FALL 2018

RELIABLE WORKERS READY TO SERVE

day worker center of mountain view

A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

You know the Day Worker Center as a place connecting day laborers and employers. Did you know we also offer classes for workers? A wide range of life- and work-skills classes help compañer@s become more effective on the job and integrated into the community. Give a huge round of applause to all of the volunteers who donate their time and talents to teach these and other classes.

Training Road-Savvy Drivers

A minor traffic ticket prompted volunteer ***Beatriz Ruelas*** to learn more about traffic laws and overcome shyness to teach others like herself become more comfortable with California's rules of the road.

Since the safe-driving program began in 2016, Beatriz and fellow volunteer ***Marco Antonio Cedillo*** have trained 200 road-savvy drivers.

For two fun-filled hours twice a week, Beatriz and Marco prepare workers to pass the DMV's written test. In this popular class, students also learn defensive driving techniques and anticipate how to deal with road risks, becoming more confident behind the wheel.

> *I never thought I would be able to teach in front of a group of people.*
> *– Beatriz Ruelas*

Beatriz and Marco run safe-driver classes.

Workers practice essential computer skills.

Marco is driven to teach the class because it's a chance to "break the stereotype that the Latin@ community is full of drivers without licenses."

Both instructors are gratified by their students' motivation and commitment to learning. Students show real dedication, often arriving to class after working two exhausting shifts.

On overcoming her shyness in order to run a class, Beatriz remarked, "I never thought I would be able to teach in front of a group of people. It was a great challenge."

Bridging the Tech Gap

Living and working in high-tech Silicon Valley can be overwhelming if your tech skills are less than polished. Imagine applying for a job if you don't know how to use email or submit an electronic resume. Everyday tasks such as shopping online or even hailing a ride share would also be out of reach.

In twice-weekly classes, ***Sergio Martinez*** and ***Carlos Escudero*** help workers build computer skills. They make technology friendly and accessible so that students can learn basic skills (such as email and word processing) and access the internet. Training in smart-phone applications allows workers to hail a car to get to work or translate between languages to improve employer communication.

ESL All-Stars

Effective communication is essential to fit into a new community. English as a Second Language classes at the Day Worker Center help recent immigrants build their English language skills to be more successful in their daily lives, whether at work or at home.

Hands-on learning in the KMVT-15 studio.

Students role-play English conversations.

Interactive, fun classes focus on speaking and pronunciation. Students role-play introducing themselves and talking on the telephone, and discuss current events. Work skills, including handling problems or emergencies and promoting health and safety, boost confidence with employers and co-workers. Students also practice shopping, scheduling medical visits, and giving or receiving directions. Along the way, reading maps and dealing with US currency are covered. Vocabulary and grammar are woven into all the lessons.

As many as 15 workers attend beginner or intermediate/advanced classes every weekday morning at the Day Worker

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22 Years of Service

In October, a huge crowd of enthusiastic revelers celebrated the Day Worker Center's 22 years of service to the community. The energetic crowd at the **Community School of Music and Arts** included representatives from the City of Mountain View, the Los Altos Community Foundation, and Stanford University.

Prominent journalist ***Celina Rodriguez***, a former CNN anchor and advocate for the Latin@ community, emceed a lively evening of games, live music, and *baile folklorico*. Attendees made short work of the wonderful spread whomped up by our own kitchen wizards, along with food donations from Chef Chu's, Milk Pail Market, and UNIXSurplus. Long-time supporter ***Barbara Mordo*** organized all the donations and contributed dinner and dessert items.

Thanks to everyone who made our anniversary celebration extra special!

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

Two groups with unmet needs inspired "Seniors Helping Seniors," the Day Worker Center's newest project.

Executive Director María Marroquin explains how community seniors often need assistance with tasks like gardening, laundry, or cleaning but, given limited social security income, may find hiring help too costly.

Senior workers who could provide that help are sometimes passed over in the hiring process by employers who mistakenly believe younger workers are better. Says María, "Actually, older workers are often more experienced — and more committed to working, since they've been passed over so many times."

The "Seniors Helping Seniors" program helps meet both needs. Senior employers receive two free hours of labor and senior workers gain more opportunities to work. A generous grant from the **Kiwanis Club of Mountain View** pays $40 to cover two hours of the worker's labor.

One local resident learned about "Seniors Helping Seniors" while visiting the Mountain View Senior Center. Enthused, he contacted the Day Worker Center to get help with housecleaning and was matched with worker ***Aurora***. His experience was so satisfying that he now regularly hires Aurora to clean his house.

Aurora is one of the senior workers participating in "Seniors Helping Seniors."

Aurora was delighted when the employer called the Day Worker Center to request her help again. Being re-hired is a huge boost to self-esteem and an acknowledgment of her excellent work. The Day Worker Center gains more satisfied employers, making "Seniors Helping Seniors" an all-around win.

If you're 65 or older and need a hand with a household task, call **650.903.4102** to sign up for two free hours of help. Call at least a day in advance to make sure a senior worker is available for your project.

Community leaders and baile folklorico dancers from **Reach Potential** *helped celebrate our anniversary. Photographs by* **Jack Owicki** *at* **Pro Bono Photo**.

New Staff

Next time you stop in at the Day Worker Center, say "hello" to our two newest staff members.

Programs Manager ***Carla Dardon*** oversees job placements and center activities. She joined the Center in August 2017. When not at work Carla spends time with family, often rooting for her grandson at sporting events. She also cooks up a storm and loves history documentaries.

Our most recent hire ***Moses Nerio*** joined us in August 2018. As Associate Director he assists María in supervising center operations, with a focus on strategy, business, and funding management. Moses enjoys working out, listening to jazz, and spending time with his dog Junia.

Welcome, Carla and Moses!

WHO'S WHO at the DAY WORKER CENTER

STAFF

Executive Director: **María Marroquín**
Associate Director: **Moses Nerio**
Programs Manager: **Carla Dardon**
Office Manager: **Ana Cruz**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: **Bill Lambert**, intellectual property attorney
Vice President: **Laura Casas**, member of Foothill-DeAnza Community College District's Board of Trustees
Secretary: **Laura Macias**, Mountain View council member and former mayor
Treasurer: **Steve Olson**, senior associate dean of Stanford University's School of Humanities and Sciences

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Josefina Bailon, day laborer
Marco Antonio Cedillo, cashier
Armando Espitia, Mountain View police officer
Marcos Leyva, day laborer
Francisco Mendoza, day laborer
Father Bob Moran, retired Catholic priest
Craig Sherod, owner of Craig Sherod Photography
David Wolff, information technology manager

WRITING & DESIGN

Laura Corbett, LMCorbett@comcast.net

Photo by **Mary Bender**.

TRAVELING STITCHES

Colorful day worker–designed quilts were featured at the Los Altos History Museum this year, and more than 100 people attended the opening exhibit in February 2018. Since the project's completion in 2013, the "Traveling Stitches" exhibit has appeared at venues all over the Bay Area.

"Traveling Stitches" curator and volunteer ***Naomi Zamir*** explains that the quilts "depict the stories, memories, dreams, ideas, and hopes" of day workers. Naomi taught more than 140 workers how to express their stories through fabric images, then guided them in assembling the blocks into radiant quilts. In the process, workers talked, laughed, and found community with each other.

Visit the **Day Worker Center**'s web site to find out where you can next see "Traveling Stitches."

Learning from page 1

Center. *Muchas gracias* to our dedicated ESL volunteers!

See DWC on TV!

Eight workers have been busy behind the scenes at KMVT-15 studios, using professional gear as they learn every aspect of producing and editing a TV series — a showcase for the Day Worker Center's services.

Half-hour episodes of the Day Worker Center show include thought-provoking interviews with workers, board members, and other local community leaders such as Hispanic journalist ***Celina Rodriguez***, beloved and respected retired priest ***Roberto Moran***, and Day Worker Center founder ***Job Lopez***.

Thanks to KMVT-15 for providing exciting, new learning opportunities for our workers.

Watch DWC-TV every Monday at 7PM on Comcast channel 15.
Previous episodes are now available on **YouTube**.

YOUR DOLLARS CHANGE LIVES!

LOOK WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN DO!

$25
Seasonal vegetable seeds to feed workers.

$50
Train 6 workers for 8 hours.

$75
Buy ESL books for 10 classes.

$100
Keep our doors open for an entire week!

MAIL YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CHECK IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR DONATE AT OUR WEBSITE

DAY WORKERS HELP THE COMMUNITY

YOUR TREE CAN BE A GIVING TREE!

Decorate for the holidays and support your community when you buy your Christmas tree, wreath, garland, and more at the Kiwanis Tree Lot.

You'll find Day Worker Center compañer@s prepping trees or helping customers secure trees to their cars. The Kiwanis Tree Lot offers our workers a windfall of 200 crucial hours of employment during slower winter months when jobs are scarce due to bad weather.

Workers also feel the satisfaction of contributing their efforts to a worthy cause. Depending on the size of the tree purchased, the Kiwanis Club of Los Altos will donate $5 or $10 to your favorite school's PTA.

Pick up your tree through December 16 at the lot in front of Lucky's at Foothill Expressway and Arboretum Drive in Los Altos. For more information, call **650.735.1552** or visit the Kiwanis Tree Lot web site.

A Festive Helping Hand

We've been all over town this year! Eighty-eight Day Worker Center compañer@s worked more than 1,900 hours at area festivals.

Enthusiastic workers were on scene at the Art and Wine festivals of Los Altos and Mountain View, Diwali, the Shakespeare and German festivals, as well as the annual "Run for Zimbabwe Orphans." Workers set up exhibits, maintained bathrooms, picked up trash, and provided directions and other information.

Event organizers hiring day workers include the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, Los Altos Village Association, German International School of Silicon Valley, Saint Joseph Catholic School, and Kiwanis Club of Los Altos.

Next time you're enjoying a day out at one of our area's many festivals, give thanks for the multitude of day workers who help these events run smoothly.

HIRE YOUR OWN HERO!

Is your home ready for holiday guests? Need help hanging decorations? Yard ready for the winter? Get help with these chores and many more! Call **650.903.4102** today.

Photograph by **Jack Owicki** at Pro Bono Photo.

HELP US

Call or email us with your current address. Better yet, **DONATE**!

day worker center of mountain view