



Centro Latino Americano

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Dear Friend of Centro,

This year posed significant challenges, but it also demonstrated the power of local communities in the face of decisions made at the highest national levels. You and others joined to create a safe community for all. Many of us directed our attention to federal actions that directly impact young people who have the protected status known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, which was rescinded on September 5, 2017.

You and others responded to the DACA crisis with concern and compassion. You and your neighbors contributed your time, talent or financial donations to this effort. Centro Latino Americano served as the hub of this activity that included many community partners, like Downtown Languages, Huerto de La Familia, Grupo Latino de Acción Directa, and Migrant Education. Our coalition collaborated to hold a DACA renewal clinic by pulling together volunteers, pro-bono attorneys, and funds to cover the \$495 renewal application fee. Below are a few stories shared by DACA clinic participants:

- One young DACA recipient who came to the United States as a 3-year old because family members were being killed by mafia members. Sometimes when she drives around town and sees a beautiful house, she points it out to her mother, who says, “All is possible if you study. Doors have closed for me, but not for you. Fight for your dreams.” This young person is an honors high school student who plays two instruments. She dreams of studying business and owning her own company.
- At 4-years-old, another DACA recipient arrived in the United States because his father saw only poverty and drug-filled schools in the family’s future. Now a college student, the young man said the DACA program allowed him to receive scholarships which he has used to study graphic design. He wants to be a designer for a company like NIKE. “(Losing my status) will be scary because I’ll lose the opportunities I have right now.”
- A young mother and mill worker traveled by foot, car, and boat to escape gang violence in her country when she was 13. She is taking GED classes with aspirations of studying nursing or teaching. “I have an aunt (there), but there’s too much delinquency,” she said. “I don’t know where I will end up if I’m deported. I’m more worried about my children than myself.”

This work has not ended, and the need for services beyond just immigration legal support remains. Centro continues to serve as a crucial support for many Latino and immigrant families who struggle to make a better life for themselves. Our work spans a range of services. We help individuals and families get access to basic needs. We provide youth mentors. We offer low-cost, or no-cost behavioral health and addiction services.

Your support remains vital to us. I ask you to consider making **a tax-deductible gift** today to ensure that Centro can provide appropriate and necessary assistance for Latino children, adults, and families into the future. Thank you!

Sincerely,

David Sáez, Executive Director

P.S.: You can make your tax-deductible donation by mailing a check or donating online through our website at www.centrolatinoamericano.org.

