



HAPpenings!

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

HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT

Summer 2014



Photos above:
The Arrascue Raffo family in the Naturalization Ceremony, registering voters and community events in Grand Junction



Welcoming Colorado

“One of HAP’s most important programs is the Welcoming Colorado initiative, which works to connect the immigrant cultures and stories from all parts of the world that are found in western Colorado” commented Juan Reyes during a potluck which brought together over 80 people on June 5th in Grand Junction.

One of the activities of the initiative is to support naturalization ceremonies for New Americans.

On this occasion the HAP team celebrated the achievements of the Arrascue-Raffo family, friends and active members of the organization. They received their naturalization certificates the 21st of May in Grand Junction.

“After living in various countries we arrived in the United States and we discovered a country different from all others. We took on the task of learning English in order to be better professionals. I am an electrical engineer and my wife is a psychologist. We both studied in Peru, the country where we were born. Afterwards my wife continued studying here and she graduated with a degree in Hispanic Literature and translation. She has done a lot of volunteer work. Our oldest daughter studied Human Resources and Marketing and the youngest is finishing up her major at CMU. As immigrants, professionals and now citizens of the United States, every day we are challenged to be better people and we have made a promise in our family of being a TEAM,” shared the family Arrascue Raffo.

Welcoming Colorado assists people in their intercultural skills and contributes to the improvement their quality of life in society. WelCO integrates, educates, helps and entertains—with games during the meetings—both young and old,” says Jesus Raffo

Legislative Report

Thanks to the dedication of the Hispanic Committees and ally organizations, we contributed to a successful legislative session which passed significant laws that impact families and the economy of Colorado, including:

1. SB14-005: Wage Protection

Act: Provides administrative options in order for workers to recover lost wages and improve the supervision of the Department of Labor in these cases, including violations of minimum wage.

2. HB 14-1273 Combatting

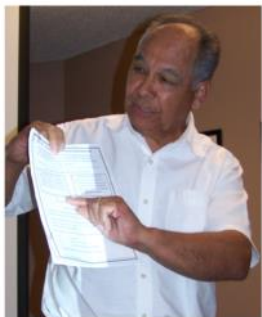
Human Trafficking: Strengthens the mechanisms to support the agencies that work on this issue and strengthens the mechanisms of prevention, protection, prosecution and collaboration among the groups that deal with this issue.

3. HB 14-1292: The Student

Success Act: Increases funding for investment in education especially primary and secondary and complements the Colorado Read Act of 2012 and seeks to support students in academic leveling at an early age.

Photos: *Upper Right*—José Angel Mijares, a victim of wage theft showing the pen used by Gov. John Hickenlooper to sign the bill into law on May 29th. “Though this law doesn’t criminalize the employers that commit wage theft, it is a step towards the recognition that this affects thousands of workers and the economy of Colorado” he indicated.

More information about the legislative session: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>

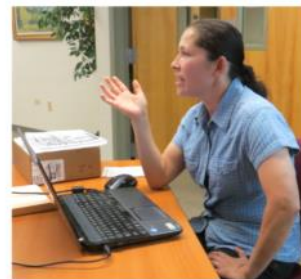


The implementation of the Laws

More than 900 people have participated in meetings organized by HAP to learn about the implementation of SB251, which provides undocumented Colorado residents access to apply for a driver’s license. The meetings began with a presentation by the DMV Directors Robert Baker, David Lindsay and Robert Morgan on April 4th at the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction.

Photos: *Upper Left*—Larry Archuleta, a veteran of the license office explaining the procedures in Montrose April 5th; *Upper Right*—Joel Flores directing a meeting in Grand Junction and *Middle Right*—Maria Pacheco demonstrating how to make an appointment online.

Below—Seferina Luna helps to give an informational session with migrant workers in Palisade.



Anecdotes from our visits with Migrant Workers



Paonia, June 13. Agrestes: “Thanks you for coming to visit me . . . I have been a sheepherder for more than 16 years and before, no one paid any attention to us. Here there are some sheepherders (pointing in various directions) and this year we have found two Peruvians that had nothing to eat and my colleagues and I made some bags of food. When I went to take them the food their boss was just arriving and he yelled at me “What are you doing here?” I said I was bringing food to his workers and he answered that they didn’t need anything and that I should leave his property immediately. I responded that that was public land and he could make me leave there . . . That rancher always treats his workers the same way”.

An industry with few rules and without controls outside of the same industry has allowed decades of abuses and violations of the most basic human rights.

Meeker, June 30. A member of HAP: “During these [outreach] visits I have found workers that have had accidents and that have not received medical attention. I recall when I was a sheepherder and had accidents at work. I asked the boss to take me to the hospital and he responded that the hospital wouldn’t do anything for me. That a broken bone heals on its own . . . many years have passed and it is the same story . . . some ranchers prefer to send the worker back to his own country instead of taking him to the doctor. And that is why there are workers that prefer not to say anything to the ranchers for fear that they will be sent back. For them, coming to work [here] and getting sent back to their countries, sick, without completing their contracts is dishonorable. That is why they hide their broken bones.

“I came to the country where the UN headquarters is housed; I never thought that human rights would be violated here. I’ve come to work at the request of my employer. We have not done anything wrong.”
words of H2A worker

“Routinely, outreach workers who attempt to provide migrant farmworkers living on labor camps or ranches in the U.S. with legal assistance, health care, education, and social and other basic services are denied access altogether or not provided meaningful access. Farmworkers’ employers commonly tell outreach workers to leave the property, accuse outreach workers of trespassing on their property, demand prior notice before visiting the property, or pressure the outreach workers to break confidentiality and infringe on the privacy of farmworkers by naming prospective clients who are seeking assistance”. **2014 Illegally Denied...Report to the U.N.**

A new report **“Illegally Denied: Migrant Workers Fights for Access to Justice and Health Care in the United States”**, exposes the current conditions of many migrant workers, emphasizing the racism and the continuing opposition by employers to workers receiving visits by social service agencies as violation of basic human rights.

HAP is an organization collaborating with this initiative which brings together dozens of groups from around the country under the coordination of legal aid agencies and universities. The document was delivered on June 27th to the United Nations and a copy was delivered to the US Department of State.

Photo on the right: on the other side of the river, without any means of entry to that area, you can see some of the workers’ “sheep camps” near Glenwood Springs.



HAP Committees

The leadership development and community organization is the center of HAP and it is reflected in the Hispanic Committees.

These photos reflect the path to integration of the immigrant community of Western Colorado.

Inmigrantes Unidos of Gunnison, Fuerzas Unidas of Telluride, Hispanic Committee of Grand Junction and Montrose, and other members that collaborate in HAP programs by participating in our activities.



A special thank you to the students from the class of Actors for Social Change from Western State Colorado University, under the direction of Professor Karen Waidley. They presented the theatrical play, "Lighten the Shadows", based on the history of immigrant families in the Gunnison Valley. A portion of the donations collected from the performance were donated to Inmigrantes Unidos of Gunnison



Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking
Red de Colorado para Terminar el Trafico Humano
CONETH 1-866-455-5075—24 horas



Deferred Action (DACA)

The HAP team is restarting sessions to assist the youth of age to apply for Deferred Action (temporary work permit) and those that are wishing to renew.

**Questions regarding
 Immigration Legal Assistance:
 970.249.4115
 nicoleruiz@hapgj.org
 www.hapgj.org**



Visits to Migrant Workers

In collaboration with Colorado Legal Services (CLS), Division of Migrant Workers and Combat of Human Trafficking, HAP conducts visits to agricultural fields to share information to workers and their families.

**If you know workers that need
 information call Kurt (Jacobo)
 Brandner 800.864.4330**

The Board of Directors

During the trimester we had a visit from Mary Folchert and Sue Danner, representatives of the Human Development Commission (HDC). In the photograph below Jose Talavera president of HAP, shows Mary Folchert of HDC a newspaper with articles about HAP's activities.



We also were honored to be visited by Angela Sedillos y Zawdie Ekundayo two members of the Chinook Fund. We would like to thank the Chinook fund for it's continued support.



It is with profound sorrow that the HAP Family says Good-bye to Lani Shaw, Director of the General Service Foundation, she left us this past June 1st at the age of 46 years old. Her solidarity with the immigrant community was an example for us. She was our partner, friend, sister in our fight for justice and now she lives in our hearts.

Photo: Community members from Telluride during the National Victim Rights Week Celebration, a collaboration with San Miguel Resource center and the Office of the 7th Judicial District.

Save the date: On Saturday, September 13th, Imelda Mulholland-immigration attorney, Amy Gutiérrez-teacher, and Child & Migrant Services of Palisade will be presented with the "John Kiernan Award" for their contributions to the community. For more information visit www.hapgj.org.

Our View: Another World is Possible

Regarding the humanitarian crisis at the border with thousands of migrant children — its well-known that migration is a perpetual phenomena in the history of humanity, and it becomes greater during times of war, starvation, economic crisis and natural disasters. This is the ongoing reality of Central American countries—countries that have suffered from misguided American foreign policies, such as during the fight against communism during the Cold War period; countries consumed by the consequences of wars that have lasted decades that have led to the breaking

down of societal structures, huge foreign debt, a commercial market that favors the wealthy in an extreme way and the support of corrupt governments, to name just a few. We are all inter-connected and we are all responsible for each other. The U.S. has been a major player in the lives of many countries in Central America. These societal and economic problems can only be solved through economic and societal solutions, and the current crisis is an opportunity between countries to attack the causes of this crisis in a real collaborative effort. The migrations caused by economic and violent conflict produce refugees and what is required to deal with the issue is a new international politics based on justice, respect and equality.

Yes, I want to support HAP!

Your donation is tax-deductible - \$ _____

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Please make the
check out to:
Hispanic Affairs Project

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