

# Hispanic Affairs Project



300 N. Cascade Ave, Suite C-4, Montrose CO 81401  
www.hapgj.org (970) 249.4115

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## Celebrating the International Day of the Migrant

### Grand Junction, CO - December 4, 2017

To honor immigrant community members, the Hispanic Affairs Project will observe International Migrants Day on December 6th. The Grand Junction City Council will make an official International Migrants Day proclamation during the December 6th City Council meeting to recognize the social and economic contribution of the migrant families who contribute to and are part of our community. This comes at a critical moment when immigrant youth and families are at extreme risk of deportation and family separation.

“I am very proud to be a farmworker. Most people from the U.S. don’t like this job because the pay is low and we spend many hours a day doing hard physical labor; however, I am happy to do this, because I am able to provide food for my family and my community. I don’t understand why the president is canceling the TPS when most of the cardholders are contributing to this country in many ways. We don’t know what will happen to us next year” said Felix Rodas, HAP member who came to USA 19 years ago from Honduras and is working with the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Haiti and Central American’s residents. Felix has one son with DACA, another protection program recently terminated.

Tom Acker, HAP Board President stated that “In this time of incomparable suffering of millions of migrants as a result of conditions of war and famine, combined with callous indifference on the part of many world leaders, it is the responsibility of those of us that consider this situation unacceptable, to respond with a clear voice declaring that we will not permit distinctions to be made about who has rights and who does not. We strongly object to singling out groups based upon their national origin or their migratory status, especially young people brought to our country as children under the control of their parents. We therefore urge the support of local, state and federal authorities to legislate laws which will protect the innocent and allow them to participate in our communities without fear of deportation or persecution”.

International Migrants Day is an international day observed on 18 December that was created by the General Assembly of United Nations on December 4, 2000. This week, President Trump announced that the United States will be pulling out of the United Nation’s global compact on migration.

**Please join us to receive the proclamation in the Grand Junction City Council meeting on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. A community celebration is taking place the Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in R5-High School hosted by HAP, Child & Migrant Service and the Migrant Education Program of the 51 School District.**

**For more information:** Estrella Ruiz, Hispanic Affairs Project, 970-200.6844, [zeppelin84@gmail.com](mailto:zeppelin84@gmail.com)  
karen Sherman Perez, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, 970-417-6538,  
[karen@coloradoimmigrant.org](mailto:karen@coloradoimmigrant.org)  
Tom Acker, Hispanic Affairs Project, 970-260-9465; [ocoa\\_1953@yahoo.com](mailto:ocoa_1953@yahoo.com)