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**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Families Highlight Immigrant Contributions to NM and Unite Against Hate**

ALBUQUERQUE – On Sunday, May 15, 2016, EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, members of the community, and families will be participating in the annual South Valley Celebration 2016 to honor and celebrate contributions made by immigrant communities to New Mexico.

As part of the participation, EL CENTRO will denounce the heightened xenophobia being promoted in the political sphere in New Mexico and across the nation, including the anti-immigrant agenda that led to the injunction on the executive actions on immigration, expanded DACA and DAPA, passed by the Obama administration which would allow immigrants to continue contributing to the state.

Bertha Campos, an Albuquerque small business owner, mother of five and who has lived in the U.S. for the past 28 years expressed the need for these immigration relief programs, “DAPA would help to keep millions of families together across the nation and it would also allow us to contribute even more to the economy as workers, small business owners and taxpayers.”

According to the latest survey by the Center for American Progress, in the state of New Mexico, it is estimated that over 36 thousand people could benefit from the immigration initiatives, creating an economic stimulus of up to \$1 billion during the following decade after implementation.

“The South Valley Celebration represents an opportunity for us to highlight contributions immigrant communities make in New Mexico and to urge the implementation of DACA and DAPA for millions to have a reprieve from deportation and for workers to receive the dignity that we all deserve,” said Manuel Sanz, a member of EL CENTRO and member of the Workers’ Committee.

EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos is a grassroots, immigrants’ rights and workers’ justice organization based in Albuquerque, NM that works with Latino immigrant communities and allies to defend, strengthen, and advance the rights of our community.

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