



HAPpenings!

HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT

HAP is dedicated to providing attention to the needs and social development of the Hispanic immigrant community via a focus on leadership formation, community organizing and advocacy

December 2013



Photo Left: children during the Immigrants United of Gunnison candlelight vigil, November 15.

Photo Below: Evelen Baltazar, the youngest member of the HAP committee of Montrose. She has participated in all of the HAP activities and together with her family has attended the Town Halls with Congressman Scott Tipton to request his vote for Immigration Reform. The year is ending without having the congressman's support

LET'S KEEP FAMILIES UNITED

As we begin the New Year, we want to thank all the volunteers, members of the Hispanic Committees, sympathetic organizations and allies that throughout 2013 kept alive the hope for Immigration Reform with a path to citizenship.

And on this occasion we want to honor the youngest activists that have participated in HAP's campaigns and actions: our children!

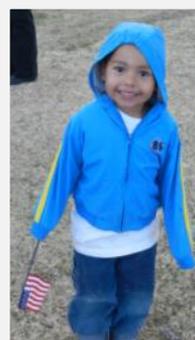
Thanks to them and their families, we believe that it is possible to achieve a society in which we all have the same opportunities to grow, study and work



We have ended the last trimester with a period of activities to push the vote for immigration reform. These included vigils, marches, visits to legislators, mobilizations of citizens by phone banking and informational meetings with the community. Now we are ready to keep going in 2014.



As part of the social movement in Colorado, HAP participated in the state assembly of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, CIRC. A mandate from the assembly was to continue working for the federal immigration reform and to promote two state legislative initiatives: Reforming the System of Detentions and Protection of Workers from Wage Theft



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIGRANTS

In collaboration with the Literacy Center of the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction and the Migrant Education Program of Mesa County School District 51, the Grand Valley community celebrated the Day of the Migrants Thursday, December 19th.



Bennett Boeschstein, City council member of the City of Grand Junction read the proclamation which asks for a just and comprehensive Immigration Reform and honors the contributions of immigrants for whom the Grand Valley is home



Photo Above: Patricia Amadeo, Celia Roberts and Sally Matchett

The party included an exhibition of the photos of migrant families taken by the photographer Celia Roberts of Paonia.



José Ávila, Basilio Collado and the Talavera family receive the Proclamation during the Grand Junction City Council session, December 18th, part of the Welcoming Colorado Campaign.

Below: the *Baile Folclórico* Valle Lindo that together with the Guadalupe Dancers helped celebrate with HAP.



José Talavera, president of HAP, announces a Community Education Campaign to promote the recognition of migrant workers who, in very difficult working conditions, contribute to the success of important industries like agriculture and livestock.

This campaign will take place in Grand Junction in coordination with the Catholic Migrant Farmworkers Network, CMFN, an organization that collaborates with HAP.



THE LIVES OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS

The Words of Rocío Rodriguez during the celebration of the International Day of the Migrant:

“ Thank you for coming to our celebration! We are immigrants like many of the families here. We arrived in Palisade ten years ago and we have always worked in the peach groves like a family. The job requires lots of care and we put a lot of love into what we do. I almost always bring my children to the fields because I have no one to care for them. My children are the reason I am here and that I sacrifice so much in my agricultural job. They attend school and get good grades. I wish to thank the Migrant Education Program for their support, especially the English as a Second Language program. When we have a free day we all go to the library to take out books. It is there also that I have English classes when I am not in the groves.”



**In Colorado,
immigrants deserve
a fair chance!**



My name is Martha and I went to the area of Craig, Meeker and Rangely to distribute donations from HAP members and those from the churches for the shepherders. It was my first trip to that area. I contacted six workers, the majority of them were on their way to the desert as is normal this time of year.

It was a very powerful experience for me because I discovered that the workers in the north suffer loneliness and abandonment like I had never seen before. The northern part of the state is sparsely populated; we drove for hours without seeing a house and the campers in which the workers live are found in these desolate areas. As I traveled through these vast lands I thought “What would they do if something happens to them?” Some of the shepherders have cell phones but sometimes they don’t have coverage.

One of the herders invited us to eat lunch with him and he was very happy for the visit and the opportunity to share what little food he had with another person. The harsh wind buffeted his camper constantly. “ It’s always like that. It’s enough to drive you crazy”, he told me smiling. His camper was dark and there was barely room for three people inside. It was his home. They lack all the things we are accustomed to in this country in this century. This herder is used to extreme conditions and he greatly enjoyed our visit. When we gave him the donations he was as happy as a child getting Christmas gifts.

The other herders also received us with great hospitality and were very appreciative of the gifts. “When are you going to return?” they asked us.

After my trip I felt like a person surrounded by luxuries because, unlike the herders, there are so many things that I have and I am always complaining about everything. They don’t complain and they appreciate the simple things that they have. The most important thing for the herders is not having a refrigerator, rather to share a cup of coffee with another person; I have learned from them that the material things don’t matter as much as contact with a human being



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Photo on the left: Thanks to the donation of time and volunteer work from the immigration lawyer Imelda Mulholland, the organization was again able to help the young people complete their applications for work permits (DACA). Below: Shristi Adhikari, Lupita Pérez and Eusebia Garza. And below to the left: Deanna Tamborelli. They were part of the team of volunteers organizing the DACA – Drive on the 24th of October



CELEBRATING MANY CULTURES



Contact us for more information about DACA and other issues related to Immigration. Many families have received assistance with immigration applications under the direction of a BIA agency. 970.249.4115 - www.hapgj.org



Culture Fest is a time to celebrate the cultural diversity of our communities. More than 500 people attended the celebration and many countries shared their arts and foods. We thank the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction for making this celebration a tradition that promotes the integration of the families in the Grand Valley



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