



## **ALBUQUERQUE'S COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM**

### **Mobilization in Support of Immigration Reform in Washington DC March 21<sup>st</sup>.**



On March, 21, 2010, a march in support of immigration reform will be held in Washington, DC. This rally is being sponsored by the Reform Immigration for America Campaign, of which El CENTRO is a member, and the National Council of Churches. Tens of thousands of people will gather on the West Lawn of the Capitol Building, including members of El CENTRO, to send a message to President Obama and to Congress: the time to fix our broken immigration system is now. We are collecting messages from communities in Central New Mexico, "We understand that there is disappointment and fear right now in our community, but we must continue to organize until we achieve a fair and just immigration reform" stated Bertha Campos, Board Co-Chair of El CENTRO. If you want your voice to be heard in Washington DC, and would like us to take your story with us, contact El CENTRO.

### **Urging our Elected Officials to Support Fair Immigration Reform**

El CENTRO is collecting thousands of signatures urging president Obama to stop the raids that are separating our communities. In addition, signatures are also being gathered for Senator Tom Udall, Senator Jeff Bingaman and Congressman Martin Heinrich asking them to support a fair immigration reform. Call El CENTRO and ask how you can help!

**Isabel García**, renowned immigrants' rights activist from Arizona will speak about the history of immigration in the US and what NM can learn from the current anti-immigrant climate in Arizona at a benefit for El CENTRO on March 13th at 6:00 PM (free reception at 5:00). The event will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2801 Lomas NE. For more information, call El CENTRO or go to [www.elcentro-nm.org](http://www.elcentro-nm.org)

Join the Text Alert Network and receive action alerts from Washington DC about immigration reform. Text JUSTICE TO 69866. If you have Cricket, call El CENTRO and we will



### **Youth Organizing**

The Albuquerque DREAMERS in Action group of youth organizers continue to organize around the DREAM Act and for comprehensive immigration reform. They will be displaying the mural which they unveiled on January 18th at different High Schools around the city as a way to inform students about their rights, the DREAM Act, and recruit additional students who are interested in organizing. There will be a youth organizer training on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-4 PM at El CENTRO. If you want to participate, call Adriana (505) 246-1627.



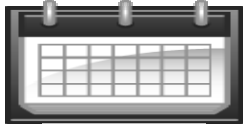
## El Otro Lado

El CENTRO is participating in a project, “El Otro Lado” to engage students to explore cultural and identity issues through art and popular education. “I grew up in the El Paso / Juarez border area. I struggle because I feel like I am too Americanized for my Mexican folks, but at the same time I don’t feel like I fit in with my American counterparts”, said Adriana Ontiveros, Youth Organizer at El CENTRO. “We should be proud of our history, our culture, and our contributions. That’s why we decided to participate in this project”. A group of about 25 students has been gathering to explore issues of identity, race, class, and power analysis through painting, poetry, theatre and other forms of art. By the end of the project, the youth will produce art that will then be used to engage the community at large in dialogue. If you are interested in participating in El Otro Lado, please contact Adriana at 505-246-1627.



## Plaza de Encuentro, Close to Becoming a Reality!

Three organizations, El CENTRO, Enlace Comunitario, an Southwest Creations Collaborative have been engaging in a planning process with the community to launch the La Plaza de Encuentro, an immigrant center. This month the Plaza will be taking a big step and is looking to finalize a lease agreement in the Barelas neighborhood (close to downtown). “We are very close to obtaining our own building and I am confident this the Plaza will become a reality”, said Andrea Plaza, Project Director of the La Plaza de Encuentro. In coming together through the Plaza, three immigrant-based organizations bring distinctive areas of expertise: community strengthening, economic Development, and community organizing. Interested in participating in the planning? Give Rachel a call at El CENTRO.



### Youth Organizing

Training- March 6th  
10:00-4:00 PM  
El CENTRO

### Fundraiser

Mariscos Altamar  
March 10th 2010  
All day long  
1517 Coors Blvd NW

### Immigration Training

March 13th 2010  
First Congregational  
2801 Lomas NE  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**6:00 PM– Speaker  
Isabel Garcia**

### Membership Meeting,

March 16th 2010  
El CENTRO  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

### Mobilization in DC

March 20-22nd

### Member/Organizer Training

April 2nd 2010  
El CENTRO  
Time: To be determinad

## New Workers Committee

El CENTRO is forming a new committee to procure the rights of immigrant workers. “We have noticed an increase in labor abuses. Particularly with workers not being paid for the hours they worked, said Adonai Morales, Community Organizer at El CENTRO. This new committee will focus its efforts around organizing the community to promote fair labor practices. The first step will be to disseminate information about essential labor rights. If you wish to become involved in this committee, please contact El CENTRO .

## Project Saber es Poder Information

**Hotline: 505-246-1627**

El CENTRO has expanded its Rights, Resource, and Referral program. Now you can call El CENTRO if you want to know your rights with law enforcement, your labor rights, information about the detention and deportation systems, renters’ rights and resources available for the community.