exists in our community to organize workers that continue to fall victims of the labor abuse system.

He recounts that during his stay with El CENTRO the most gratifying experiences have always been "those moments when you see the light in a member's eyes when they realize their power, where what we are doing comes together in their minds through a moving experience whether it is during a direct action, during a meeting or training, during an exchange with a member or organizer. When fear and

anxiety is replaced with confidence and strength and when people are motivated to take action against injustice. Cesar Chavez said 'you cannot uneducate the person that has learned to read. You cannot humiliate a person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.'"

Mauricio's wishes for the Labor Rights and Labor Justice Movements are that "our membership continues the hard work of confronting and exposing employers who exploit workers in Albuquerque and continue to strengthen and add to the laws and protections for workers in New Mexico. I am so proud of our membership for taking on efforts to raise the minimum wage, get out the vote to get paid time off for workers when they are too ill to get to work in Albuquerque, and confronting wage thieving employers and discrimination on the job."

On behalf of all the staff from El CENTRO, we want to thank Mauricio for all of his years of service to the community through our organization. Mauricio will always be our friend and ally in the fight for the working community of Albuquerque. This is not a goodbye, it's see you soon! We wish our compañero the best in his new journey y wish him all the best for his continuous compromise with workers.