

WIND OF THE SPIRIT

Monthly Newsletter of Our
Work Across the State



Wind of the Spirit
Immigrant Resource Center, N.J.

Issue 5, August 2018

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Get involved!

Our next volunteer orientation is on Wednesday, August 8th. At 7:00pm.

Come and learn all that Wind of the Spirit has to offer, about community, and how you can join our efforts.

Visit our website: www.windofthespirit.net for more information and to donate!

Financial Aid



ATTENTION!!

IF COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS HAS BEEN CHARGING YOU MORE THAN \$2500 FOR FULL TIME TUITION, YOU WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND YOU QUALIFY FOR IN STATE TUITION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT
OFFICE@WINDOFTHESPIRIT.NET
 O DEJA UN MENSAJE AL
(973)538-2035

Facebook: Wind of the spirit
 Twitter: WindofspiritNJ
 IG: Wind_of_the_spirit_nj



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Deadline for alternative state aid applications is approaching!

September 15, 2018

Contact the WotS office to get help filling out your application.

(State Aid forum information on P.5.)

T.P.S RECIPIENTS HEAD TO D.C.

On July 17th, 13 members of our Temporary Protective Status (TPS) committee went to Washington D.C to advocate for a permanent solution for former TPS beneficiaries. Ten members left early Tuesday morning on bus and three left to D.C on Friday, July 13th. Our three members Jessika, David and Sonia attended meetings in D.C for the entire weekend. Our members educated legislators on the efforts of TPS advocates for a total of three days, and met with 25 congressmen and women, 17 meetings were arranged in one day. Some of the team met with New Jersey Congressman Leonard Lance, the others met at the Honduran Embassy. Some TPS beneficiaries promoted the American Promise Act, which provides permanent protection for TPS recipients of countries that lost status under this administration, urging them to vote in favor.





Driver's License Campaign

Driving Resolution passes in Morristown!

Members of Wind of the Spirit (pictured above) spoke before the Morristown municipal government in support of a “yes” vote on a resolution that supports the concept of expanding the current 6-point system required to obtain a driver’s license, an arduous task for many and impossible for some. The Morristown council voted yes, unanimously.

Further, Morris County mayors James P. Dodd and Timothy P. Dougherty expressed their support for the concept at a mayoral roundtable in Perth Amboy along with Wind of the Spirit, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, and the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice.

Are you looking to get involved in the campaign?

- Join us in Morristown and canvass for local business support on **August 8th** !
- Join one of our working groups
- Join us at the statewide rally in Trenton on September 6th
 - Transportation is free
 - Contact Brian@windofthespirit.net to reserve your seat

Census 2020

Most recently, the Trump administration strikes at the immigrant community by implementing a question on the census in 2020 inquiring into the citizenship status of all individuals living in a household. In the legal brief to Ron Jarmin, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, the Justice Department sought to implement this measure under guise of helping voter fraud—double voting and unauthorized voting.

This proposed measure threatens the safety of undocumented immigrants and hurts local government. In midst of this socio-politically polarized society, this manner of collecting household information pertaining to immigration status could be dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) there are 7 white nationalist/Neo Nazi hate groups in the state of New Jersey, four of which are statewide. The SPLC describes these groups as believers in the theory that proposes inherent inferiority of non-whites, these groups also actively seek to eradicate immigration of non-whites descent into Western societies. Secondly, threats to local government funding forced many immigrant advocacy groups to put out yet another fire created, and sprang some congressional Democrats into action. The fear that this information would be used for immigration enforcement would cause an inaccurate reporting of residents in each locality, which would lead to inadequate funding for community resources, schools, and government agencies. In New Jersey, the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, its member organizations—WOTS and MTRNJ, and NJ Senator Corey Booker have begun discussing and defining how the state of New Jersey will push back. Moreover, the decision to not participate in the census could have negative immigration repercussions in the future when individuals attempt to adjust their status.

If you are eager to learn more or get involved please reach out to Brian@windofthespirit.net. We are implementing education and advocacy around this issue into our working groups. Stay tuned for more updates on the state level work we are doing.

ESL Cultural Dinner

Introduced by popular demand, Wind of the Spirit is offering classes of English as a Second language to members. We offer English as well as Arabic courses. In honor of community, our ESL students held a cultural dinner where guests from Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan and Latin America shared food, music, culture and conversation.

Interested in taking the class? Contact the office at [\(973\) 538-2035](tel:9735382035) for more information.



Diversity Day

On Sunday, July 8th the Morristown Green was once again filled with people, music and fun. Different Organizations, faith groups, and members of the communities came together to celebrate the first annual Diversity Day. Groups such as Black Lives Matter, Morristown Jewish Center, Wind of the Spirit, Boy Scouts of America and many others gathered at the Green and tabled with information from their respective groups. The day was hot, the sun was out and cultural performances were a constant of the day's activities. Prayer by the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge was said and demonstrated on the grass of the green. Prizes were raffled and each table had a souvenir for the children such as coloring books, badges and stickers. This day highlighted different religious, cultural and ethic beliefs within our diverse Morristown community. The organizing committee was lead by Dr. Beverly Tignor and the Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

Families Belong Together March

On June 30, thousands of people descended on Newark to make it clear that they care about the lives of migrants and oppose the cruel immigration policies that are being enforced by the federal government. The Families Belong Together rally organized by Blue Wave NJ, Make the Road New Jersey, New Jersey Working Families Alliance, Wind of the Spirit, and Women for Progress was put together to call attention to the inhumane policies of the Trump administration that has separated more than 2,300 children from their parents.



Wind of the Spirit youth leader Alondra, a 19-year-old college student from Morris County, took center stage, telling her story of escaping abuse and violence in Mexico. She recalled her migrant experience, traveling across the southwestern edge of the United States, dehydrated and exhausted. US Border Patrol detained her and separated her from her family. She shared her story “in hope that it will encourage you to act, to protect children so they don’t have to go through the agony that [she] did”. She continues that “families are seeking safety in the land of the free, el pais de los sueños”; they should not be made into criminals. Alondra is fighting to live a life free of fear and violence in the United States, but constantly faces the uncertainty that government policies can change at the whim of politicians that would make her status in New Jersey illegal.

Trump’s 2017 “Zero Tolerance Policy” is a crueler extension of Clinton, Bush, and Obama era policies that have been criminalizing and terrorizing migrants for years while failing to account for United States’ complicity in actively destabilizing the Central American countries in which most of the migrants crossing the Mexican – American border hail. While the federal courts have made illegal the practice of family separation and mandated re-unification for separated families, more than 800 children are still being detained separate from their parents. Some children have parents that have already been deported and cannot be located; others have parents that were coerced into signing away their legal right to reunite with their children.

Families Belong Together was a rallying cry for those hungry for change. We all must do our part: we must contact our legislators to let them know immigrants should have equal rights to legal representation and due process; we must collectively imagine ways to abolish ICE; we must take part in more collective actions, like the “Lets Drive NJ” rally September 6 in Trenton to support immigrant access to driver’s licenses. The fight is not over!

Wind of the Spirit provides opportunities for activism and action. We are here to support immigrant families and their right to a live their lives with peace and dignity as friends, neighbors, colleagues, and community members. We felt your passion in Newark and want you to join us: “Say it loud, say it clear, Immigrants are Welcome



Calendar of Events

Future Events:

- **August 3rd**
Hackettstown Norwescap Family Day
- **August 5th**
10:00am-11:00am No human being is illegal
Stanley Congregational Church
- **August 8th**
7:00pm-8:00pm Volunteer session
- **Sunday, August 12th**
4:30pm Essex Rising Unity cookout
- **Saturday, August 18th**
10:30am-11:30am State Aid Forum @
Dover public library
- **Sunday, August 19th**
TPS Cookout
- **Saturday, August 25th**
10:00am-3:00pm WotS Volunteer and
Member Cookout @ Morris Lewis Park
- **August 27th**
7:30pm-8:30pm State Aid forum @
Morristown public library
- **August 29th**
6:00pm-9:00pm Quarterly board meeting
- **September 6th**
Driver's License Rally in Trenton

Join a committee

Migrant's rights working group

Every other Monday at 7:00pm; Contact
Theresa@Markila.com for more information

Dover and Morristown Immigrant Justice Committee

Every other Monday at 7:30pm; Contact
Brian@Windofthespirit.net for more information

Events/Fundraising

Every other Wednesday at 7:00pm; Contact
Theresa@Markila.com for more information

LGBTQ

Every other Tuesday at 7:30pm;
Contact Theresa@Markila.com for
more information

Temporary Protective Status

Every other Sunday at 4:00pm;
Contact Brian@windofthespirit.net
for more information

Newsletter

Contact
Brian@windofthespirit.net for
more information



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120 Speedwell Avenue,
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Office: (973)538-2035

Office@Windofthespirit.net