

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## MEET MARA!



VOLUNTEER SINCE 2018

When Mara began volunteering at the Center, she would come in every Wednesday to co-teach advanced English as a Second Language classes (ESL) to workers as they waited for jobs. In one class Mara recalls teaching workers about the history of computers and how interested they were in the topic. The next class they watched the movie "War Games" and had a discussion. Mara reflects, "I felt like I helped them make a connection through teaching relevant current issues in an English language setting. I miss those conversations!"

A few months after starting to volunteer, as an artist herself, Mara began holding art classes. During the classes, workers were able to be creative and paint various things like poinsettias, landscapes and reference photos. Unfortunately, classes had to be paused due to the pandemic but nevertheless Mara has continued to be present at the Center. Most recently you may have seen her providing information at the ESL table during our 25th anniversary celebration on October 3, 2021!

### LEARN MORE ABOUT MARA'S VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

#### WHY DID YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER?

*I chose to volunteer at the Day Worker Center because I firmly believe in protecting the rights of migrant workers in our communities and in general protecting migrant families.*

#### WHAT HAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER MEANT TO YOU?

*Volunteering at the Center is like finding another family. Everyone there has common beliefs about protecting human rights and sees the opportunity to do this in their own community.*

#### ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES YOU HAVE?

*I remember one day teaching how to paint a poinsettia and how much laughter, joy and even a bit of frustration went around the table. I liked that both men and women participated together in something they had never done, or not since childhood. There is nothing like the feeling of helping someone feel pride in their accomplishments.*



Mara leading a painting class for members of the Center



One of the workers holding his painting.



Mara with Gwen (ESL Coordinator) tabling for the ESL table in our 25th anniversary celebration.

