



# **Héroes Invisibles**

## **2017 - 2018**

**Hecho por**  
**Notre Dame San José**  
**para el Day Worker Center**  
**of Mountain View**

## *Awards*

ACTFL Globally Engaged Program Award Winner

Microsoft/Krause Center Innovation Award- Grand Prize

Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grant

Facing History Human Rights & International Justice Teaching Grant

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## Dedicación

*Este libro está dedicado a los héroes invisibles de todo el mundo y especialmente a los héroes invisibles del Centro de Jornaleros de Mountain View. Sus historias nos inspiran a ser mejores personas y a hacer cambios en el mundo. Las historias de familias amorosas, viajes increíbles y una resistencia irrompible nos dan esperanza. ¡Gracias por compartir!*

## Dedication

*This book is dedicated to invisible heroes all around the world, and especially the invisible heroes of the Mountain View Day Worker Center. Your stories inspire us to be better people and to make change in the world. Stories of loving families, incredible journeys and unbreakable resilience give us hope. Thank you for sharing.*



## Introducción

Este año, nuestra clase de español tuvo la oportunidad de hablar con individuos del Centro de Trabajadores en Mountain View. Cada estudiante entrevistó a un trabajador sobre su juventud, y, por lo tanto, aprendió cómo las experiencias de estos trabajadores impactaron su integración o proceso de inmigración a los Estados Unidos. Con estas entrevistas, nuestra clase fue capaz de obtener información sobre el proceso de la inmigración desde una perspectiva diferente.

Este viaje al centro de trabajadores ayudó a cada una de nosotras a entender que una sola historia o idea no siempre representa las experiencias de la vida real que la gente ha vivido. Al hablar con los trabajadores cara a cara, nos dimos cuenta de que sus historias eran mucho más complejas de lo que habíamos pensado. Fue un momento de descubrimiento para todas nosotras cuando empezamos a entender que cada individuo había vivido una vida completamente diferente, y que ellos querían alcanzar diferentes metas.

Nuestra clase está muy agradecida de haber hablado con estos trabajadores, y esperamos haber contado su historia de la manera en que quieren que sea oída.



## *Introduction*

This year, our Spanish class had the opportunity to talk to individuals from the Mountain View Day Worker Center. Each student interviewed a worker about their early life, thereby learning how their experiences impacted their integration or immigration processes in the United States. With these interviews, our class was able to gain insight on the immigration process from a different perspective.

This trip to the Day Worker Center helped each of us to understand that a single story or idea does not always represent the real life experiences that people have lived through. By talking to the workers one on one, we realized that there was so much more to the story than what we had thought. It was an eye-opening moment for all of us when we started to understand that each individual had lived through a completely different life, and that they aimed to achieve different goals.

Our class is extremely grateful to have spoken to these workers, and we hope that we have told their story they way they want it to be heard.



Gabriel

Me llamo Gabriel Torres y soy de Puebla, México. He vivido aquí en los Estados Unidos por 18 años, y he regresado a México una vez. Me he considerado como un hombre tranquilo que me gusta ser el bien. Mi pasatiempo favorito es leer. Mi libro favorito es la Biblia porque con Dios siento esa paz interior, que me conforta. Me siento bien, platicar a Dios a solas y leer su palabra. Es lo que más me gusta.

Claro que me gustan otros libros pero muy poquito, no tanto. Me gustan las películas de las vidas de los santos como San Francisco de Asís, Santa Clara, San Pablo, y San Pedro. A las víboras les tengo miedo. Allá en México he visto víboras, aquí no he visto. Pegué un gritote cuando me encontré con la víbora allá en México. En México tenía un gato. Nomás me gustaba acariciar la cabecita. También tenía gallinas, guajolotes y perros. Las personas mas importante en mi vida son mi familia,

Mis hijos, mi hijo, y mi esposa. Me gustaría que mi familia se viniera pero es difícil. Todavía les mando un poco dinero a mi familia, pero no mucho porque ellos ya trabajan.

Lo que me atrae mucho son las cosas espirituales, por eso yo, busco cada día la santidad, de estar bien con Dios, espiritualmente. Si me encontrara con Dios, yo le diría que muchas gracias, porque yo creo en Dios y algún día estar con él para siempre estar con él, y es lo que yo más quiero en esta vida. Yo tengo la bendición de Dios de que he estado bien. Mi vida en México era muy pobre porque no teníamos mucho para comer. El dinero era un problema porque me gustaba estudiar mucho pero no pude.

En México unos problemas son la corrupción. Era muy difícil con darle a mis hijos estudio, calzado, ropa y salud. Esa fue la cosa más lo que me trajo para acá. La razón primordial en porque vine era que yo ya tenía familia con cuatro niños.

## Historia Contada

Por: Sharanya Suresh,  
Anicka Torres, Clara Oberg,  
Lizbeth Ornelas

Fue difícil venir a los Estados Unidos porque fui atravesando cerros y peligros en el desierto. Lo que le recomiendo a alguien migrando es que se supere, que siguiera estudiando inglés. Aprender lo básico para comunicarse.

Sobre todo que busque Dios en los momentos difíciles porque solamente él nos puede ayudar. Aunque es difícil aquí, siempre me han atendido donde quería que voy. Si voy a emergencia o un hospital, me entienden todos. En ese respecto soy muy bendecido, porque todos me tratan bien. Quiero regresar pronto a mi país, porque aquí no tengo nada. Yo estoy solo. Yo aquí me gusta portarme lo mejor que pueda para no tener problemas contra el ley. Me ha ayudado estar aquí en los Estados Unidos mucho porque gracias a Dios no he tenido conflicto con la policía. No me he andado en pandillas trato de portarme lo mejor que puedo para estar bien. No me adaptaba bien, buscando trabajo.

No era fácil, porque tenía una gran deuda de pagar. Mi primer trabajo era de janitor, limpiando los pisos de las tiendas, las yardas de jardinería. Ahora no tengo el trabajo de mis sueños porque quiero hacer lo mejor que puedo para regresar a México. Pues aquí hay muchas culturas; aquí es una mezcla de todas las culturas. Los idiomas son muy importantes. El idioma fue una barrera porque cuando recién llegué, muchas hablaban el inglés pero no entendía nada. Pero sí he aprendiendo un poco de inglés. La ventaja de hablar español es que en este estado, muchos hablan español y es la ventaja mía. Es bueno porque me entienden y me comprenden.



“Quiero regresar pronto a mi país, porque aquí no tengo nada.”

“Mi libro favorito es la Biblia porque con Dios siento esa paz interior, que me conforta.”

“Pegué un grieto cuando me encontré con la víbora allá en México.”



Gabriel

My name is Gabriel Torres and I'm from Puebla, Mexico. I have lived here in the United States for 18 years, and I have returned to Mexico once. I've considered myself a quiet man who likes to be good. My favorite hobby is reading. My favorite book is the Bible because with God I feel that inner peace that comforts me. I feel good, talk to God alone and read His word. That's what I like best.

Of course I like other books but very little, not so much. I like the movies of the lives of the Saints such as St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Paul, and St. Peter. I'm afraid of snakes. There in Mexico I have seen Vipers, I have not seen here. I hit a scream when I ran into the snake back in Mexico. In Mexico he had a cat. I just liked stroking my little head.

He also had chickens, turkeys and dogs. The most important people in my life are my family, my children, my son, and my wife. I wish my family would come but it's hard. I still send a little money to my family, but not much because they already work.

What attracts me a lot is spiritual things, so I, I seek everyday holiness, to be well with God, spiritually. If I were to meet God, I would say thank you very much, because I believe in God and someday be with him forever to be with him, and that is what I love most in this life. I have the blessing of God that I have been well. My life in Mexico was very poor because we didn't have much to eat. Money was a problem because I liked studying a lot but I couldn't.

In Mexico some problems are corruption. It was very difficult to give my children study, footwear, clothing and health. That was the most thing that brought me here. The primary reason why I came was that I already had family with four children. It was difficult to come to the United States because I went through

### Story Told By:

Sharanya Suresh, Anicka Torres, Clara Oberg, Lizbeth Ornelas



Hills and dangers in the desert. What I recommend to someone migrating is to get over, to continue studying English. Learn the basics to communicate.

Especially to seek God in difficult times because only he can help us. Although it is difficult here, I have always attended where I wanted to go. If I go to an emergency or a hospital, everybody understands me. In that respect I am very blessed, because everyone treats me well. I want to return to my country soon, because I have nothing here. I'm alone.

I like to behave here as best I can so as not to have any problems against the law. It has helped Me to be here in the United States a lot because thank God I have not had conflict with the police. I tried to behave as best I could to be well. I didn't adapt well, looking for work.

It wasn't easy, because I had a big debt to pay. My first job was janitor, cleaning the floors of the shops, the garden yards. Now I don't have my dream job because I want to do the best I can to get back to Mexico. For there are many cultures here; Here is a mixture of all cultures. Languages are very important.

The language was a barrier because when I first arrived, many spoke English but did not understand anything. But I did learn a little English. The advantage of speaking Spanish is that in this state, many speak Spanish and it is my advantage. It's good because they understand me and understand me.



"I want to return soon to my country, because I have nothing here."

"My favorite book is the Bible because with God I feel that inner peace that comforts me."

"I screamed when I ran into the snake back in Mexico."

# GABSTER EL INCREIBLE

# GABSTER THE INCREDIBLE

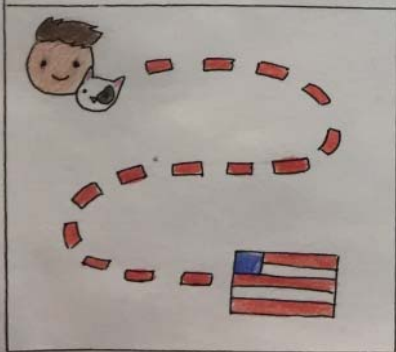
Cuando Gabriel era chico le encantaba la escuela.  
When Gabriel was a kid he loved school.



La familia de Gabriel se hizo muy pobre y el ya no podía atender a la escuela. Gabriel's family became very poor and he can no longer attend school.



Tenía una deuda que tenía que pagar en los Estados Unidos, entonces agarró a su gato y comenzó a caminar. He had a debt that he had to pay in the United States, so he grabbed his cat and started walking.



Cuando estaba migrando la migra lo deportó cuatro veces pero no paro de perseverar. When he was migrating, immigration services deported him four times but it did not stop him from persevering.



Vino a los Estados Unidos y empezó a buscar trabajo para que podría pagar su deuda. He came to the United States and started looking for work so that he can pay his debt.



Gabriel encontró un trabajo como un jardinero y fue al centro de jornaleros en Mountain View. Gabriel found a job as a gardener and went to the Day worker center in Mountain View.



Llama su familia y a veces envía dinero a ellos. He calls his family and sometimes sends money to them.



Reza cada noche para darle gracias a Dios por lo que tiene. Gabriel prays each night to thank God for what he has.





Aurelia

Me llamo Aurelia. Tengo cuarenta y nueve años. Tengo cuatro hermanos y soy la única mujer. Solo tengo un hermano acá y los otros están en México. Ya tengo diez años aquí en los EEUU.

Mi infancia era muy trabajadora. Yo comencé a trabajar ayudando a mi mamá desde los ocho años. Salí de la primaria del sexto grado aunque me gustaba la escuela. Cuidaba a mis primos cuando tenía doce años. Trabajé para diez años allá hasta que me casé.

Yo conocí mi esposo a los nueve años. Luego se salió de la escuela y se fue a trabajar con su papá. Yo me quede con mi mamá porque tenía que ayudarla. Luego fui a trabajar con mi tía y ella vivía cerca de la casa de él. Ahora, tenemos dos hijos que están con mi mamá y mi papá en el pueblo. El chico es muy bromista y apenas comenzó a trabajar. El grande es muy serio y sigue estudiando.

Yo comencé de cero y alcancé mi casa. Tenía dos tiendas en Cancún y diez máquinas. Un día, un huracán que se llamaba Gilberto vino muy fuerte. Toda la agua se metió cuando la lluvia vino y me mojó todas mis máquinas y mi material. Tuvíamos que limpiarlo pero las cosas se destrozaron. No podíamos trabajar para dos meses porque no había luz, pero cuando la regresó, no pudimos levantarnos. Decidí a venir a los EEUU con mi esposo porque no teníamos trabajos.

En México, hay más libertad. Sale uno en la calle y se puede ir a donde quiera, pero aquí es como una cárcel. No tenemos papeles, así que no estamos muy libres para andar en las calles. Solo trabajamos y vamos a las tiendas. También allí la gente se conoce mucho y hasta donde yo sé no hay tantas cosas que da miedo salir. Mis hijos salen a las horas de la noche, caminando, y no les pasa nada. Ellos quieren venir aquí para verme, pero yo les digo que no. Allá tengo mi casa grande y ellos están bien.

## Historia Contada

Por: Sara Solorio, Elizabeth Vvijal, Lindsey Warren, Cassidy Wallace

Cuando crucé la frontera a los EEUU, me trataron a pasar en carro pero no pude. Me quede en un hotel para un mes. Mi hermano conocía a una señora y me fue a buscar para que me pase ella. Cuando llegué, era todo feo. Yo piense que no iba ser ni un año hasta que yo me vaya. Aquí hay que convivir a veces con gente y al principio la gente no te trata muy bien. Una vez una compañera que no le caí bien me acusó de tomar algo de una casa y me empezaron investigar. De último pareció que un familiar había llevado las cosas.

Llegué en Los Ángeles y como yo sé hacer bolsos, tenía una fábrica. Pero Los Ángeles es muy peligroso. Es tan bonito en Mountain View, y me gusta más aquí. Limpiar casas era mi primer trabajo aquí, pero cuido a niños también. Tengo crecido a dos niñas que desde recién nacidas me las dejaron. Son hermanas, de cinco y cuatro años. Los cuidaba ocho horas cada día. Las llegaba a querer como mis hijas, más que yo tuve solo dos varones.

Por ahora no planeo regresar a México. Pero cuando no pueda trabajar, voy a salir para estar con mis hijos. Solamente es trabajar y regresar a mis hijos, me gustaría.

“Sale uno en la calle y se puede ir a donde quiera, pero aquí es como una cárcel.”

“[Mis hijos] quieren venir aquí para verme...”

“Solamente es trabajar y regresar a mis hijos, me gustaría.”





Aurelia

My name is Aurelia. I am forty-nine years old. I have four brothers; I am the only girl. Only one of my brothers is here and the others live in Mexico. I have been living in the U.S. for ten years now.

I worked hard as a child. I started helping out my mom when I was eight years old. I had to leave elementary school in sixth grade even though I really enjoyed it. I began taking care of my cousins when I was twelve. I worked for ten years there until getting married.

I met my husband when I was nine. Then he left school and went to work for his dad. I stayed with my mom initially because I had to help her. Then I went to work for my aunt and she lived close to his house. Now, we have two sons that are with my mom and dad back home. The youngest is a jokester and just started working. The oldest is very serious and still studying.

I started from nothing and saved enough to buy a house. I had two stores in Cancún, and ten machines. One day, a hurricane called Hurricane Gilbert hit very hard. The rainwater came in and wet all my machines and material. We cleaned it, but everything was destroyed. We couldn't work for two months because there was no electricity, but when it came back, we couldn't rebuild. I decided to come to the U.S. with my husband because we no longer had jobs.

In Mexico, there is more freedom. You can go out in the street there and head wherever you want, but here it is like a prison. We don't have papers, so we are not really free to wander the streets. We only work and go to the stores. Also, in Mexico everyone knows each other, and as far as I know, there aren't many scary things. My sons leave late at night, walking, and it's no problem. They want to come here to see me, but I told them no. Over there I have a big house

### Story Told By:

Sara Solorio, Elizabeth Vival,  
Lindsey Warren, Cassidy  
Wallace

and they are doing well.

When I crossed the border into the US, I tried coming by car but couldn't. I stayed in a hotel for a month. My brother knew a lady and he went to look for her so she could help me cross the border. Everything seemed ugly when I came. I thought I would leave after a year. Here sometimes you have to live with strangers and the people don't treat you well at first. One time a coworker who didn't like me falsely accused me of taking something from a house and I was investigated. It ended up being a family member who took the items.

I arrived in Los Angeles and made hand bags at my factory. However, Los Angeles is very dangerous. It's prettier in Mountain View and I like living here better. Cleaning houses was my first job here, but I take care of kids as well. I have raised two girls since they were little. They are sisters, four and five years old. I used to look after them for eight hours a day. I came to love them as my daughters, even more so because I only have sons.

For now, I don't plan on returning to Mexico. But when I can't work anymore, I'm going to leave to be with my sons. All I want is to work and go back to my sons.

*"You can go out in the street there and head wherever you want, but here it is like a prison."*

*"[My sons] want to come here to see me..."*

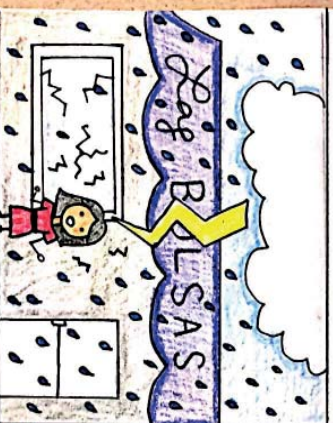
*"All I want is to work and go back to my sons."*



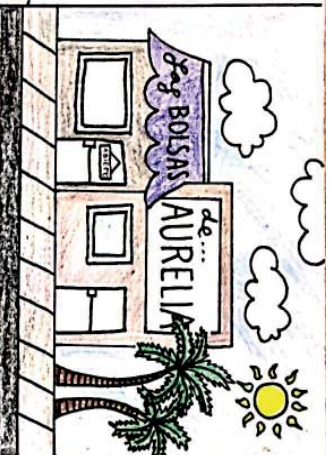
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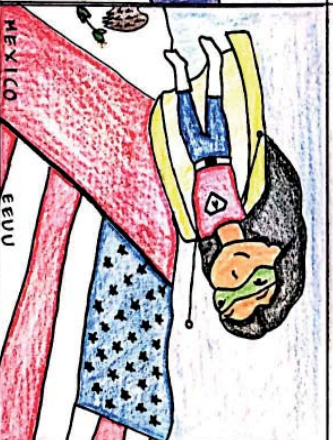
Mi familia y yo íbamos a la playa a pasear todo el tiempo. Los pueblitos están muy bonitos y la gente son bien amables. Hay más libertad en México.



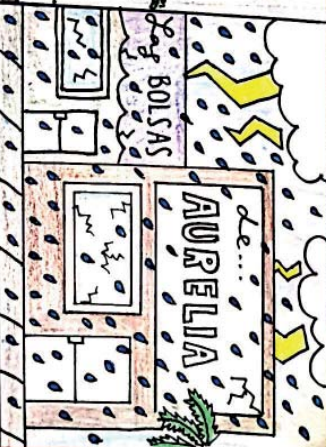
Salí afuera, y de repente, un relámpago me pegó, pero no murí! Sentí la energía vibrando en mi cuerpo. De repente podía mirar en la noche y noté que no podía arreglar mis tiendas porqg. estaban muy destruidas.



Yo comencé de cero y alcancé mi casa. En canción, tenía dos tiendas, diez máquinas, y material.



Con mis nuevos poderes, cruce la frontera a los Estados Unidos donde iba buscar un trabajo y ganar dinero.



Un día, una huracán que se llamaba Gilbert vino muy fuerte. Toda la agua se metió cuando la lluvia vino. Me mojó todas las máquinas y mi material.



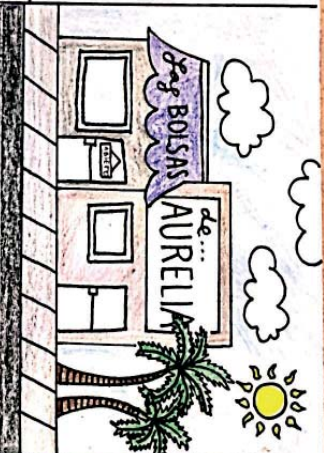
Cuando llegue empecé a limpiar casas y cuidar a niños. Me gusta limpiar cosas más de ser una niñera porque me uno a los niños. En mi vida, solamente me gustaría trabajar y regresar a mis hijos.



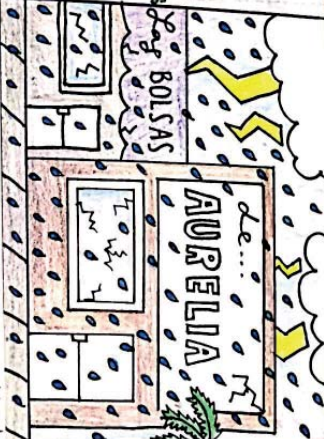
MEXICO



My family and I would always go to the beach to have fun. The towns are very pretty and the people are very nice. There is more freedom in Mexico.



I started from zero and was able to buy a house. I had two stores, ten machines, and material in Cancun.



One day, a hurricane called Gilbert came and hit very hard. All the water got in when the rain came. It soaked all of the machines and my material.



I went outside and suddenly a lightning bolt hit me, but I didn't die! I felt energy vibrating in my body. I could suddenly see at night. I couldn't fix my stores because they were damaged.



With my new powers, I crossed the border into the U.S. where I went to work for a job and earn money.



When I arrived, I started to clean houses and take care of children. I like to clean houses because I get attached to the kids. In my life, all I want is to work and return to my sons.



Ervin

Mi nombre es Ervin Choc, soy de Guatemala y tengo cuarenta años. Yo apenas llevo un año y medio aquí en los Estados Unidos. Mi familia está en Guatemala todavía. Tengo seis hijos: cuatro niñas y dos varones. Tengo una niña adolescente y otra niña de un año y nueve meses. Tenía tres meses cuando yo me vine. Me vine para que gente como ustedes no sigan mi ejemplo. Simplemente se formulen una idea como deben ustedes de caminar correctamente para que en el futuro sean unas personas prósperas. Que ese es el sentido de la vida. Ser próspero y tratar de que como el granito de arena que cada uno pongamos, en nuestro paso aquí en el mundo, dejamos una buena huella, un buen legado para los que vienen atrás. En este caso yo la voy saliendo ustedes vienen atrás entonces mi objetivo es: tratar de guiarlas. Entonces, relájense. -Take it easy,- como dicen.

Cuando cumplí mi sueño de ser militar y ser músico tenía a Dios aquí conmigo. Sabía que el camino principal que yo debería perseguir era mi carrera. Entonces, habían muchas cosas en mi camino. Yo quería ser militar. La música era como un pasatiempo mío. Cuando yo tocaba mi guitarra, me decían mis hermanos – el músico se muere de hambre. Pero un hobby que también me inspiraba bastante. Porque siempre me ha gustado más. Cuando aprendí a tocar mi guitarra, estaba muy metido en la iglesia. Quería ser sacerdote. Pero, como me enamoré ya no pude ser sacerdote. Si yo pudiera cambiar algo en mi vida, borraría el tiempo en que no tuve Dios en mi corazón. Me lo metería mas y me hubiera ido mejor. Hubiera puesto Dios conmigo. Definitivamente aprendí cuando caí. Uno entiende de los errores y lo menos que no quieres ser lastimado. Pero muchas veces uno es tan egocéntrico, que solo piensa en “mi” y deja de ver las necesidades de las personas. Uno no puede mejorar el mundo lastimando personas. Pero es por la ausencia de Dios en el corazón de las personas

## Historia Contada

Por: Elizabeth Fernandes,  
Kerensa Fu, Daisy Garcia

que alimentan la maldad. Sinceramente no es por otra cosa. Entonces, eso fue lo que aprendí verdaderamente. Lo que hagan ustedes lo deben de hacer por pasión porque les gustan. Y sean constantes. No se desvíen.



“Uno no puede mejorar el mundo lastimando personas.”

“Lo que hagan ustedes lo deben de hacer por pasión porque les gustan. Y sean constantes. No se desvíen.”

“Simplemente se formulan una idea como deben ustedes de caminar correctamente para que en el futuro sean unas personas prósperas. Que ese es el sentido de la vida. Ser próspero y tratar de que como el granito de arena que cada uno pongamos, en nuestro paso aquí en el mundo, dejamos una buena huella, un buen legado para los que vienen atrás.”





Ervin

My name is Ervin Choc, I am Guatemalan, and I am 40 years old. I've only been in the United States for a year and a half. My family is still in Guatemala. I have six children: four girls and two boys. I have a teenage girl and another girl of one year and nine months. My younger daughter was three months old when I came. I came here so that people like you don't follow my example. Formulate good habits so in the future you can be prosperous people. That is the meaning of life. Be prosperous and be like the grain of sand that represents our journey on the earth so we leave a good legacy for those who follow. In this case, I am leaving and you guys are following behind so my objective is to try to guide you. So relax, 'take it easy,' as they say.

When I reached my dream of being a soldier and being a musician, I had God there with me. I knew that the primary path I should pursue was my career. So, there were many things in my path. I wanted to be in the army. Music was also a pastime of mine. When I played my guitar, my brothers told me, "musicians die of hunger!" But it was a hobby that also inspired me a lot, because I've always liked it. If I could change something in my life, I would erase the time in which I didn't have God in my heart. I would have put more of God into my life and it would have been better for me. I would have kept God with me. I definitely learned when I fell. One understands one's own errors, and the last thing one wants is to be hurt. (Alternatively, I understand my own errors, and the last thing that people want is to be hurt.) However, one is sometimes so egocentric, and only thinks about "me" and stops seeing the needs of people. One cannot improve the world by hurting people. However, it is only through the absence of God in people's hearts that feeds the evil. It's simply not because of anything else. So, this is what I truly

**Story Told By:** Elizabeth Fernandes, Kerensa Fu, Daisy Garcia

learned. What you all do, do it from passion, because you like it. And be consistent. Don't stray away.

“One can't improve the world by hurting people.”



“What you all will do, you should do it from passion, because you like it. And be consistent. Don't stray away.”



“Simply formulate the idea of how to walk correctly so in the future you can be prosperous people. That is the meaning of life. Be prosperous and be like the grain of sand that represents our journey on the earth so we leave a good legacy for those who follow.”



Soy Ervin Choc, tengo cuarenta años, soy de Guatemala y tengo seis hijos.



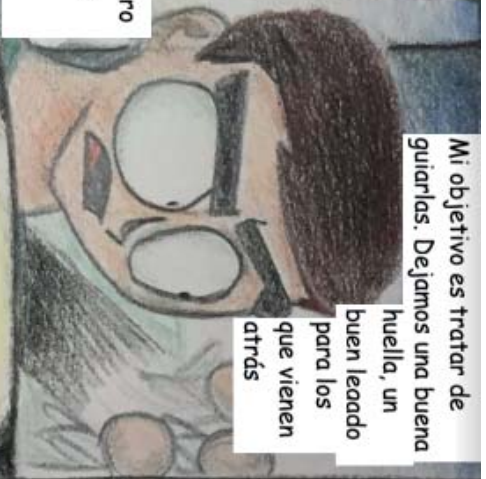
Cuando cumplí mi sueño de ser militar y ser músico, tenía a Dios conmigo.



El sentido de la vida es ser próspero y tratar de que como el granito de arena que cada uno ponemos, en nuestro paso aquí en el mundo



Cuando yo tocaba mi guitarra, me decían mis hermanos - el músico se muere de hambre. Pero era era un hobby que también me inspiraba bastante.



Mi objetivo es tratar de guiarlas. Dejamos una buena huella, un buen leado para los que vienen atrás



Si yo pudiera cambiar algo en mi vida, borraría el tiempo en que no tuve Dios en mi corazón. Me lo metería mas y me hubiera ido mejor.



I am Ervin Choc, I am forty years old and am from Guatemala and I have six kids.



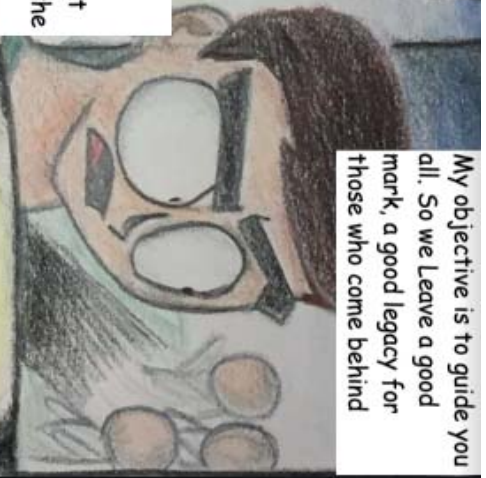
When I accomplished my goal of joining the military and being a musician, I had God with me.



The meaning of life is to be prosperous, and through your efforts be like a grain of sand that we all leave in our travel through the world.



When I played my guitar, my siblings told me: "musicians die of hunger." But it was a hobby that inspired me a lot.



My objective is to guide you all. So we Leave a good mark, a good legacy for those who come behind



If I could change something in my life, I would erase the time when I didn't have God in my heart. I would have put God more into my life and it would have gone better for me.



Flavio

Soy de Durango, México. Fui maestro de educación por treinta y cinco años. Ando aquí porque me retiré de mi trabajo porque en la realidad soy un profesor jubilado, pero fui director de escuela durante veinticinco años y de grupo también muchísimos años. Trabajé con niños de educación primaria, pero fui nada más ayudante sin pagos porque me gustaba.

Tenía una cantidad de juegos pero cuando trabajaba con los niños porque tenías que enseñarles con juegos también. La educación se tiene que utilizar en muchas formas para poder hacer que los alumnos estén activos y estén atentos. Cuando a veces están en el estado que tienes que meter un juego tienes que cambiar de actividad para poder permanecer siempre con ellos contentos.

Me gusta aprender cosas de los trabajos aquí, de cómo desarrollar trabajos simplemente y prepararte con cursos para mejorar tu trabajo. Porque si vas a trabajar, sería muy importante que aquí hubiera cursos para especializarte en los diferentes trabajos. Así sería más eficiente, se podría pedir más dinero por hora, porque los patrones no van a tener muchos problemas para confiar en esto. Aquí no hay trabajos favoritos, todos son duros. Pero el que más me gusta es la pintura, porque trabajas generalmente en la sombra y no tienes que andar encarrerado para hacer el trabajo.

El trabajo de mis sueños es trabajar para mí mismo y ser mí mismo patrón. Estoy construyendo un lugar para trabajar para mi familia. Tengo una hija, es pintora. Ella es excelente para hacer trabajos de la pintura, de cuadros. También es estilista y es licenciada en gastronomía y en gestión turística. Ella tiene todas esas calidades, pero no ha podido acomodarse en un trabajo. Por eso, en México es muy triste, en que se gasta y gasta, y te prepares, y al último vayas a dar a

## Historia Contada

Por: Ashley Arreola, Celina Ashby, Mikaela Brennan



un trabajo en donde te pagan cien pesos. Ella estuvo trabajando en un hotel en donde le pagaban esa cantidad y tenía que darle y preparar comida a unos trescientos trabajadores.

Eso es uno de los motivos porque también tienes que prepararte en inglés porque mucha gente viene a solicitar a una persona que sepa ser ese trabajo, pero quieren que hables inglés. Y allí, hay algunas personas que trabajamos mejor que los que hablan inglés y se los he demostrado. He ido a trabajar con gente que habla inglés pero en el trabajo no desarrolla y conocí simplemente un trabajador que te hizo como un cuadro de un metro cuadrado en tres días. Es una grande ventaja que hay en este país en querer lo que ella está pidiendo o lo que el empleador está queriendo. Allí lo que debería interesar el empleador es que sepas hacer el trabajo y para nada te vas a necesitar el inglés.

No me la he pasado trabajando aquí. Aquí vengo para de plano no estar sin hacer nada como ahorita sale un trabajo y me voy al trabajo que sea incluso si hay trabajos diferentes trabajos. Vas con trabajadores y haces lo que te piden.



“El trabajo de mis sueños es trabajar para mí mismo y ser mí mismo patrón.”

“Aquí no hay trabajos favoritos, todos son duros.”

“El que más me gusta es la pintura, porque trabajas generalmente en la sombra y no tienes que andar encarrerado para hacer el trabajo.”



Flavio

I am from Durango, México. I was a teacher for thirty-five years. I am here because I retired from my job. Right now I am a retired teacher, but I was principal of a school for twenty five years and also of a group for many years. I worked with elementary school children, I went as a helper and I was never payed.

I had a lot of games when I worked with the children because you had to teach them with games too. Education needs to be used in many ways in order to make sure that the students are active and attentive. There are times when they are in a mood where you have to bring in a game and change the activity in order to keep them happy.

I like to learn things about work here, like how to develop jobs here, with courses that help prepare you in order to be better in your jobs. If you are going to work, it is very important that there are courses here so you can specialize in different jobs. This would be more efficient and there could be more money made per hour because the bosses are not going to have many problems trusting us. Here I don't have any favorite jobs, all of them are hard in some way. However, the one that I like the most is painting, because you generally work in the shade and you do not feel rushed to do the job.

My dream job is to work for myself and be my own boss. I am building a place to work for my family. I have a daughter who is a painter. She is excellent at painting pictures. She is also a stylist and is licensed in gastronomy and in tourism management. She has all of these qualities but she has not been able to get comfortable in her job. That is why it is sad, that in Mexico you waste and waste your time preparing for a job, and at the end you end up in a job where they only pay you one hundred pesos. She was working in a hotel were they paid her that much and she had

### Story Told By:

Ashley Arreola, Celina Ashby,  
Mikaela Brennan

to serve and prepare food for about three hundred workers.

That is one of the reasons why you also have to study english, because many people come to find someone who knows how to do the job, but they want someone who can speak english. There are some people who work better than those who speak english, and I have shown them that. I have worked with people that only speak english, but with my job I do not develop that language. Once I met a worker that made a picture of one square meter in three days. The advantage that there is in this country is in wanting what people or what the employer wants. What should interest the employer is if you know how to do the job and not whether or not you know english.

I have not spent my time here working. I came here expecting not to do anything, like if right now a job comes, I go to work and I go even if there are different types of jobs. You just go with the workers and do what they ask you to.

*“The job of my dreams is to work for myself and be my own boss.”*

*“There are not favorite jobs here, all of them are hard.”*



*“The one that I like the most is the paint because you usually work in the shade and you do not have to feel rushed in order to do the job.”*

# FLAVIO Picasso

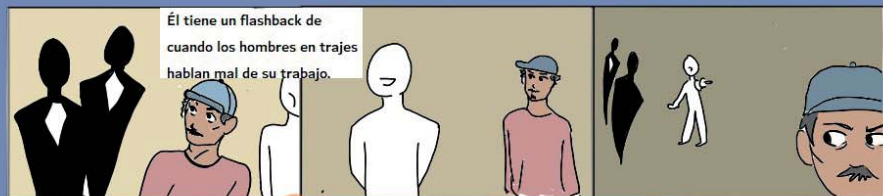
Flavio está con sus dos hijos con su corazón en alto.



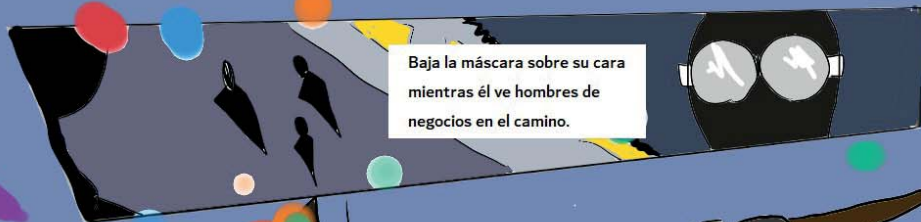
Flavio está agarrando su pincel mágico y está mirando sombríamente sobre los edificios grises.



Él tiene un flashback de cuando los hombres en trajes hablan mal de su trabajo.



Baja la máscara sobre su cara mientras él ve hombres de negocios en el camino.



Acción en donde él salpica la pintura a los hombres en trajes.



¡Ahora todo está en color! ¡La gente están entusiasta!

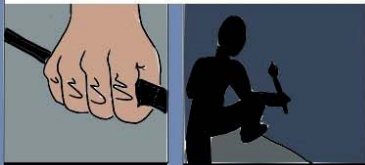


# FLAVIO Picasso

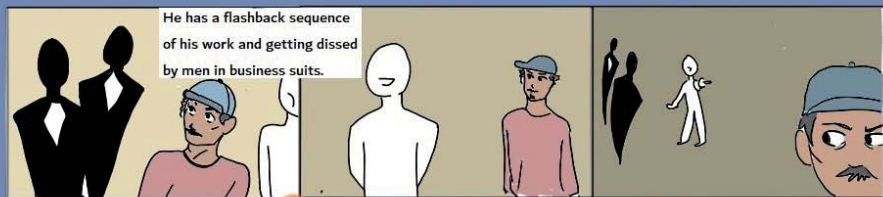
Flavio is with his kids with a heart overhead.



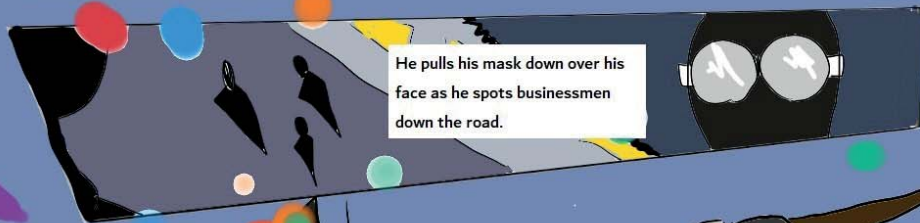
Flavio is grasping his paintbrush looking somberly over the grey buildings. He is holding his magic paintbrush.



He has a flashback sequence of his work and getting dissed by men in business suits.



He pulls his mask down over his face as he spots businessmen down the road.



Action shot of him splattering the men in suits.



Then everything is full of color! People are cheering!





Juan

Vine de una familia muy pobre. Yo no tuve estudios, trabajaba desde niño. Cuando mis padres podían tener dinero lo ocupaban para medicinas y para comer. Prácticamente era para eso nada más.

Nosotros intentamos cruzar la frontera una vez pero fracasamos, nos regresaron y no logramos. Migración nos agarraron, regresaron y nos dejaron a la orilla otra vez pero cerca de la frontera. Entonces, allí siendo el segundo intento y volvemos a cruzar. Los que vienen de otro lugar como Guatemala, ellos los mandan para allá y está mucho más lejos porque tiene que pasar otra frontera y es México. Entonces, para ellos es más difícil.

Quiero venir a California porque es muy similar a México. No ha cambiado [mi identidad después de venir a los Estados Unidos] mucho porque yo no siento identificado con los dos países. Quiero [la vida de] este país también.

Para llegar a un país, lenguaje es número uno por la comunicación. Porque si no hay comunicación, entonces, no pudo comunicar con un empleo. Inglés no es difícil si aún le interesa y le pone una mucha atención. No es difícil para los que están más jóvenes. Por ejemplo, de quince años aprenden mucho más rápido porque es la mente de ellos. No tienen otras cosas que pensar, como pagar la renta o ir a trabajar. Entonces, la mente de ellos es como la de ustedes. Yo tengo que utilizar mi cabeza para poder aprender inglés y estar pensando como lo voy usar. Es difícil cuando trabajo a las diez de la mañana y estoy pensando tres cosas al mismo tiempo.

La forma que es diferente [en los Estados Unidos] es trabajo. Aquí es otra idea. Hay que empezar desde abajo y ir subiendo.

El presidente de EEUU tiene ideas ante inmigrantes yo le diría a él que como dijo hace un momento hay mucha gente que si es mala y

## Historia Contada

Por: Ria Jain, Maya Kespradist, Charlotte Lara, Christie Maly

mucha gente que no es mala. Nosotros no venimos a hacer ninguno daño a esta país. Simplemente, nosotros venimos a buscar una mejor vida por trabajando. No venimos a robar. No venimos a quitar el trabajo a los de este país. Nosotros simplemente venimos a trabajar para tener oportunidades.

Ustedes van creciendo y yo sé que ya no puedo aprender más, pero ustedes todavía pueden aprender y también aprender de mí. Estoy interesado en ayudar para que una persona aprenda de la otra que sabe muy poco sobre aprender. Para mí eso es la persona importante.



“Para llegar a un país, lenguaje es número uno por la comunicación.”

“eso es una persona que se que se interese en ayudar para que es la persona aprendan la que no sabes muy poco de aprendan.”

“Simplemente, nosotros venimos a buscar una mejor vida por trabajando.”



Juan

I came from a very poor family, and I had no education. I worked as a child. My parents could spare money to buy medicine, to eat, and that was practically, it.

[We] tried to cross the border once before and failed. Migration patrols returned us; we did not manage to pass. They did not return again. We stayed on the shore another time, but closer to the border. Then, came the second attempt; we crossed again. Those who come from other places like Guatemala, the officials send them back there, and they have to cross another border to get to Mexico. So, for them, it is more difficult.

I wanted to come to California because it is very similar to Mexico. Coming to the United States has not changed [my identity] a lot because I do not feel more identified with either of the two countries. I want [the life of] this country, too.

When arriving in a new country, language is most important for communication. If there is no communication, I cannot find employment. English is not difficult if you are interested and pay a lot of attention. It is even less difficult for those who are younger. For example, fifteen year olds learn much faster because their minds do not have as many things to think about, like paying rent or going to work. Their mind is more focused and school is easier. I have to use my head to learn English and think about what I have to do at work today at ten in the morning, and thinking about three things at the same time is very difficult.

One way that the United States differ from Mexico is work. Here you have to start from the bottom and move up.

The President of the United States has certain ideas about immigrants. I would say to him that, as he says, there are many people who

Story Told By: Ria Jain, Maya Kesapradist, Charlotte Lara, Christie Maly



are bad and many people who are not. We do not come to do any harm to this country. We simply come to seek a better life by working. We don't come here to rob. We're not here to take the jobs of people in this country. We just come to work for new opportunities.

You are growing up and I know that I can no longer learn, but you still can learn and learn from me as well. My interest is in helping a person learn from another who knows very little about learning. To me that's the important person.



“To get to a country, language is number one for communication.”

“That is a person who is interested in helping so that the person learns what you do not know very little about learning.”

“Simply, we come to seek a better life by working.”

# Juan el Increíble



su amigo  
por, Pelotita,

Juan ayuda  
a sus amigos  
con problemas  
de trabajo  
todos los días

¡Ayúdame!

¡Malezas están  
asumiendo el control  
del jardín de un vecino



Juan ataca las plantas  
con su pelota de fútbol.



¡Juan ve la pizza de Sr. Comunicación y su fuerza está  
dejando de él y no puede comunicarse con la gente en el com.



Embarazo, Juan encuentra su fuerza para  
per sus debilidades y salva su comunidad.  
y Pelotita le da un puñetazo a  
Comunicación y salva su salud



Juan pasa tiempo con su familia y sabiendo  
que: Puede ayudar el mundo en su manera

# The Incredible Juan



With his best friend, Pelotita.

Juan helps his friends with work... every day!

Help me!

Oh no! Weeds are taking control of a neighbor's garden



Juan attacks the plants with his soccer ball



Juan sees Mr. Communication's pizza and loses all his strength and is no longer able to communicate with other people!



However, Juan overcomes his weakness and recovers his strength. Juan and Pelotita punch Mr. Communication and save the city



Juan relaxes at home, knowing that He can help the world in his own way



José

Soy de la ciudad Usulután, El Salvador y tengo veinticinco años. Mi familia consiste de cinco hermanos, mi padre y mi madre. Tengo tres años aquí en Los Estados Unidos. Vine con un coyote, son los que le pagan para que nos traiga un caminante. Una cosa bonita que extraño del campo son las vacas. Me creí en una zona donde había muchas vacas, caballos y gallinas. Lo más lindo es ordeñar vacas. Mi infancia era bonita, con muchos amigos.

La economía allá no está muy buena, allí durante todo el día trabajando hacemos cinco dólares, al venir aquí pues se gana más, se ve un cambio un poco para mi familia y yo, se gana un poco más. Otra cosa diferente es como mi familia vive afuera de la ciudad y cuando tu llegas a una ciudad y eres del campo es diferente.

Era un poco confuso para mí, verdad, pero se me da la oportunidad de venir aquí al centro jornalero, conocer a muchos amigos y darte cuenta como surge aquí la situación. Como se dedica la persona al trabajo porque yo me venía de Sunnyvale para acá en bicicleta. Sin conocer a nadie, y cuando llegué aquí me abrieron las puertas, María, mis compañeros fui obteniendo su confianza y dando a conocer me en el trabajo. Es mucho desempeño porque tenía que pagar la deuda. Cuando tu te vienes pagas ocho mil dólares para poder venir aquí. Mucho desempeño y hacía esfuerzo porque cuando yo me vine para acá, yo dejé mi esposa y tenía una bebé, tenía tres meses. Era un poco triste y difícil para mí, pero con la lucha y la gana de sacar adelante a la familia llegué a buenas manos aquí y trabajando mucho.

Cuando llegué a los E.E.U.U , la inmigración me capturó, estuve en Rio Grande, Texas. Después de Texas, estuve casi cinco meses preso en la prisión federal porque en el Salvador y los E.E.U.U tienen una hermanamiento que puedes pelear un caso. Yo tenía la oportunidad de ir y

## Historia Contada

Por: Ishani Malipattolla,  
Diana Lopez, Karina Lipe,  
Hanne Holtan

pelear un caso, ir a ver un juez antes de firmar mi papeleta de El Salvador. Decidí en ese momento ir a pelear el caso. Yo ya estaba aquí y se me hizo un poco más difícil venirme nuevamente porque es difícil venir atravesando obstáculo por obstáculo y cualquier si no sabes si vas a llegar con vida aquí. Pensaba todo lo mejor y veía así adelante, era lo mejor para mí. Cuando estuve preso era un poco difícil porque encerrados el sol era la luz, osea no mirábamos el sol, sofocado porque de la cama, a jugar con los amigos, y a desayunar.

Fue difícil cuando vine a los Estados Unidos. Cuando llegué aquí me mandaban el texto y yo lo traducía en mi teléfono así me la hacía un poco más fácil entender otros. Pero lo que es triste es, si te acostumbras a eso no vas a aprender inglés. Fue más difícil porque necesitaba dejar mi esposa y bebé, y no podía ser un padre y los extrañó mucho. Mi mamá y papá consiguieron préstamos para ayudarme.

Antes de que tuviera mi esposa y mi niña iba a trabajar por siete o ocho años en la ciudad y regresaba a mi tierra. Pero si mi familia viene voy a ser diferente de verdad. Mi bebé, mi esposa, mi padre y mi madre son las personas mas importantes en mi vida. El momento más feliz de mi vida fue cuando llego a casa y veo a mi bebé, Adela-Jimena, y se ríe de mí... alegre de que Papá ya está aquí. Para el futuro quiero que mi hija estudie mucho y luche para tener un estatus bueno.



“Cuando llegué aquí me abrieron las puertas”

“Mi bebé, mi esposa, mi padre y mi madre son las personas mas importantes en mi vida.”

“Pero si mi familia viene voy a ser diferente de verdad”



José

I am from the city of Usulután, El Salvador. I am twenty-five years old. My family is my five siblings, my dad, and my mom. I have been in the US for three years. I came with a coyote, someone who we pay to bring us across the border. A thing I really miss from the farm are the cows. I grew up in a place where there were many cows, horses, and chickens. One of my favorite things to do was to milk the cows. My childhood was beautiful with lots of friends.

The economy there is not very good. There, when you work all day, you only earn five dollars. When you come here you earn more. From coming here my family can see the change: earning more money. Another thing that's different is that my family lives in the countryside; and when you come to the city and you're from a ranch, it's different.

It was a little confusing for me, but it gave me the opportunity to come here to the day workers center, meet many friends, and realize how things work here, how someone dedicates themselves to their work, because I came from Sunnyvale on a bicycle without knowing anyone, and when I came here, it opened the doors, María, my friends, I was obtaining their trust and was given a chance to have people know me in my work. It's a lot of hard work because I need to pay a debt. When you come you have to pay eight thousand dollars to be able to come here. A lot of hard work and effort because when I came here I left my wife and a baby of three months. It was a little sad and hard for me.

When I came to the United States immigration captured me. I was in Rio Grande, Texas. After Texas I was in federal prison for five months; but because El Salvador and the United States have a union I could fight for my case. I had the opportunity to go fight my case, and see a judge, before signing my papers from El

### Story Told By:

Ishani Malipatolla, Diana Lopez, Karina Lipe, Hanne Holtan

Salvador. In that moment I decided to go and fight my case. I was already here and it made it a little harder to come again because it is hard to come while facing obstacle after obstacle and you don't if you are going to arrive alive. I thought optimistically and I looked ahead. It was the best for me. When I was imprisoned it was a little difficult because, when I was locked up the sun was the light, and we couldn't see the sun. I suffocated...my bed, friends, and eating that's all I did.

It was difficult when I came to the United States. When I arrived here, they wrote what they wanted to say on a phone and I translated it on my phone so it would be easier for the others and me to understand; but the sad part is that if you're accustomed to that, you aren't going to learn english. It was harder because I needed to leave my wife and my child, and I couldn't be a father; and I miss them a lot. My mother and my father got some loans to help me through it.

Before I was married and had my daughter, I wanted to work for seven or eight years in the city and come back to my home. But if my family comes, it will be different. My daughter, my wife, my father, and my mother are the most important people in my life. The moment I felt happiest was when I arrived home and I saw my daughter, Adela-Jimena, and she laughed...happy that her father was finally home. For the future I want my daughter to study a lot, and fight to have a good status.



“When I arrived here, they opened the doors for me.”

“The most important people in my life are my baby, my wife, and my family.”

“But if my family comes, it will be different.”

CHILD HOOD



HE LIVED ON A FARM WITH LOTS OF ANIMALS, THESE INCLUDING COWS, CHICKENS AND HORSES.

BUT SUDDENLY... HIS SIDEKICK AND SAVES HIM.



HE THEN TAKES JOSE TO THE U.S.

HE IS FINALLY ABLE TO SEND MONEY BACK TO HIS FAMILY HOME.



BETTER



HE WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO THE U.S. TO HAVE A BETTER CHANCE.

HE ARRIVES IN CALIFORNIA



LOOKING FOR WORK AND FRIENDS.

JOSE MADE FRIENDS IN THE DAY WORKER CENTER.



TO CROSS THE BORDER BUT FINALLY ACHIEVES HIS GOAL OF CROSSING THE BORDER.

HE ARRIVES AT THE DAY WORKERS CENTER



AND IS HAPPY TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE IN THE SAME SITUATION AS HIM AND CAN HELP HIM FIND A JOB.

THEN AFTER A LONG TIME...



AND WAS PUT IN JAIL FOR 5 MONTHS.

HE GOT A JOB AS A GARDENER IN SUNNYVALE AND HAD TO BIKE FOR, AROUND, 2 HOURS TO GET TO HIS JOB EVERYDAY.



HE GOT A JOB AS A GARDENER IN SUNNYVALE AND HAD TO BIKE FOR, AROUND, 2 HOURS TO GET TO HIS JOB EVERYDAY.

NOW, JOSE IS FINALLY ABLE TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, HERE







Irma

Yo soy Irma y vengo de Cuernavaca. Me gusta comer mole, tortillas de maíz, y helados de fresa. También me gustan las películas de acción, por ejemplo las de Busca Implacável. Yo soy madre de 5 hijos que son jóvenes. Hace 5 años mi esposo falleció, entonces yo tuve que venirme para acá para trabajar. Mi hijo mayor se llama Andy y los otros se llaman Karen, Rodrigo, Ángel, y Graciela. Me vine ilegalmente por el cerro. Yo soy mamá y papá así que tengo que trabajar para mantenerlos. Yo limpio casas. Cuando entré aquí empecé trabajando de janitor en las noches y limpiaba oficinas, me gustó mucho ese trabajo, pero por falta de papeles me salí. Yo soy una trabajadora que me gusta trabajar bien y no soy de trabajar rápido. Me gusta hacerlo perfectamente bien, así me creyó mi mamá. Las tienes que hacer muy rápido la limpieza entonces ha sido difícil para mi.

Para mí todo es bien difícil aquí en los EEUU. Fue difícil para acostumbrarme. Lo más difícil para mí es el trabajo porque no manejo y aquí, tienes que manejar, tienes que hablar un poquito de inglés y yo no hablo nada. Yo extraño mi país, con tiempo voy a volver. Voy a tratar de aprender inglés porque mi mamá tuvo once hijos y de los once hijos soy la única que no sabe hablar inglés. Todos mis hijos viven en México. En lo personal, yo quiero trabajar más duro para hacer una casa para mis hijos, eso es mi meta. No soy rica, pero no me falta que comer un día. Soy Cristiana, les digo que Dios siempre está con todos. Quiero que mis hijos terminen con sus estudios y allá como soy mamá sola no tengo esas posibilidades a dárselas, pero aquí tengo las posibilidades. Es muy necesario tener sus papeles. Antes de inmigrar a los Estados Unidos, yo sentía que era más fácil todo, sentía que llegaría, todo el dinero la vas a tener y que todo es muy bonito, pero no. Es probable que mi familia venga a los Estados

## Historia Contada

Por: Nadia Truong, Daniela Velasco, Sarah Whittum, Amanda Wong, Katelyn Yu

Unidos. La mayor influencia en mi vida ha sido una de mis hermanas porque siempre me apoya. Ella vive en los Estados Unidos, casi no hablo con ella. Soy de once hermanos. He estado aquí por un año pero casi todo el tiempo lo paso trabajado.

Creo que el sueño americano para todos es de trabajar y ganar mucho dinero. Muchas veces los mexicanos que venimos de otros países nos equivocamos porque se van y se pierden en la drogadicción porque están jóvenes y vienen a trabajar para ayudar a la familia. Me gusta jugar básquetbol y divertirme con mis hijos. Soy una mamá chida porque aunque estoy muy cerrada puedo comprender a los jóvenes. Me gusta oír lo que piensan para que aprenda de ellos. En donde yo vivo le dicen la eterna primavera porque su clima es muy rico. Hay mucho turista y flores, vez las frutas, son más naturales y el aire muy rico. En la escuela, me gustaba mucho español, y educación física - jugué básquet. Mis hijos jugaron el fútbol. A mi hija le gusta el volei. Mi hijo mayor está muy enfocado en sus realizaciones. Tengo hijos inteligentes que dan mucho trabajo. Mi hijo mayor nació aquí. Yo, anteriormente, estuve aquí porque mi papá y mamá nos trajeron. Yo me fui con mi esposo de aquí, me junté muy joven. Mi infancia fue normal. Mi mamá fue estricta cuando nos portabamos mal. Entonces, no tuvimos un infancia bonita para recordar. Quiero que mis hijos vean que nada es imposible... solo es bien difícil.



“Quiero que mis hijos terminen con sus estudios y allá como soy mamá sola no tengo esas posibilidades a dárselas, pero aquí tengo las posibilidades.”

“Quiero que mis hijos vean que nada es imposible... solo es bien difícil”

“Antes de inmigrar a los Estados Unidos, yo sentía que era más fácil todo, sentía que llegaría, todo el dinero la vas a tener y que todo es muy bonito, pero no.”



Irma

I'm Irma and I come from Cuernavaca. I like to eat mole, corn tortillas, and strawberry ice cream. I also like action films, for example, "Taken." I am a mother of five children, who are young. Five years ago my husband passed away, so I had to come here to work. My eldest son is named Andy and the others are named Karen, Rodrigo, Ángel, and Graciela. I'm the mom and dad, so I have to work to keep them. I clean houses. When I came here I started working as a janitor in the evenings and cleaned offices, I liked that job, but due to a lack of paperwork I left. I am a worker who likes to work well and not work fast. I like to work perfectly because that's how my mom raised me. You have to work very fast while cleaning so it has been difficult for me.

It's all very difficult for me here in America. It was hard to get used to. The hardest thing for me is the job because I don't drive and here, you have to drive, you have to speak a little English, and I don't speak any. I miss my country; I'll be back in time. I will try to learn English because my mom had eleven children and of the eleven children I am the only one who does not speak English. All my children live in Mexico. Personally, I want to work harder to build a house for my children, that's my goal. I'm not rich, but I don't miss a day of eating. I am Christian, I tell you that God is always with everyone. I want my children to finish their studies and there as a single mom, I do not have those possibilities to give them, but here I have the possibilities. It's very necessary to have your papers. Before immigrating to the United States, I felt that everything was easy, I felt that I would arrive, you would have all the money and that everything would be very nice, but no. It is likely my family will come to the United States. The greatest influence in my life has

### Story Told By:

Nadia Truong, Daniela Velazco, Sarah Whittum, Amanda Wong, Katelyn Yu

been one of my sisters because she always supports me. She lives in the United States, but I hardly talk to her. I have eleven siblings. I have been here for a year, but most of the time I spend it working.

I think the American dream for everyone is to work and make a lot of money. Many times Mexicans who come from other countries are wrong because they go away and get lost in drug addiction because they are young and come to work to help their family. I like to play basketball and have fun with my kids. I am a cool mom because even though I am very closed off I can understand young people. I like to hear what they think to learn from them. Where I live they call the weather the eternal spring because its climate is very mild. There are a lot of tourist and flowers, fruits, which are more natural, and the air is very clean. At school, I liked Spanish a lot, and physical education-I played basketball. My kids played football. My daughter likes volleyball. My eldest son is very focused on his accomplishments. I have intelligent children who work a lot. My eldest son was born here. I, previously, was here because my parents brought us. I left here with my husband, I was very young. My childhood was normal. My mom was strict when we behaved badly. So, we didn't have a pretty childhood to remember. I want my children to see that nothing is impossible... it's just very difficult.



“I want my kids to finish with their studies and there how I'm a single mom I don't have those opportunities to give them, but here I have those opportunities.”

“I want my kids to see that nothing is impossible... it's just very difficult.”

“Before immigrating to the United States, I thought everything would be easier, I thought I would arrive, I would have all the money, and that everything was beautiful, but no...”



Irma, una mamá soltera se acuesta y sueña de una piedra misteriosa.



Más tarde, está jugando fútbol con sus hijos cuando encuentra la piedra que ha soñado.



La piedra le da poderes y empieza poder controlar y usarlos.



Una noche está viendo las noticias y aprende de "El Hombre Estereotipo" y decide que quiere pelear con él para defender todos los inmigrantes.



Descubre porque el hombre estereotipo la quiere parar - porque él la ve solo como un estereotipo. Ella compartió su historia con él, y durante eso se está haciendo más y más débil y se convierte a un árbol de esperanza.



Después de toda la comcción, Irma consiguió un trabajo de traductora, así que puede usar más dinero en sus hijos.



Many people spend time near the tree because when someone looks at the tree, they are capable of understanding the stories of many and heal.



Irma lives with her kids in a beautiful, two-story house that she built. She takes her kids on many vacations.



During her free time she battles villains, like the disparity of wealth and corruption.



Irma, a single mom goes to sleep and dreams about a mysterious rock.



Later, when she was playing soccer with her children, she found the rock that she had dreamt of.



The rock gives her powers and she starts to learn how to control and use them.



One night she is watching the news and she learns about Stereotype Man and decides that she wants to fight him to defend all immigrants.



She realizes why stereotype man wants to stop her – because he sees her only as a stereotype. To fight this thinking, she shares her story with him and Stereotype Man weakens and dissolves into a birch tree of hope.



After all of the commotion, Irma becomes a translator and she is able to spend more money on her kids.



Many people spend time near the tree because when someone looks at the tree, they are capable



Irma lives with her kids in a beautiful, two-story house that she built. She takes her kids on many



During her free time she battles villains, like the disparity of wealth and corruption.



Efrén

Me llamo Efrén. He vivido unos veinticinco años, más o menos, en los Estados Unidos. Desde el primer momento que llegué, para mí, era otro mundo. Fue muy bonito; lo que está dentro del lugar es lo que tenemos que desarrollar, tenemos que practicar. Simplemente trabajando juntos. Nada más. Saber comunicarse, Relacionarse es algo muy importante. Siempre debes estar respaldado por amigos y familia.

Vine por medio de unos compañeros que me condujeron hasta aquí porque algunos de otro país no tienen trabajo. Como soy de afuera, entonces tengo que tener un poco de trabajo para poder sostenerme. Estoy grandemente agradecido por trabajar aquí.

Hay buena relación entre los Estados Unidos y México. Porque somos hermanos y darnos la mano, podemos entendernos, así es de que el gobierno que tenemos ahorita aquí ustedes lo saben más que yo.

La juventud es muy importante en esta vida. Es importante llevar las indicaciones de las personas mayores que te guíen... y disfruta mucho, todos los años disfruta.

En México, todos los eventos son especiales. Celebrando fiestas patrias, fiestas de revolucionarios, es muy importante dentro de un país, saber el calor del que realmente de su país, siempre tener el evento que sabes en tu corazón.

El evento que me gusta mucho es practicar deporte, bailar, sí, un festival folklórico, cantar -- no porque no sé muchos cantar, todo es bonito... Para nosotros mexicanos, hay culturas básicas que tenemos nosotros; estemos fuera del país, tenemos que celebrar que somos realmente mexicanos. Hay costumbres que nunca queremos olvidar.

Claro en el máximo, es importante aprender otra lengua, para entender otra persona y lo que le motiva. Y esta buena relación es importante. No es difícil, pero es muy importante: el

## Historia Contada

Por: Amelia Gleixner, Rebecca Guglin, Alekhya Gurram, Princess Aguayo

enlace principal es saber otro idioma y más aquí en los Estados Unidos porque dependemos de muchas razas y es bonito saber, tener otra lengua.

A lo que esperaba, era poder trabajar.

Porque trabajando, te haces se te convierte realidad tus sueños. Eso es muy importante, primar mente el trabajo. Simplemente, comunicación es lo que te hace entrar. La unión entre las personas es la base principal.

Tengo cuatro niños, están grandes, pero la primera tiene treinta nueve años. Los demás tienen treinta cinco, treinta dos, y veintidós. Mi mensaje para mi familia es establecer buenas relaciones dentro y pontelo como familia es única, y se puede ser la máxima que se pueden en su vida.



“Tenemos que celebrar que somos realmente mexicanos. Hay costumbres que nunca queremos olvidar”.

“Desde el primer momento que llegué, para mí, era otro mundo”.

“Claro en el máximo, es importante aprender otra lengua, para entender otra persona y lo que le motiva”







Efrén

My name is Efrén. I have lived for about twenty-five years, more or less, in the United States. From the first moment I arrived, it was another world. It was very nice; it's what's inside the country that we have to develop, we have to practice. Just working together, nothing else. Knowing how to communicate, to relate to each other, is very important. You should always be backed by friends and family.

I came by some colleagues who drove me here because some people from another country didn't have a job. Since I am from the outside, I have to work a little to be able to support myself. I am very grateful to work here.

There are good relations between the United States and Mexico. Because we are brothers and shake hands, we can understand each other. This is the government that we have right here; you know it better than me.

Youth is very important in this life. It is important to take the directions of the elderly to guide you and enjoy it very much. Enjoy all your years.

In Mexico, all events are special. Celebrating national holidays, celebrations of revolutionaries, is very important to know the warmth of your country, to always have the event that you know in your heart.

I really like practicing sports, dancing, folk festivals, singing -- not because I do not know how to sing, everything is beautiful... For us Mexicans, there are basic cultures that we have. When we are out of the country, we have to celebrate that we are really Mexican. There are customs that we never want to forget.

Clearly, it is important to learn another language in order to understand others and what motivates them. This good relationship isn't difficult, but it is very important: the key link is knowing another language, especially here in the

### Story Told By:

Amelia Gleixner, Rebecca  
Guglin, Alekhya Gurram,  
Princess Aguayo

United States, because we depend on many races and it is nice to have another language.

What I hoped for was to be able to work. Because, by working, you can make your dreams come true. That's very important; work first. Communication is simply what brings you in. The union between people is the basis.

I have four children; they are grown-up. The first one is thirty-nine years old. The rest are thirty-five, thirty-two, and twenty-two. My message for my family is to establish good relationships and be unique, and you can be the best that you can in your life.



*“We have to celebrate that we are really Mexican. There are customs that we never want to forget”:*

*“From the first moment that I arrived, it was another world”:*

*“Clearly, it is important to learn another language, in order to understand others and what motivates them”:*



Efrén llega al pueblo: ☹️



Mientras volando, Efrén ve un desastre muy grande en un pueblo y piensa "Me pregunto, ¿qué pasaba?"



¿que es este desastre?

Este desastre es un fuego muy grande, la culpa de SOLO UN HOMBRE. PACO!



Pero yo veo que ese fuego es la culpa de una tormenta. Relá pegó un árbol y empezó el fuego.

La gente realiza la verdad.

Gracias, Efrén el sabio! No es una culpa. Todos debemos trabajar juntos para reparar este desastre.



Efrén vuela arriba para compartir su sabidura con más del mundo.



Efrén arrives in the village.



While flying, Efrén sees a big disaster in a town and thinks, "I wonder what happened?"



"What is this disaster?"



"This disaster is a very big fire, the fault of ONLY ONE MAN. PACO!"



But I see that this fire is the fault of a storm. Lightning hit a tree and the fire started.



People realize the truth.

Thank you Efrén the Wise! It is not anyone's fault. We must all work together to repair this disaster.



Efrén flies up to share his wisdom to the world.





Fabián

Mis hijos viven con su mamá, a quien conocí en una fábrica donde hacen dulces como malvaviscos y gomas. Espero que en el futuro de mis hijos ellos tengan estudió, una cosa que yo no tuve. Ahorita, mi hija en un mes va a la universidad. Mi hijo va a una escuela secundaria. Allá todo es muy caro pero no es estando aquí. Es muy difícil estar lejos de mis hijos pero tengo oportunidades para llamarlos. Mi familia es lo más importante en mi vida.

Yo les invito a mi familia que vengan para acá pero dicen que no. Les digo la realidad de cómo es acá. Ellos piensan "No pues sí es como tú lo estás contando, pues no." Ellos han crecido sin yo estar allí, y a veces yo pienso que están diciendo que "no sé a donde está el papá." A veces, mi niño me dice, "¿Papá, cuando vienes? ¿Cuándo vamos ir a jugar fútbol?" Ellos me hacen falta como yo les hago falta.

La cosa más difícil para acostumbrarse en Estados Unidos es superar lo lejos que está mi familia. Hay partes de la cultura en Estados Unidos que no me gustan, como que están muy más apagadas que las de México. México tiene más ambiente que aquí en Estados Unidos.

Si uno le echa ganas y se propone a la meta que quiere lograr, pienso que va a ser bien porque a eso venimos nosotros aquí. Se batalla para poder acostumbrarnos a todo lo que está aquí. Y más que dejar familia. Para mí, no lo supe como a los dos años y medio. Imagínate dejar a mi niña, tenía de acaso seis años, y el niño recién nacido. Fue muy difícil todo eso.

La realidad es que cruzar la frontera es el mismo como la películas. Mucho calor y mucho frío. Cuando yo pasé fue en casi enero. Te cuento que un amigo estaba solito en la nieve. Él dice que la nieve le llegaba casi por la cintura. También, hay temporadas que no sabes cuando vas a cruzar. Si es en verano o invierno, todo es difícil.

## Historia Contada

Por: Ashley Mendez, Sara Murphy, Varsha Nekkanti, Charlotte Ng

No teníamos idea de cómo cruzar. Solamente podíamos traer algo de ropa porque no nos dejaban traer más de una maleta pequeña. Nos avisaron más bien con anticipación que nos llevemos unos zapatos que creíamos eran más conveniente para el frío, y también llevarnos doble pantalón puesto.

Cuando llegué a los Estados Unidos, yo esperaba trabajar lo antes posible. La realidad es que mi plan era venir por no más de tres años y ya llevo más por las circunstancias. Si yo regreso a México con el salario que tenga y los estudios están muy caros, yo pienso que no les voy a dar estudio a los niños entonces decidí mejor aguantarme y ahorita es lo que se ha logrado.

“Si uno le echa ganas y se propone a la meta que quiere lograr, pienso que va a ser bien”

“Mi familia es lo más importante en mi vida.”

“Ellos me hacen falta como yo les hago falta.”



Fabián

My children live with their mother, whom I met in a factory where they make sweets, like marshmallows. I hope that in the future my children will study, because it's a thing that I did not have. Right now, my daughter will go to college in a month. My son goes to middle school. There, everything is very expensive but, it is not here. It is very difficult to be away from my children but I have had the opportunity to call them. My family is the most important thing in my life.

I invite my family to come here but they say no. I tell them the reality of how it is here. They think "No, well, if it's like you're telling it, well, no." They have grown up without me being there, and sometimes I think they are saying "I do not know where my dad is." Sometimes my children say, "Dad, when are you coming home? When are we going to play soccer together?" They need me as I need them.

The hardest thing to get used to in the United States is overcoming how far my family is. There are parts of the culture in the United States that I do not like, as they are much more subdued than those in Mexico. Mexico has more environment than here in the United States. If one puts in the effort and they set themselves to a goal they want to reach, I think it's going to be alright. It is a battle to get used to everything that is here. More than leaving family. For me, I did not get over it for two and a half years. Imagine leaving my child, one was six years old, and the newborn child. It was very difficult, all that.

The reality is that crossing the border is the same as movies. It is very hot and very cold. When I crossed it was January. I tell you that a friend was alone in the snow. He says that the snow came almost to his waist. Also, there are seasons that you do not know when you are going

### Story Told By:

Ashley Mendez, Sara Murphy,  
Varsha Nekkanti, Charlotte  
Ng

to cross. Whether it's summer or winter, everything is difficult.

We had no idea how to cross. We could only bring some clothes because they would not let us bring more than one small suitcase. They warned us in advance that we should wear some shoes that we thought were more convenient for the cold, and also take long pants.

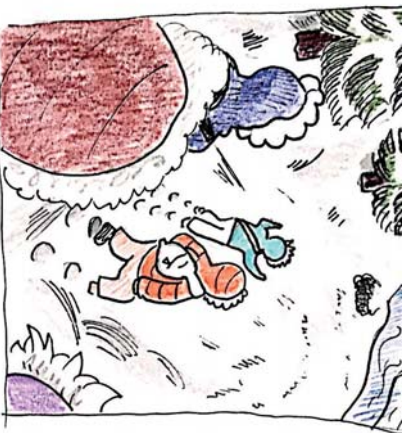
When I arrived in the United States, I expected to work as soon as possible. The reality is that my plan was to come for no more than three years and I have been here more because of the circumstances. If I return to Mexico with the salary I have and studies are very expensive. I knew I wouldn't be able to give my children an education so I decided to put up moving and work. Now it has been achieved.

*“If one puts in the effort and they set themselves to a goal they want to reach, I think it'll be alright”*

*“My family is the most important in my life.”*

*“They need me as I need them”*





Fablián y los otros inmigrantes están caminando a través de la nieve.



Todos están en el río. Los otros miembros del grupo cruzan el río y están en el otro lado. Fablián y un otro hombre están en el otro lado.



Fablián cruza el río.



Fablián está en el otro lado del Río. Un otro



Los hombres dicen a Fablián que siga adelante y



Los hombres empiezan a caminar lejos. Fablián ayuda al hombre en la agua a usar sus poderes



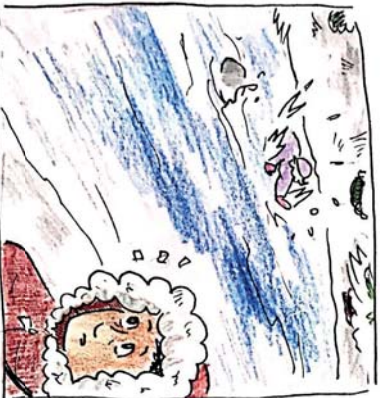
Fabian and the other immigrants are walking through the snow. It is cold and they have worn clothes and small bags. There is a river in the distance.



They are at the river. The other group members cross the river and are on the other side. Fabian and another guy are on the other side.



Fabian crosses the river.



Fabian is on the other of the river. The other guy tries to cross, but he fails. The guys on the other side are watching.



The guys tell Fabian to keep going and just leave him. Fabian looks at the guy in the river.



The guys start walking away. Fabian helps the guy in the water using his super-architect powers to build a bridge.



## Melchor

Mi nombre es Melchor y soy de Veracruz, México pero ahora vivo en San Mateo, California. Mi esposa todavía vive en México, como lo ha hecho por 23 años. Le mando dinero a mi esposa para que viva mejor. Yo tengo cuatro hijos; dos hijos viven en California y mis otras dos hijas viven en México. Me vine a este país para que mis hijos tuvieran una vida mejor y porque se me acabó el dinero en México. Mandé a mis hijos a la escuela para que tuvieran mejor futuro y educación. Mis hijos ya están casados y tienen sus propios hijos todos viven aquí en California.

Antes de llegar a los EEUU, yo cuidaba a mi familia y sé cocinar muchas comidas mexicanas. Me gusta comer caldo de res con arroz y tortillas hechas a mano. En México, trabajaba en una huerta y cosechaba tomates. En México yo cosechaba todas variedades de fruta y me gustaba. Me gustaba mucho cosechar pero me gusta la vida de los Estados Unidos mejor. También quiero aprender el inglés. Trato de aprender inglés porque me molesta que no sé como a comunicarme con mis empleadores, y hay más oportunidades para trabajo si hablo el inglés.

Me encanta toda la música mexicana por ejemplo canciones de banda, rancheras o mariachi. He ido a muchos conciertos de mis cantantes favoritos. Yo he visto a Vicente Fernández y Juan Gabriel en concierto. No tengo carro entonces camino o llevo el tren a donde necesito ir. Para llegar aquí llevo el tren y luego camino menos de una milla.

## Historia Contada

Por: Itzel del Rio, Eyelenne Diaz, Maya Diaz



*“Te voy a decir una cosa.”*

*“No es gorda, es de peso completo.”*



*“Por eso no tengan novios.”*



## Melchor

My name is Melchor and I am from Veracruz, Mexico; but now I live in San Mateo, California. My wife still lives in Mexico, and has been there for the past 23 years that we've been apart. I send her money so that she can have a better and well-supported life. I have four kids: two boys live in California and my other daughters live in Mexico. I came to this country so that my kids would have a better life and also because we encountered poverty while living in Mexico. I sent my children to school so that they would have a better education and future. My children are all married now and have their own kids.

Before arriving to the United States, I took care of my family so I know how to cook Mexican foods. I love to eat caldo de res with rice and tortillas hechas a mano. In Mexico I worked in the fields and I harvested tomatoes. I harvested all types of vegetables and fruits and I enjoyed it. I liked to harvest but I like the United States life better. I also want to learn English. I try to learn English because it bothers me that I don't know how to communicate with my employers. There are also more job opportunities if I speak English.

I love all Mexican music, for example; Banda, Rancheras, and Mariachi. I have been to many concerts to see my favorite artists. I have seen Vicente Fernández and Juan Gabriel in concert. I don't have a car so I walk or take the train to wherever I need to go. To get here I take the train and then walk about a mile.

## Story Told By:

Itzel del Rio, Eylene Diaz,  
Maya Diaz



*“I’m going to tell you one thing”*

*“She’s not fat, she’s of complete weight.”*



*“That’s why you shouldn’t have boy-friends.”*

# MELCHOR EL MAGNÍFICO

Melchor nació en  
Veracruz, México.



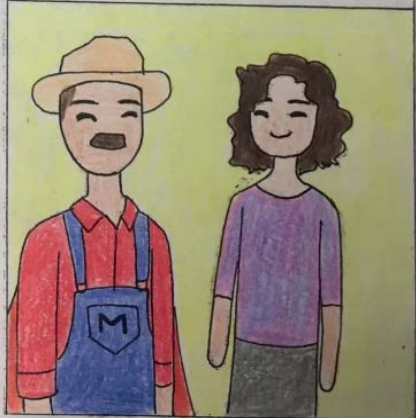
Two que irse y vivir en  
los Estados Unidos, y fue  
a varios conciertos.



Tambien two que criar  
a sus hijos.



Ahora va al centro  
de jornaleros, y quiere  
trabajar y aprender ingles.



# MELCHOR THE MAGNIFICENT

Melchor was born in  
Veracruz, México.



But he had to leave to the  
US; where he went to  
several concerts.



He also had to raise  
his children.



Now he goes to the Day  
Workers Center, with hopes  
of working and learning  
English.







Jo

I am from Micronesia. I moved to Hawaii when I was eight months old. Because my father was in the military, I've moved around a lot. We lived in several places, including Hawaii, California, and Northern Japan.

I went to school in the Valley, and joined a club called Mecha Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Islan. I was the only one who wasn't Mexican. I also joined the Black Student Union, and I was also the one that wasn't black. But it exposed me to different cultures and taught me a lot. It was an excellent experience. We went to different colleges and supported the United Farm Workers Union. It was tiring because we had classes and tried to fit this in after school, before school, or on the weekends. Our family got to meet many people of color from different areas. These experiences taught us that we were like everybody else. Overall, I would say that in Hawaii our community was really close.

My parents decided to move to Hawaii for jobs because back then, anywhere in the Pacific, if you wanted a job where you could improve and go somewhere, you had to move to the United States. They were able to find jobs easily to fulfill their new life.

My father and my mother are probably the most important people in my life. We lived a very structured life. It was not only a military life exchange experience but a cultural experience. My parents always imposed on us the importance of giving back, so since we were little, we did volunteer work at a hospital for incoming patients from Vietnam. Volunteering is very good exposure. I got to meet lot of people, and learn more about the United States.

My family primarily lives in the United States and Hawaii now. There are four of us. I'm the oldest, and we're all two years apart. My mother also had two children later in life. But we

### Story Told By:

Fiona Reyes, America Romero, Jovanna Solomon, Isabel Solorio

were able bond even with all of the moving around.

Of my siblings, 3 of them have served their country, my sister in the navy, and my brothers in the army. They're all over the U.S. and I love visiting them.

My son is 43. He has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, and has worked many different jobs, but decided that education is his calling. He loves it. He's also a member of the National Guard, and was activated twice. I'm so proud of him. It just makes me feel good as a parent, because he's giving back. That's my boy.

My experience working here in the Day Workers Center is excellent. For work, most people just want mopping, sweeping, washing the dishes, or cleaning the shower. Those jobs don't matter to me. My ultimate goal is to go back to Texas and get something similar to my old job.

During the short time I've been here, I have been so grateful to get support from the Working Women's Programs I've been a part of. Not too long ago when I was with that program, my car was giving me problems. I was spending heinous amounts of money to repair it, but then the program awarded me over ten thousand dollars to get it fixed! I was overwhelmed. I didn't even apply for it; a coordinator submitted my name. I was really so touched. Maybe it will happen to somebody else! Recently another coordinator submitted my name in a contest. It's for a grant, and my anonymous story was chosen. I believe low income people like me need to be aware of their resources, like the day worker center. There's a lot out there, you just have to look.

I don't want my identity revealed because I don't want my mom to know these things about me. She is very old and I adore her, but she does not know that I live in low income housing, I ride the bus, I am a part of this day worker community. I think if she was 20 years younger I would tell her, but she's at that age where this kind of information could give her a heart attack. I think the bottom line is that God has kept me safe all the time, and that's good enough for me.

I would not move back to Micronesia. I have a good life in California, and I have plans for the future in the U.S. The culture is very similar to Hawaii. I have not gone back to Micronesia because I find it very secluded, it takes a long time to get there, and it's expensive. Usually they come and visit us. It's wonderful for them because then they get to visit all their relatives and get exposure in the United States.

Here in California, I have decided to park my car and only use it for emergencies. This has saved me a lot of money. I now take the bus to work. I try to come to the Day Worker Center every day. It's not something I'll

do for the rest of my life, but at this time it works well.

I only speak English, but I am trying to learn Korean because I love watching Korean historical dramas. I tried to learn Japanese, but it didn't work out. I've lived in Japan but I only know the basics. I can read the road signs and say simple phrases. I took Spanish classes in high school, but didn't learn anything. However, now I practice my Spanish both at home with my immigrant neighbors and at the day worker center. In the future, I actually plan to take continued education classes at Stanford.

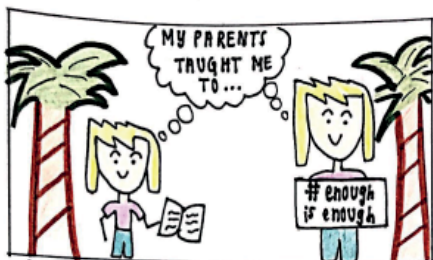
I don't have much free time, but when I do, I enjoy reading. I read the local publications, but love Trotsky and Alexander Socialism. I love architecture as well. My favorite is Frank Lloyd Wright. He has passed on, but you can see his influences in the buildings all around.

*“My experience working here in the Day Workers Center is excellent”*

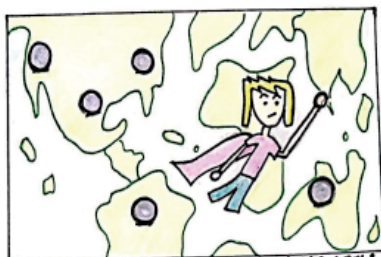
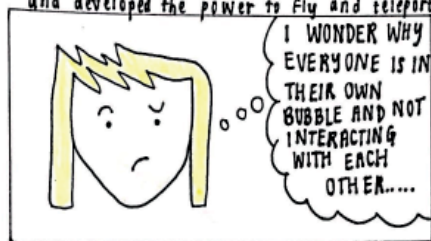
*“It was not only a military life exchange experience but a cultural experience. My parents always imposed on us how much you have to give back, so since we were little, we did some volunteer work”*



*“I believe low income people like me need to be aware of their resources. Like, the day worker center, because there's a lot out there, you just have to look.”*



After learning all that the covid and traveling the world, Jo became a super global citizen and developed the power to fly and teleport!



One day, Jo was flying around the world when she noticed bubbles separating the people in different states and countries.



Jo used her teleportation powers to transport into a bubble.



Jo used her Russian novels and Korean dramas to break the bubble. Then she flew around the whole world, popping all the bubbles.



And so the whole world was able to travel around freely and make new friends.





Kent

I was born in Redwood City; I've lived here all my life. I've seen some hockey games at San Jose Arena. I've seen Metallica there, probably 8 times. I was listening to them when their first album came out in the 80s. Over the years, they have become world-famous. I would learn Spanish if I could learn another language, because there are a lot of Spanish people that live around here.

I started working part-time when I was in high school, and when I graduated, I started working full-time. I love Mexican food. I also really like American food, like steak, potatoes, and good old-fashioned hot dogs. I like the Fourth of July the best: the food, the beer, and the fireworks. I don't go out, because if something happens, they keep you; you never know. I have been to Hawaii there a few times; it was nice. But that's safe.

I used to play sports like baseball, but that was back at Sequoia High School. They had driver's ed class, because everyone wanted to get their license. I got my license at 16 or 17. My parents bought me a car, a hot rod. I wrecked that. It was a brand new car, too, a Camaro G28. They used to have movies at the Fox Theater all the time. We used to sneak in the place, too. We would climb up the side of the building, up on this ladder, then go onto the top of the roof. There were curtains; we would look for the ushers and then we would crawl right into the rows and pop up slowly.

I was the black sheep of our family and the rest of them are well off; they got in the right business. My siblings and I, we're kind of separated now. My sister is retired, and my oldest brother lives in Texas. He worked for Kelly Moore all his life; it was the only job he ever had. Now he's a suit, he's corporate.

### Story Told By:

Maria Mavrogenes, Tiffany Marquez, Tejal Patel, Srija Ponna

To me the American Dream means owning a house, having some money, enough to be well-off, not extravagant, but everything paid for. Now I kick myself with all the money I used to make, and if I would have saved it I could have invested in a house. I wish I worked for the city or the post office. I was not thinking about the pension. When you get old, you retire and you get a pension and benefits.

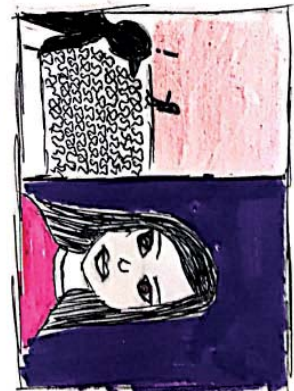
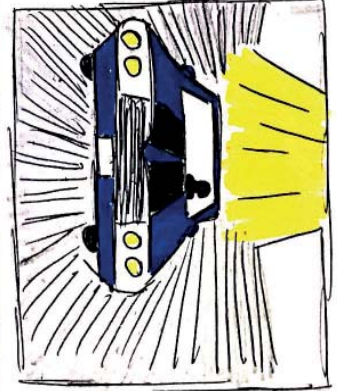
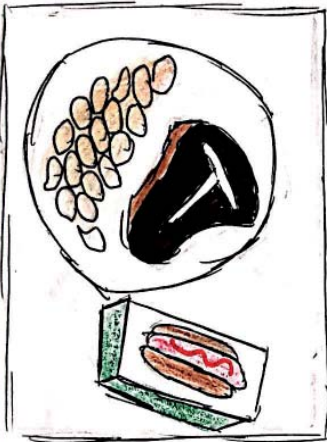
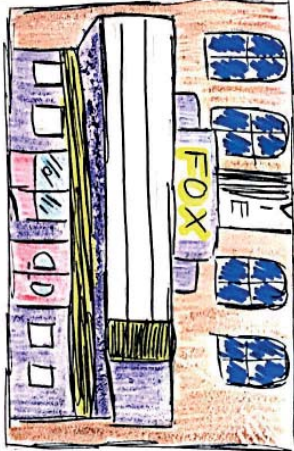
If I had worked with the government, right out of high school, I would not be sitting here. I just started coming right before Thanksgiving. The workers are all different here at the center, but I kinda keep to myself. We all have different personalities and some people came from Chile, Mexico, and China. But they don't understand me, and I don't understand them. A language I would learn is probably Spanish, because there are a lot of Spanish people live around here. I come here every day looking for work, usually for easy jobs, and it's started getting busy here, because summer is coming around. I hear that it will get busy as summer approaches. It's pretty cool because you get paid under the table. I usually get three or four days a week here, and you get paid that day, two hours, four hours, six hours. You never know what comes through that door. Some jobs you can have are scrubbing floors, peeling wallpaper, moving boxes, painting, or electrical. That's skill stuff, electrical. But you never know. You have people come in with little jobs.



*“To me the American Dream means owning a house, having some money, enough to be well-off, not extravagant, but everything paid for.”*

*“ I love Mexican food.”*

*“You never know what comes through that door.”*





## Conclusión

Ahora la xenofobia, especialmente contra los inmigrantes es espantosamente alta. Aunque América es conocido por ser un 'melting pot,' especialmente en lugares como la área de la bahía, gente todavía teme lo que no sabe—hasta cuando viven enseguida. La única manera en que puedan combatir con esta ola de miedo es por el entendimiento mutuo y entonces nuestra clase de español de Notre Dame vino al Centro de Jornaleros de Mountain View para entrevistar a los jornaleros y aprender sobre sus vidas.

A pesar del tema de este libro, las personas que entrevistamos no solo son superhéroes, ni son solo jornaleros: son padres y madres, hijos e hijas, y más importante, son humanos. Nos gustaría agradecerles por compartir sus historias, de sus perspectivas sobre la inmigración a sus vidas diarias. Los hijos de inmigrantes son especialmente afectados por el miedo contra los inmigrantes. Principalmente hicimos este libro para que puedan ver sus padres como superhéroes—como todos los hijos esperan secretamente que sean—en opuesto de villanos o ladrones. A los hijos de estos inmigrantes: todo esto es para ti, y ojalá que les guste este libro y que aumenten fortaleza de él.

El Centro de Jornaleros de Mountain View da servicios vitales a los jornaleros con conectarlos con sus oportunidades de trabajos y enseñándoles destrezas necesarios para otros trabajos, como destrezas de computadoras o el inglés. Nos gustaría agradecerles por dejarnos visitar. A ustedes que leen este libro en busca una perspectiva diferente, esperamos que hemos abierto tu mente a vidas diferentes que los tuyos. Juntos, podemos crear un futuro que está lleno de empatía, entendimiento y esperanza.





## Conclusion

Right now, xenophobia, especially against immigrants, is terrifyingly high. Although America is known for being a 'melting pot,' especially true in places like the Bay Area, people are still afraid of the things and people that they don't know—even when they live right next door. The only way to combat this wave of fear is through a mutual understanding, and so our Notre Dame Spanish class came to the Mountain View Day Worker Center to interview day workers and find out about their lives.

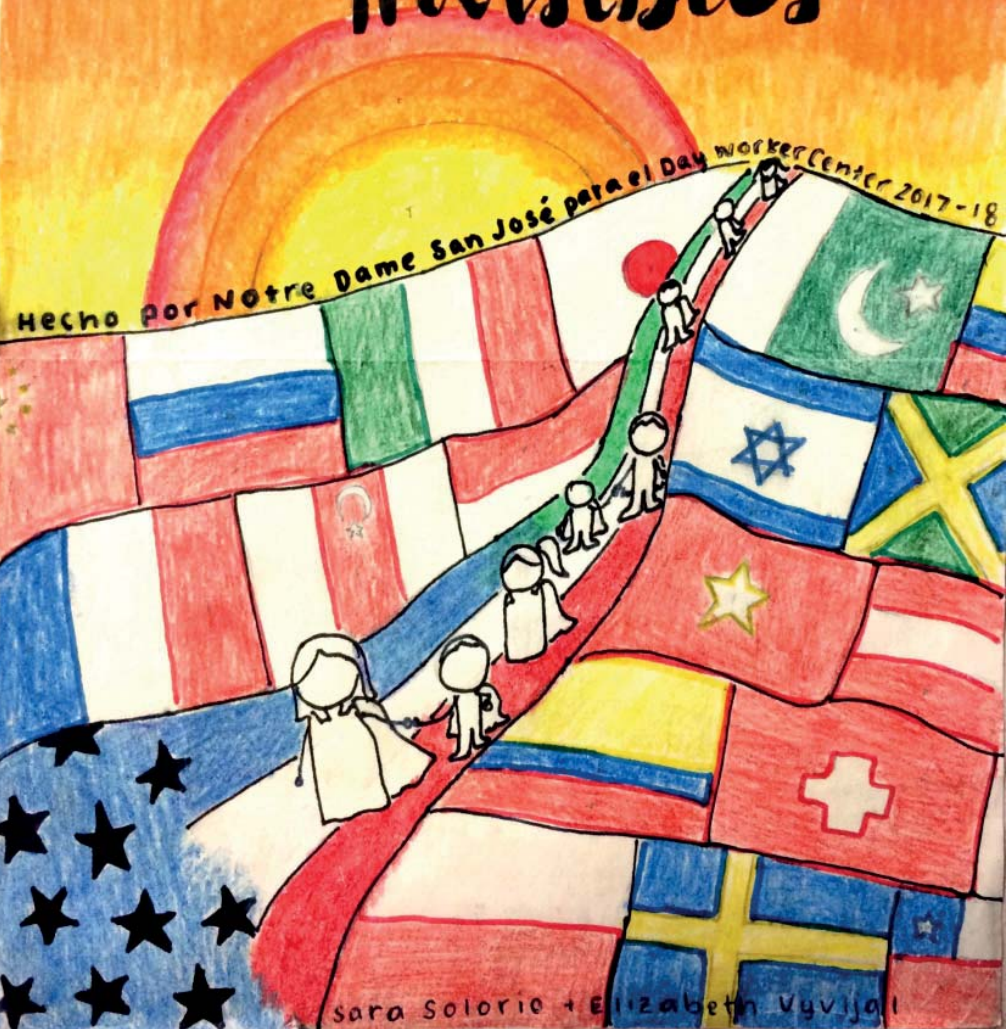
Despite the theme of this book, the people we interviewed aren't just superheroes, nor are they just workers: they are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and most importantly, they are human. We would like to thank them for sharing their stories, from views on immigration to their daily lives.

The children of immigrants are especially affected by the fear against immigrants; we primarily made this magazine so they get to see their parents being portrayed as superheroes— just like every kid secretly wanted their parents to be— rather than villains or thieves. To the children of these immigrants: this is all for you, and we hope that you'll like this book and draw strength from it.

The Mountain View Day Worker Center provides vital services to day workers by connecting them with job opportunities and teaching them skills necessary for other jobs, like computer skills or English. We would like to thank them for letting us visit.

To those who read this book seeking a different perspective, we hope that we have opened your mind to lives different than your own. Together, we can create a future that's filled with empathy, understanding, and hope.

# Heroes Invisibles



Hecho por Notre Dame San José para el Day Worker Center 2017-18

sara solorio + Elizabeth Vuyjal