

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



What You Made Possible in 2017

- 5 Resisting ICE Enforcement
- 6 DACA Mobilization
- 8 Paths to Citizenship
- 9 Work in the Schools
- 10 Asylum Work for Immigrants in Detention
- 12 Immigration Relief for Crime Victims
- 14 Increasing Civic Engagement through Citizenship
- 16 Building the Next Generation of Social Justice Leaders

20 out of 33 counties served A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





1,614 people served 523 through direct representation296 through legal consultations387 through phone consultations408 through legal fairs and workshops

712 community members engaged 126 community partners trained

400 community members trained

138 non-attorney volunteers

48 pro-bono attorney volunteers

624 pro-bono attorney service hours volunteered

whose immigration policies include building a wall, deporting millions, and closing doors to those in need of protection. We have seen the termination of the DACA program, instatement of a travel ban, increased ICE presence in our community, and the opening of a new immigrant detention center 90 minutes outside of Albuquerque.

ver the past year, we have witnessed the election of a president

However, we have also seen a burgeoning sanctuary movement and unprecedented energy and support from our community around issues impacting immigrants. The election results do not undercut the fact that Americans overwhelmingly support immigration reform. There are millions of Americans who welcome immigrants with open arms and appreciate the strength immigrants bring to our national fabric.

While the past year has been full of challenges, this moment in history has given us at NMILC the opportunity to reassess our mission and values. The needs of the immigrant community in New Mexico have shifted with the political climate, and we have used this year to reflect on how we can stay responsive and relevant in light of these changes.

Our revamped NMILC mission, vision, and newly developed Theory of Change encapsulate how we view our role as an actor in the broader movement for social justice. Our Theory of Change reflects our organizational commitments to increasing civic engagement in the immigrant community, providing direct services that are flexible and responsive to the tumultuous political climate, and building the next generation of social justice legal professionals—especially addressing barriers to the legal profession facing immigrants and people of color. This document affirms our identity as a social justice organization dedicated to working with, rather than for, immigrants in New Mexico.

We are so grateful to you, our many volunteers and donors who have supported us this year, and we know there is so much work left to do. Our justice system should not pick and choose who it serves based on how much money they have or where they were born. We envision a vibrant New Mexico where all people—regardless of their immigration status—can achieve their full potential and are treated with dignity and respect. We made a lot of progress over the past year, and we can't stop now. Please continue to join us as we fight for basic human rights with our immigrant neighbors. We cannot do it without you, and we thank you for your steadfast support.

With gratitude,

Mónica Córdova Board Chair

Jennifer Landau

Executive Director



WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE

We rely on volunteers to increase our capacity. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 505.247.1023 or email us at info@nmilc.org.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Our newly developed Theory of Change is a visual representation of the strategies we believe are necessary to achieve our long-term goals and the methods we believe are foundational to our work. In collaboration with our organizational partners, we engage in policy, education and advocacy, direct services, and leadership development. Each of these work areas support and inform the other, contributing to increased civic engagement and a more equitable justice system.

ABOUT NMILC

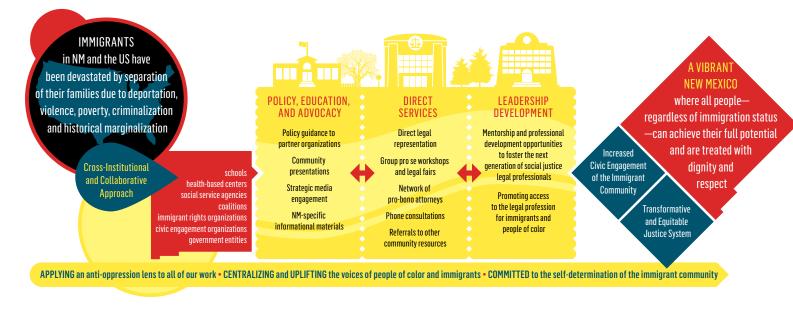
WHAT WE DO

This year, our staff and board members engaged in a planning process to update our organizational mission and vision statement. Given the increasingly hostile environment towards immigrants, we wanted our mission and vision to affirm our commitment not just to providing legal services, but to working towards social justice and equity for all, regardless of immigration status.

NMILC'S NEW MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to advance justice and equity by empowering lowincome immigrant communities through collaborative legal services, advocacy, and education.

We envision a vibrant New Mexico where all people, regardless of immigration status, can achieve their full potential and are treated with dignity and respect.



KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- 1 An intersectional approach of direct legal services, policy, education, and advocacy is needed to achieve our vision
- 2 Given our limited resources, strategic partnerships are needed to increase civic engagement of individuals served and to achieve broader social change
- 3 Structural barriers limit access to the legal profession by immigrants and people of color; we need to centralize and uplift the voices of immigrants in the legal profession
- 4 Given the great need, we must leverage the work of volunteers and pro-bono attorneys



POLITICAL CLIMATE

POLICY, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

ver the course of the past year, we have seen increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence in our community. ICE officers have broadened the scope of their enforcement priorities, increased the detention of immigrants, and have targeted individuals at courthouses. This increased enforcement has made many immigrants fearful of going about their daily lives and exercising their legal right to seek help through the justice system—a reality that especially affects survivors of domestic violence and other crimes.

In response to this changing climate, we worked with Listo NM partners—El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, Encuentro, and NM Dream Team—and other community groups to provide policy guidance, legal technical assistance, and training to community partners and constituents. We also provided legal guidance to support community groups in their movement-building efforts to protect immigrant families in an increasingly hostile policy environment.

Resisting Increased ICE Enforcement

ABQ RAPID RESPONSE

As cities across the U.S. grapple with how to respond to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in their communities, we joined Listo NM partners, ACLU of NM, NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Enlace Comunitario, SWOP, and the NM Asian Family Center to form the Albuquerque Rapid Response team. The team has developed various systems for legal support, advocated against and addressed harsh ICE tactics, and supported sanctuary policies locally.

ADVOCACY WITH THE COURTS ON ICE PRESENCE

Together with our partners on the ABQ Rapid Response Team, we have worked on advocating for a policy that prevents ICE from apprehending individuals at their state court hearings. We also continue to seek permission for many of our clients to testify telephonically in order of protection and custody hearings, to reduce the risk of their being detained after testifying.



IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY POLICIES

Our staff provided support to EI CENTRO in determining scope, strategy, and testimony in support of the Albuquerque City Council's immigrant-friendly memorial and the Bernalillo County Commission's immigrant-friendly resolution.



BUILDING COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

In response to requests from the community, we have worked in conjunction with partner organizations and immigrant groups around the state to offer Know Your Rights, Legal Observer, and Civil Rights Trainings. We also regularly offer trainings for attorney volunteers and community groups to increase our community's collective legal knowledge.



MANUAL ON STUDENT RIGHTS FOR APS SCHOOLS

In collaboration with the ACLU of NM, we published a community advisory on the rights of immigrant students in schools.

 $\mathbf{4}$



"I proposed the DACAthon to ensure that we reached everyone and anyone who was eligible for renewal. I was delighted that NMILC and the project partners were able to mobilize quickly and without hesitation to make it a success."

—ISAAC DE LA LUNA, Listo NM

Communications Coordinator

DACA CHANGED LIVES

POLICY, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

TERMINATION

DIRECT SERVICES

A study by the Center of American Progress¹ shows that 97% of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are employed and/or in school. Many have become the primary breadwinners in their families, taken advantage of educational opportunities, purchased homes, and even started their own businesses. An internal evaluation that we conducted last year on our DACA services reflected these national trends. The majority of our former clients interviewed reported becoming financially independent or earning more money since receiving their work permit.

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the termination of the DACA program. DACA recipients eligible for renewal were given one month to submit their renewal application.

We responded. Together with Listo NM partners New Mexico Dream Team, El CENTRO, and Encuentro, as well as other groups across the state including Santa Fe Dreamers Project, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, El Instituto Legal, United We Dream, the Mexican Consulate, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fé, we quickly mobilized to provide support to anyone affected by DACA's termination. We provided walk-in DACA renewal clinics in Albuquerque, Farmington, and Taos. On the Sunday before the deadline, Listo NM hosted a 12-hour DACAthon where people could come in or call in for assistance.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Over
1,000
DACA applicants
assisted since DACA
began in 2012

147
DACA
applications
completed
in 2017



#WeDeserveBetter



NMILC and Listo NM campaign partners leveraged national resources provided by Mission Asset Fund, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and United We Dream to help DACA renewal applicants cover the otherwise prohibitive renewal fee.



he policies, promises, and threats of the Trump Administration have put an incredible strain on immigrant communities in New Mexico as we wit-

ness an increase in ICE raids, the rescission of the DACA program, and

the expansion of immigrant detention across the country. Throughout this dif-

ficult period, we have been responsive to the changing needs of immigrants in

New Mexico and have developed innovative ways to assist as many individuals

as possible who are eligible for a path to citizenship. This has included growing

our school-based outreach program, developing a self-help asylum project

in response to ICE's new detention of asylum seekers at the Cibola County

School Based Partnerships



Alejandro Macias, Economic Justice Fellow and NMILC Legal Assistance School-Based Legal Program

DIRECT SERVICES

TO

CITIZENSHIP

"Given the end of the DACA program and the vulnerable nature of temporary legal status, it's more important than ever that NMILC assist as many community members as possible to identify eligibility for and help obtain legal immigration status that ultimately can lead to citizenship. At the same time, we are more committed than ever to providing immigration and financial solutions for those immigrants who don't currently qualify for a permanent path." -JENNIFER LANDAU,

Executive Director

Correctional Center, and increasing the accessibility of our weekly workshops where we provide free legal advice and assistance on specific types of cases. NMILC Services and Partnerships that Lead to Citizenship



who coordinates NMILC's

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

62 SIJS cases filed

we have always endeavored to identify permanent paths to citizenship for students who qualify. Now that the political environment has shifted, we seek to ensure that every local undocumented student has access to a legal assessment to determine whether they qualify for a permanent path. One of the most common pathways to citizenship for youth is called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, which allows children who have been abandoned, abused or neglected to apply for permanent residence. Our school outreach program has expanded to seven schools around Albuquerque, and is continuing to grow.

Our school-based programming started in 2012 with the introduction of DACA, and

How does the school-based outreach program operate?

Each school has a unique culture and approach to holistic student support, and our program operates differently in each location depending on the systems they already have in place. In some schools, for example, the program is run through the school's health program. If a student does not have health insurance, it is possible that this is due to their lack of permanent immigration status. In these cases, a guidance counselor or case manager will speak to the student and let them know that they can set up an appointment with me or one of the other NMILC legal caseworkers, if they are interested.

STATUS

When we discover that a student is eligible for a form of relief but can not afford a private attorney, we work with NMILC staff attorneys as well as our network of pro bono attorneys to ensure that the case is staffed and completed with no charge to

Why is this program important for students and their families?

With this program, we are creating safe zones for kids in their schools-the idea is to eliminate the stigma around being an undocumented student though our presence. By providing services on-site at schools, our aim is to make seeking immigration help as normalized as visiting the nurse or guidance counselor.

When receiving an immigration consultation, students are often able to find relief for their entire family. This is just one way that NMILC is working to keep New Mexican families united.

How does this program impact the community as a whole?

As a result of this partnership, schools have adopted policies that protect students from ICE and have started training staff members on how to respond to ICE presence on campus. The community is learning from the services we provide to students and is adopting policies and building infrastructure that supports our common goal of providing holistic support for immigrant members of our community. We have learned that all students benefit from an inclusive learning environment where everyone, regardless of immigration status, feels safe.

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

VOLUNTEER your time

\$40 covers one consultation with a student at their school

\$15,000 supports our on-site presence at a partner school for an entire year

SIJS requires a State Court order. Join our Pro Bono SIJS Attorney Pool and represent a child in their State Court case.



ASY

Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellow Rebekah Wolf with her client after winning his asylum hearing.

ASYLUM

Since beginning this program in May:

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

271
detainees received legal information

16
asylum seekers
represented
by NMILC

detainees won their asylum cases pro se after participating in our program

13
dedicated attorney and
non-attorney volunteers
travel to Cibola on a
rotating basis

11

TO CITIZENSHIP

PATHS

Services in Cibola Detention Center

DIRECT SERVICES

sylum is a permanent path to citizenship; however, it is one of the most difficult and resource-intensive legal paths to obtain. Much of our asylum work takes place at the Cibola County Correctional Center—a detention facility located in Milan, New Mexico that houses the greatest percentage of asylum seekers in the nation and the only immigration detention center with a designated wing for transgender women. The facility began detaining immigrants in October 2016, just months after losing its contract to be run as a prison because of human rights violations.

We are working with the Santa Fe Dreamers Project to fight for justice and adequate legal representation to individuals detained in this facility. Twice per week, a small team of attorneys, legal assistants, and volunteers give presentations and provide consultations to detainees. We use a mix of prose services and direct representation to assist as many people as possible.

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

\$140 covers the cost of printing materials for our Cibola program for one month

\$300 supports all costs related to one trip to the detention center

\$3,500 funds one month of services at Cibola

VOLUNTEER your time

We are looking for **bilingual volunteers** who can commit to traveling to Cibola once a month to support our work at the detention center

The NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice coordinates volunteers to **assist with housing** and transportation for released detainees

Ibrahim* recently graduated from university in West Africa,

where he studied politics and foreign languages. A member of a rival political party to the government, Ibrahim had been arrested and detained several times by government police forces after participating in peaceful protests. While detained, he was denied food, forced to do unpaid labor, and tortured.

Things came to a breaking point one night when he was out of the house and the police showed up at his door. The police mistook Ibrahim's uncle, who was visiting, for Ibrahim himself, and killed him in front of his mother. Knowing his life was in danger, Ibrahim flew to South America and then declared himself as an asylum seeker at the U.S.-Mexico border.

NMILC and the Santa Fe Dreamers Project worked together to advise Ibrahim on his case and found a pro bono attorney to directly represent him-greatly increasing the likelihood that he will win his case and be able to remain in the U.S.

*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual.



PATHS
TO
CITIZENSHIP

"The services provided by NMILC are vital to the domestic violence survivors at Enlace Comunitario. By gaining legal immigration status, survivors decrease their fears of losing their children through deportation and are less vulnerable overall. We are so grateful to NMILC for their partnership and amazing work."

–MARTA PEREIRA, Enlace

Comunitario Interim Co-Director

DIRECT SERVICES

Partnership with Victim Service Organizations

ince our founding in 2010, we have represented survivors of crime—including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking—through partnerships with Enlace Comunitario and other victim service providers. Crime victim visas provide an increasingly crucial permanent path to citizenship. In the current enforcement environment, the need for our services has never been greater—we have over 50 eligible New Mexican families on our wait list who have survived a violent crime and need immigration legal assistance to gain protection from deportation and the economic stability that comes with having a work permit.

At one of our weekly intakes at Enlace Comunitario we met Angela*—a survivor of domestic violence and human trafficking. Angela's abusive partner forced her to work in his construction business, including performing dangerous work when she was pregnant. We helped Angela obtain a T Visa—a visa available to victims of human trafficking—and to report the trafficking to the New Mexico Attorney General's office. Now that Angela has a T Visa, she has the ability to work, access to public benefits, and the economic stability she needs to live a life free of violence.

"Immigrant survivors of crime face increased barriers to seeking justice and safety in today's environment of indiscriminate immigration enforcement, as well as increased awareness of racism and misogyny. Access to legal representation is vital to immigrant crime survivors being empowered to protect their families and increasing the safety of our entire community."

—EVA EITZEN, NMILC Legal Director

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

162 survivors of crime represented



PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

VOLUNTEER your time

\$40 covers one consultation with a crime survivor

\$100 supports translation costs for one case

\$1,000 covers one complete case for a survivor of domestic violence

Become a pro bono attorney and assist domestic violence survivors with their U Visa cases

^{*}Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual.



INCREASING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

POLICY, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

DIRECT SERVICES

CITIZENSHIP AND VOTER ENGAGEMENT

ince the 2016 election, New Mexico has seen an unprecedented spike in citizenship applications, growing by over 50% in 2017 compared to 2015—the second-largest percentage increase of any state.

In response to this demand, we have greatly increased our citizenship services over the past year, helping more New Mexicans than ever gain safety from deportation, increased ability to travel, the ability to petition for visas for more family members, greater access to public benefits, and, perhaps most notably, the right to vote in elections.

Civic engagement is an important element of citizenship. Together with Partnership for Community Action, we are launching a new project to connect our citizenship service recipients with a greater voter action network. Through this project, we are asking local government to support citizenship outreach efforts and integrate Albuquerque's immigrant community into everyday city programs, creating an active collaboration between legal services and civic engagement.

We could not do our citizenship work without our amazing community partners and volunteers. Special thanks to El CENTRO, Encuentro, and ACE Leadership High School for generously hosting our citizenship fairs and workshops.

GROWING BACKLOGS AND HIGH APPLICATION FEES

build a "second wall" that affects immigrants' ability to apply for citizenship and acts as a form of voter suppression. National groups are predicting that USCIS will increase the cost of applications and potentially get rid of fee waiver opportunities over the next few years. 2018 is a critical chance to help as many people as possible submit their applications, before these changes take place.

CITIZENSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

	FY 2015	FY 2017	
Applications filed in New Mexico	1681	2604	54% INCREASE
Applications filed by NMILC	30	271	900% INCREASE

The 271 applications

NMILC assisted with represent

more than 10%

of all applications filed in

New Mexico in 2017.

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

\$200 supports one applicant at a legal fair

\$12,000 covers an entire legal fair, where we will assist 50-75 applicants

VOLUNTEER your time

Attorney and non-attorney volunteers are needed at Citizenship Fairs



Many immigrant students are not eligible for federal loans and financial aid, frequently making law school inaccessible. NMILC is partnering with the Nusenda Credit Union to provide affordable access to capital for former NMILC fellows to attend law school, while also advocating to reduce barriers for immigrant students with partners at the UNM School of Law.

TOP ROW: Adriel Orozco, Rebekah Wolf, Alejandro Macias, BOTTOM ROW: Adriana Villar, Hali Calzadillas, Martha Laura Garcia, Vanessa Gonzalez

NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE **LEADERS**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOWSHIPS AND NM IMMIGRATION CORPS

We believe that increasing legal representatives from communities comprised of those most directly impacted makes for stronger and more competent legal representation. Our Immigration Corps Program aims to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups in the legal profession as well as in the practice of public interest law. Immigration Corps Fellows mentor high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students interested in the legal field to create a pipeline of students interested in working with immigrant populations.

Key elements of NMILC's fellowship program include regular supervision and mentorship, direct client experience, ongoing professional development and training, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, community networking opportunities, and support applying to law school.

"Movements, to be truly transformative, must be led by those directly impacted. Public interest lawyering is no different. Lawyers from communities of color and immigrants know firsthand the workings of systems of oppression and have the ability to be more responsive and innovative in addressing those systemic issues-for their clients and for their communities. That's why NMILC is investing in a pipeline project that provides multifaceted support to people of color and immigrants who have an interest in entering the legal profession-from planning for the LSAT to preparing their law school applications." -ADRIEL OROZCO, New Mexico Immigrant Corps Program Manager and Equal Justice Works Attorney Fellow



has lived in the United States since the age of five. She grew up in Pajarito Mesa and is a South Valley Academy graduate. Liz was NMILC's first paralegal in the Equal Justice Works cohort and also the first to be accepted to law school. She is currently in her first year at UNM School of Law, where she is a WKKF-sponsored Child and Family Justice Scholar and the recipient of several scholarships, including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Higher Education Department grant, the Keller and Keller LLC scholarship, and the Carlos Vigil Memorial scholarship. Lizdebeth is passionate about social change and social justice, and plans to continue advocating for the rights and justice for all. She is NMILC's newest board member.

Lizdebeth Carrasco-Gallardo is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico, but

"I've always dreamed of being a social justice lawyer. Without the Equal Justice Works fellowship and my mentors at NMILC, however, there is no way that I would be in law school today. I'm so grateful for my experience as a fellow and all the support that I received. The fellowship has changed my life and made it possible for me to pursue α career in public interest law to serve the immigrant community in New Mexico." -LIZDEBETH CARRASCO, former NMILC Fellow, Law Student, NMILC Board Member

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

\$250 covers LSAT fees for one fellow

\$1,200 sponsors a fellow to take an LSAT Prep Course

\$45,000 funds an Immigration Corps Paralegal Fellow for one year

VOLUNTEER your time

We are looking for volunteers who can provide career mentorship to fellows or assist applicants with their law school applications

FINANCIALS

PARTNER WITH US

SPONSOR our work

\$40

one legal consultation

\$150

printing for one month's worth of materials for our Cibola Program

\$250

one training to allied service providers

\$600

one pro se workshop, serving 20-30 people

\$1,000

legal representation for a child at risk of deportation

\$2,000

one asylum case

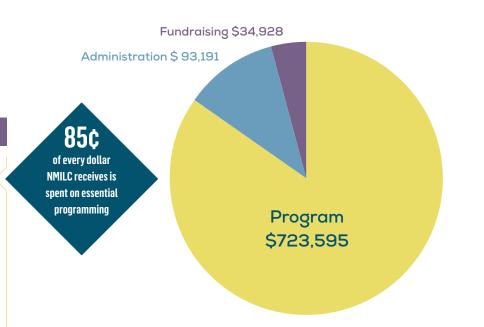
\$3,500

one month of services at the Cibola County Correctional Center

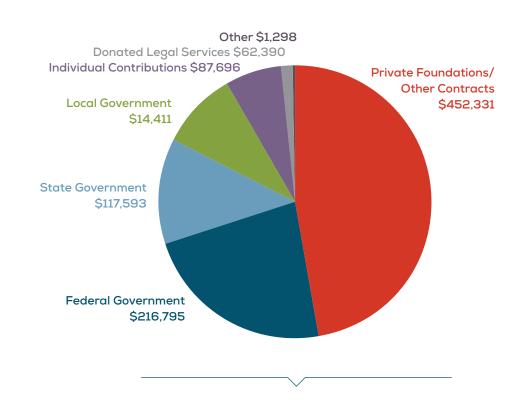
\$12,000

one citizenship fair serving 50-70 people

FY17 TOTAL EXPENSES \$851,714



FY17 TOTAL REVENUE \$952,514



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Donate today – online at nmilc.org or by check to NMILC, PO Box 7040, Albuquerque, NM 87194.

Many Thanks to all of Our Supporters!

None of our work would be possible without the many people and organizations who support us with their time, expertise, and giving. From pro bono attorneys representing our clients in court, to volunteers spending their Saturday with us at a Citizenship Fair, to all of our faithful donors, we are so grateful for our broad base of community support. Our success is because of you!

SPECIAL THANKS

To Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb and Modrall Sperling Law Firms for each sponsoring CLEs for volunteer attorneys this year.

2016-2017 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Our law firm and pro bono attorney partners sponsor trainings for volunteer attorneys, offer legal expertise and mentorship to our staff, and take on cases pro bono.

Aaron Wolf Gabriele Ibanez Guzman Monica Newcomer Miller Aimee Gonzalez Horatio Moreno-Campos Olsi Vrapi J. Michael Osborn Pamela Kennedy Alana De Young Alison Cimino James McClintick Parrish Collins Allegra Love Joan Friedland Quentin Smith Amber Weeks Joel Esparza Cruz Rachel Winston Anne Alexander John Feldman Rebecca Kitson Bridget Mullins John Hiatt Robert Lucero John Russo Charles Seibert Roxie De Santiago Christina Rosado Jose Blanton Sarah Stevenson Cristina Chavez Judith Polich Stephanie Latimer Ella Joan Fenoglio Taylor Zangara Julia Barnes Ellen Louderbough Kari Converse Tess Wilkes Emma O'Sullivan Leslie McCarthy Apodaca Tom Stahl Eunice Herrera Lynne Canning Victoria Maqueada Frank Katz Melanie Stambaugh Zach Ives

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We believe collaboration brings about the best results. Our community partners stand alongside us in our mission, offering their guidance, support, and resources to maximize our collective impact.

ACE Leadership Hih School ACLU of NM Albuquerque High School Catholic Charities

(Archdiocese of Santa Fe and Las Cruces)

Center for Civic Policy Centro Savila

Comunidades En Acción Y De Fé

Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, Inc.

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

Encuentro

Enlace Comunitario

Esperanza Shelter

Health Leadership High School

Highland High School Innovation Law Lab La Familia Medical Center Lutheran Family Services Mexican Consulate National Immigrant Justice Center

New Mexico Asian Family Center

New Mexico Dream Team/United We Dream

New Mexico Dreamers in Action

New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice

19

New Mexico Bar Children's Law Section
New Mexico Bar Immigration Law Section

New Mexico Legal Aid Nusenda Credit Union

Partnership for Community Action

Pegasus Legal Services Prosperity Works

Santa Fe Dreamers Project

SOLACE

Somos Un Pueblo Unido South Valley Academy SouthWest Organizing Project Transgender Resource Center

UNM School of Law

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Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful, they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal? How can a human being be illegal? –ELIE WIESEL



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