



Carlos: "The Center Orients Us"

Carlos (day worker, Center volunteer, member of the Day Worker Center board): "In 1994, I lost my job in Mexico because of the economic situation. I came here so my children could study and have stable work and careers.

"I found work through the Center, and have become involved as a volunteer and worker representative. Through the Center, I have found stable work in maintenance and cleaning, have the opportunity to attend classes, and find legal advice and support to face all my challenges. The Center guides and orients us, and refers us to other services when we need them.

"Because of the Center, I have been able to pay for my children's college education, and they have been able to find good jobs in Mexico. One is a programmer and engineering assistant, one is a teacher and one just earned her degree in Business Administration.

"My daughter still waits for me to call her in Mexico City every Sunday to ask my permission to go out. I ask her where she is going, who she is going with, and what does her mother think. Then I tell her what time she has to be home.

"With the little that I have, I try my best to give back to the community in which I live. Here I participate in our Day Worker Blood Drives to donate to the Stanford Blood Bank. I have also worked in the garden at the Mountain View Senior Citizen Center as part of the Day Worker Center community participation projects.

"I want to see a permanent site for the Day Worker Center so we can provide job training, an economic cooperative, the opportunity to sell the food and crafts we produce. I want to learn computing."

(Note: Carlos appears here with Center co-worker, Noemi)