



## Freddy, Emily and Susan: “We Are Accomplishing Our Dreams”

Emily (day worker): “We lost our home and our entire crop in Hurricane Stan. The government doesn’t help the Mayans at all. We were left with nothing but the clothes on our back and many debts. We came from pure desperation.”

Freddy (day worker): “It took courage to come here without knowing anyone, but that courage has another name—desperation. Hunger is worse than cold, worse than fear.

“At the age of eight, I began to work in order to survive. I became independent from my mother at the age of eleven, and lived a life of extreme poverty. I was born in the same year when the “dirty war” began—the army fighting the guerillas—36 years of civil war. It was a crash course in survival, hiding from both of them during the day—you couldn’t tell who was who, or which ones were the bad ones—and sleeping in a ditch at night. I still don’t know the motive—why they were fighting. Because of this, there is extreme poverty in my country, and that is why we are forced to emigrate.”

Emily: “He knows how to triumph over circumstances. Despite everything, he has survived, and he is here.”

Freddy: “I love the Center. All the work I have found, I have found through the Center. ”

Emily: “Here, we are accomplishing our dreams.”

Susan (Volunteer ESL teacher, Day Worker Center): “They have seen a side of life that is hard for me to imagine—their lives have been so much harder, they have seen such harrowing things. It opened my eyes. It has enriched me to understand.

“They were hesitant to participate in an ESL class at Moffett Field. The instructor told them they were ‘advanced.’ What an accomplishment! They rush home from work to get dressed in their best clothes for class.”