Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Si desea una copia impresa en español, por favor llámenos al 505-246-1627

Immigrant, Faith, Civil Rights, and Victim Advocacy Organizations Defeat Commissioner Johnson’s Anti-Immigrant Resolution: Another Victory for Our Hard Working Immigrant Families!

On Tuesday, August 8th, our members, and allies rallied at the Bernalillo County Commission to reject an anti-immigrant resolution introduced by Commissioner Johnson. El CENTRO’s members, together with hundreds of immigrant families, faith leaders, civil rights organizations, and allies spoke out against a proposed county resolution that would have compelled county-operated detention facilities, including the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), to cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration law. Building on over a decade of work with the County, the resolution overwhelmingly failed on a 4-1 bi-partisan vote, with only Commissioner Johnson voting in favor of his own resolution. The proposal would have rescinded the county’s official status as an “immigrant friendly county” and capitulate to Trump and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ recent demand that county-operated detention facilities aid in the enforcement of federal immigration law, a scheme both unconstitutional and dangerous to the public safety of our communities and the rest of ABQ.

Back on March 14th, thousands of our members and allies worked tirelessly to pass the resolution of Bernalillo County as “immigrant friendly” on a bi-partisan vote with Commissioners Hart-Stebbins, O’Malley, Quezada, and Talbott voting in favor and Commissioner Johnson being the sole vote against. Amongst other provisions, the resolution reaffirms the County’s commitment to upholding the civil rights of all residents in Bernalillo County, regardless of their immigration status, and to not enforcing federal civil immigration laws (in line with federal law).

We, at EL CENTRO, will continue fighting to demonstrate that immigrants, like all Albuquerqueans, work hard for the welfare of our families and communities; contribute in countless ways, and try to build communities where justice and equality prevail for all. We will not normalize the deportation of our communities.

Visit our website to listen and share our interviews and PSAs: http://elcentronm.org/our-work/workers-justice/

Our Members in Action: Tirelessly Continuing to Fight for Our Labor Rights and Our Immigrant Families

Our members and immigrant workers across New Mexico take care of our elderly and children, build and roof our adobe homes, pick the chile that we are so proud of, work in the dairies and oil fields, and work in the service industry. Since Trump’s inauguration, we experienced an uptick in ICE activity in ABQ: targeting people in their homes, at work, and in our public spaces. However, we as EL CENTRO along with our members do not sit passively while our families, co-workers, and neighbors are targeted. As examples of our collective resilience throughout this month, our base has been active in informing our communities about their rights, ways to fight back against deportations and to protect our labor rights and the minimum wage.

On the labor rights front, our working families have been active in several court cases and city council meetings fighting for a fair municipal election by demanding that the city print the Healthy Workforce Ordinance in a clear and legible form on the ballot. The Healthy Workforce Ordinance would allow all ABQ workers to earn paid sick days for every 30 hours worked up to 40 hours if workers are employed by a business with less than 40 employees, and up to 56 hours if the business has more than 40 workers. In addition, we are involved in lawsuits with ally organizations to defend ABQ’s minimum wage and to hold the Department of Workforce Solutions, under the direction of Governor Martinez, accountable for not enforcing New Mexico’s labor laws. ¡Que vivan los trabajadores!

In addition, we have had the privilege to do multiple interviews with Radio La Fefa 101.3 FM and some of our active members Edgar Salinas and Manuel Sanz, including recording two PSAs to inform workers on their labor rights and the importance of earned paid sick days.

Finally, on July 28, our Workers’ Committee hosted an interactive dialogue with Elizabeth Wagoner of the Center for Law and Poverty, on labor rights and the Healthy Workforce campaign to expand sick pay days for all ABQ workers. We had over 20 members attend this workshop!

The constant participation of our members is an example of how our immigrant communities will continue to fight back against deportation and labor rights’ violations. We encourage all community members to continue to organize work to protect one another. Our message remains the same: we will not back down.
Luchadora del Mes: Hilda, a single mother, grandmother, worker, and a committed hard working activist

Every month we highlight one of our active members in the fight for immigrants' and workers' rights. This month we feature one of our members from our Workers' Committee: Hilda.

Hilda became a member with El CENTRO in 2016 after she and her friend were victims of wage theft, retaliation, and labor abuses from their former employer in ABQ. After not receiving their salaries for several weeks, the two of them demanded their payments, to which their former employer responded violently and threatened them for speaking out. Hilda’s stolen wages and the threats from her former employer created a sense of anxiety and other stressors experienced by her family. In addition, Hilda has never had earned paid sick days which means that she has been forced to choose between getting paid and taking care of her family and herself. Her son is a single father who works long hours every day of the week, and Hilda helps by taking care of her grandchild. Not having had earned paid sick days has affected her family tremendously, especially her grandson, as she has been forced not to provide care for her grandchild when he is sick. She stresses that “the business owners that oppose to earned paid sick days do not understand the day to day sacrifices immigrant workers make to put food on the table. As an immigrant worker, I know that our desires to help our families strive inspire us to work every day. I am tired of the fact that even though I sometimes work over 10 hours a day, I still do not receive earned paid sick days. We cannot continue allowing injustices like this. We must raise our fists and say “ya basta”!”

Hilda recognizes the role El CENTRO has had in her fight “the support I have received from the members and organizers of El CENTRO has been essential for my health as I recover from the mental and emotional stress caused by my wage theft cases. I make a call to fellow members to continue la lucha and to get more involved in the wage theft, and the earned paid sick days campaigns.” “We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Members like Hilda make our victories possible. Thank you!”

Check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!

If you would like to make a donation to El CENTRO, send a check to El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos: 714 4th St SW Albuquerque, NM 87102. Or donate through PayPal:
JUNTA DE MEMBRESÍA
Jueves 17 de Agosto, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos
714 4th St. SW

Hablaremos sobre:
-Nuestras victorias defendiendo al condado de Bernalillo como amigable para inmigrantes y nuestro salario mínimo
-Nuestro próximos pasos DEFENDIENDO NUESTROS DIAS PAGADOS POR ENFERMEDAD
-Cómo continuar en la lucha para defender a nuestras familias.
¡No te lo pierdas!

Habrá cuidado de niños y una cena ligera.
Para más información, llama a El CENTRO al (505) 246-1627 o danos "LIKE" en nuestra página de Facebook y busca el evento.