

April 2024

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Mateo!

### **VOLUNTEER AREAS:**

At just thirteen years old, Mateo is one of the youngest volunteers at the Center! He began his involvement at the Center at a younger age in the Spanish as a Second Language classes and began volunteering on Saturdays to help serve lunch to compañeros. Currently, he assists his dad in the Technology Literacy classes, teaching compañeros basic technology skills such as how to use a computer and navigating the internet.

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

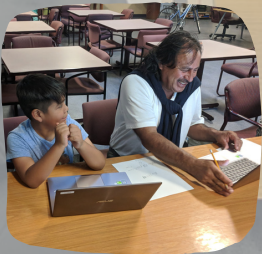
*I had known about the Day Worker Center for many years because my dad has taught the technology classes for some time. My mom also taught Spanish as a Second Language. So I knew very well about the DWC. The opportunity came when I applied for a Bilingual Seal at my school. In order for us to receive it, we had to do at least 10 hours of community service. I knew right away that the DWC was where I wanted to volunteer. So I asked Maria, who welcomed me with open arms. I started volunteering serving lunches on Saturdays along with Gwen, another volunteer. A few months later, my dad invited me to co-teach the technology classes along with him, and now here I am.*

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

*It has been absolutely wonderful! I have learned many virtues, such as patience and compassion. I have also exercised and honed my Spanish speaking skills, which had been a little rusty before (I admit). Maria and Carla always make me feel at home; they have always received me very caringly. I love helping out the workers, who also help me feel like I belong. I am confident that volunteering at the Day Worker Center has made me a better person, and that it will impact my life for the better. It really has been a really awesome experience helping out in the community.*

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

*There have been many wonderful memories made throughout my years at the Day Worker Center, but there is one that stands out. It was in 2019, when I was 8. My mom had been co-teaching the Spanish as a Second Language classes, and it was the final class, when we bring food and drinks to celebrate the finish. My mom asked me if I could do a traditional Mexican folklorico dance in front of the students because I danced at the time. I said yes, and I performed a dance along with my fellow dance-mate. I remembered how the workers congratulated me after that, really impressed by my dancing. Those compliments went a long way and really made me feel very at home in the Day Worker Center, and I am sure that the memory will always stick with me as I go on.*



Mateo currently helps teach the technology classes alongside his dad to compañeros. They learn the basics of computers and the internet!

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worker  
center  
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mountain view

THANK YOU  
MATEO!

VOLUNTEER  
SINCE:  
2022

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