Felicidades ABQ for Rejecting the Politics of Hate!

Eight years ago, Mayor Berry ran on a blatantly anti-immigrant agenda, vowing to end “sanctuary” in ABQ. Our communities learned first hand what happens when our City government is complicit in the enforcement of federal deportation programs— the same programs that Trump is now trying to expand. Never again! On Oct 3rd, ABQ voters elected Tim Keller, rejecting Dan Lewis’ politics of division and anti-immigrant platform. On election day, our communities took a strong stance against the hatred, bigotry, anti-immigrant sentiment, and xenophobia seen in the national and local political sphere. Mayor Keller ran with a platform pro-sanctuary and pro-immigrant integration.

Having Tim Keller as our Mayor, marks a new era for ABQ. Historically, Mayor Keller has supported policies conducive to immigrant integration and in support of low-wage working families.

In the coming years, we will urge him to continue to work with our communities to once again embrace ABQ’s proud legacy of passing immigrant-friendly policies. We will urge him to work with our brothers and sisters from communities also being targeted by the Trump administration: Muslims, refugees, communities of color, women, and LGBTQ communities, to name a few. We will urge him to support policies that are good for low-wage workers and ABQ’s working families. We are ONE ABQ. We are ONE NM.

El CENTRO’s Members and Allies Continue Pressuring Congress to Resist Trump’s Deportation Force

For the past weeks, we have continued working in the local and national level to protect our immigrant families. On November the 9th, immigrant lead organizations around the country organized hundreds of walk-outs in demand for a Clean Dream Act to protect our undocumented youth and their families by the end of December. We also brought attention to the attack on beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status through our social media outlets.

In addition, we have continued giving Know-Your-Rights workshops throughout our communities, informing families about their rights. On Friday 10th, El CENTRO joined forces with ACLU of NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fe (NM CAFÉ), Somos Un Pueblo Unido (SOMOS), and Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC), with support from the NM Dream Team, NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice and Rio Grande chapter of the Sierra Club, in a statewide effort to collect signatures asking NM’s Congress representatives to reject Trump’s budget. This petition requested representatives to stand up to Trump and block any money towards more immigration agents, the incarceration of immigrants, and the wasteful border barriers that threaten wildlife and directly contribute to migrant deaths.

On Thursday November 30th, we held a press conference in front of the Senator Heinrich and Udall’s offices to deliver the signatures. Our civil rights organizer, Marian Cera, spoke on behalf of El CENTRO, “investing in Trump’s deportation force is against our New Mexican values and principles and would be devastating to our local economies, in which immigrant workers proudly play a vital role. El CENTRO calls for our Congressional delegation to reject provisions in Trump’s budget which would increase border militarization, expand private prisons for immigrants, exponentially grow DHS’s deportation force, and which aim to coerce local governments into implementing unconstitutional deportation programs. As a state, we rejected Trump in the elections. We fought against Susana Martínez’s anti-immigrant platform. We will continue to build on this legacy of fighting for policies that integrate immigrants into the mainstream and we call on our Congressional delegation to do the same in Washington!” Our message is clear: “No boots, no beds, and no walls”!
Immigrants are vital to NM’s economy as small business owners, tax-payers, consumers, and in the workforce. El CENTRO’s members have fought, along with a coalition of allies to fight against wage theft. We have our own “Mano a Mano para Acabar con Robo de Salario” campaign to strengthen wage theft laws for ABQ Workers.

Wage theft is a severe problem in NM and can destroy the financial solvency of working families. Unfortunately, all too often, unscrupulous employers refuse to pay workers for all the hours they work, violate minimum wage laws, refuse to pay overtime, and force people to work off the clock. Wage theft impacts workers of all socioeconomic backgrounds but immigrant families are especially vulnerable to the crime. According to a study by Somos un Pueblo Unido in 2013 on Mexican immigrant workers and wage theft in NM, non-English speaking wage theft victims were less likely to report it to authorities, because they feared reprisals and had concerns about language access, among other issues.

El CENTRO provides bi-weekly wage theft orientations to workers, helps workers file wage claims, works with a team of pro-bono attorneys to give legal advice and when appropriate, file civil suits works closely with the UNM Law Clinic to provide legal services, and engages workers in direct actions against unscrupulous employers. Check the calendar inside this newsletter or call us to find out the dates of our next orientations: 505.246.1627
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Posada: Celebrating Our Year of Resistance
WHEN: Friday, December 15th, 6 pm-9 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Come celebrate our resistance and achievements. Suggested donation: $5 per adult, (children free). We will have pozole, please bring a dish to share.

WORKERS’ RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS
WHEN: Dec 11, Jan 22nd, & Feb 5th 5:30 to 7 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Come to our 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 in advance to reserve your spot; 505-247-1023

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS
WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up
DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with ICE/police, and how to join the movement to fight back! Contact us at 505-246-1627 or sign up on line at www.elcentronm.org

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS - THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER
WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Do you need help with any immigration related issues or obtaining a background check? Come on Wednesdays to sign up for a free consultation with an immigration attorney.

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS
WHEN: Every Friday, 11 am to 1 pm
DESCRIPTION: Free legal consultations! Call 505-247-1023

For more information about events and to check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!

Immigrant Communities Presente at Marigold Parade
The theme of our float was “Trump cannot tear down what we have built up in NM.” Thank you, everyone, who participated!

Luchador del Mes: Sabina Armendariz, low-wage worker, single mother, and wage theft warrior
Every month we highlight the work and the story of one of our active members. This month we highlight Sabina Armendariz. She is a proud low-wage worker, mother, and an advocate against wage theft. Sabina became involved with El CENTRO when she, along with her daughter and sister, tried to file their wage claim with the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) in ABQ for their stolen wages. Sabina was an employee at Hope Head Start & Nursery. She had been working there for about a year before she stopped getting paid. However, Sabina could not communicate with DWS staff because they did not offer interpretation services. Sabina and her sister, Nirma, also struggled to get updates about their case and went multiple times throughout the year to request information about the status of their case. After her frustrating encounter with DWS, Sabina reached out to El CENTRO.

Sabina recognizes the role El CENTRO has had in her fight “together with El CENTRO, we have been able to organize to claim these abuses. El CENTRO has been a space where we have learned that we are not alone and has helped us to organize to defend not only our rights but the rights of other workers. The problems in DWS are structural. Our government must serve our families by ensuring that people receive a fair payment for what they owe them. The solution is simple: enforce the law. I invite workers to seek help through organizations such as El CENTRO.” We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Members like Sabina make our victories possible. Thank you. If you would like to get involved or learn more about workers’ rights, call us at 505-246-1627
EL CENTRO INVITES YOU: POSADA POTLUCK

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS’ DAY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
6-9 PM AT:
714 4TH St. SW, ABQ, NM 87102

THIS YEAR WE HAD MANY BATTLES AND THIS EVENT IS TO CELEBRATE AND RECOGNIZE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDES: DJ, SANTA CLAUS, MUSIC, RAFFLE, BAILE FOLKLORICO LOLIPOP(PROFESSIONAL CLOWN), PHOTOBOOTH, FOOD, PIÑATA AND MUCH MORE!

***EL CENTRO WILL HAVE POZOLE. GUESTS CAN BRING A DISH TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY.***

FOR INFORMATION CALL EL CENTRO DE IGUALDAD Y DERECHOS: (505) 246-1627

***SUGGESTED DONATION OF $5 PER ADULT 12+, CHILDREN ARE FREE SO WE CAN CONTINUE OUR FIGHT!***