

N O V E M B E R N E W S L E T T E R

Issue 8, November 2018

Wind of the Spirit

Immigrant Resource Center



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF OUR WORK ACROSS THE STATE

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#FreeManny

Manny is a soccer player. Born in Uruguay he has lived in New Jersey since the age of 4. A Dover High School alumnus and an aspiring photographer; Manny works with Wind of the Spirit documenting rallies and is a beloved member of his community. A year ago, his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) expired. Three months ago, he was put on probation for marijuana possession and was required to wait until the end of his probation to apply for renewal. Last month, Manny was a passenger in a car crash and detained by police for missing a court date he had not received notification. After clearing up the warrant with the court, Manny could have been released to his home in Dover and gone on with his life.

Instead the Morris County Police used an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer to hold Manny in jail an additional 48 hours, allowing ICE agents to take him into federal custody. It is not required for police departments to accept ICE detainers; Morris County Police made the decision to collaborate with ICE. If the Morris County Police had ignored the ICE detainer, Manny would have been released to his family and the likelihood of ICE detaining him would have been significantly reduced as Manny does not meet the requirements for ICE to actively seek his detention, unless in temporary police custody, as he was at the time. Since moving Manny to the immigrant detention wing of Essex County Correctional Facility, ICE has expedited Manny's deportation.

Dover is Manny's home and he has a community that loves him. Victoria Roberts, Manny's girlfriend, has worked tirelessly to raise money for Manny's legal defense, to make sure he has commissary in his prison account, and to galvanize friends and family to Manny's defense. Victoria worked with Wind of the Spirit to organize a vigil outside of Essex County Correctional Facility to raise awareness for Manny's plight and show solidarity with Manny and all people put into jail because of their immigration status. With few legal options and time running out, Victoria is seeking a gubernatorial pardon from New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, to stop Manny's deportation to Uruguay and to keep Manny with his friends, family, and in his community.



Journey to Residency

On August 17, 2018 the National TPS Alliance in collaboration with the Central American Resource Center and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network launched the “TPS Journey for Justice Caravan” which traveled across the country and visited over 50 cities. Over 50 Temporary Protected Status recipients stepped into “La Libertad”, the Liberty bus that would transport them across the country. With their hearts full of hope and courage they embarked on a journey to save Temporary Protected Status a program that protects over 450,000 people from deportation. The Trump administration has decided to terminate the program as part of the ongoing attacks against immigrants.

Temporary protected status was created by congress in the Immigration Act of 1990, granting its recipients relief from deportation and a work authorization. TPS was designed for countries that are confronting armed conflict, environmental disasters, or extraordinary conditions such as poverty. The Trump administration has decided to terminate the almost 2 decade long program leaving families, helpless, and terrorized. Families are participating in a national call to keep families together and to fight for a permanent solution. Beneficiaries of this program have pursued and received their college degrees, own businesses and bought houses. They are parents of U.S born citizens and contribute significantly to this country’s economy. The dreams that they have chased and built on this nation will soon come to an end unless a path to citizenship is created. The caravan brings a new hope, uniting families from across the country and giving a face to this program.

La Libertad has traveled through, New Jersey, Arizona, Virginia, and other states, allowing members to participate in vigils, press conferences, meetings with state senators and overall raise awareness and fight for a permanent solution. Their long journey has been welcomed by various organizations such as Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center. On October 4th, members of Wind of the Spirit eagerly waited for La Libertad to arrive. The day was hot, and hope and struggle filled the air as members saw La Libertad ride down Lafayette Avenue. Its grand work of art depicted the terror of deportation, family separation and the struggles that many immigrants face in this country.

The beating of drums filled our ears, and posters of monarch butterflies were raised, as the caravan was welcomed. The afternoon was spent sharing information, celebrating and eating at the Encuentro Centro Americano, a Honduran Restaurant in Morristown. The visit to Morristown was wrapped up that evening with a press conference at the Saint Margaret’s of Scotland Catholic Church in Morristown. As the TPS Caravan ends its journey on Friday, November 9th in Washington D.C. we must remember that the fight does not end until we not only reach residency but are able to live with dignity and without fear.



The Youth Advocate in Rome!

As the TPS Caravan traveled through the United States, on the other side of the world, 11 children of parents that are T.P.S recipients arrived in Rome, Italy. One of which is David Giron, a youth member of Wind of the Spirit. The youth had the opportunity to meet Pope Francis and advocate for not only their parents but all the parents that are threatened to be separated from their families. The current administration announced the termination of the Temporary Protected Status program September 2017, affecting 450,000 people. With the termination of the program, it threatens the safety and unity of families.

With the opportunity to speak with Pope Francis, the youth explained, “We are part of the fight for immigrants in the United States”. Which Pope Francis responded, “keep on fighting, you have the right, migrating is a human right and no one can prevent that”.

After an exciting and symbolic trip to Rome, the youth are back home safe and with their families.



Calendar of Events

Past Events:

Monday, October 8th Books and Bustelo: Columbus and Colonialism

Friday, October 12th Free Manny Vigil

Saturday, October 20th Union City Driver's License forum

Sunday, October 21st Dover Driver's License forum

Friday, October 26th Halloween Party

Sunday, November 4th Know your Rights training at the First Methodist Church

Sunday, November 4th YouthLeD Meeting: Discussion of the Pittsburgh Synagogue

Monday, November 5th Morristown Immigrant Justice Committee

Tuesday, November 6th Newsletter Committee

Wednesday, November 7th State Aid Presentation at East Side High School in Newark

Friday, November 9th TPS caravan Gran finale in Washington D.C.

Saturday, November 10th: Annual Organizational Meeting

Friday, November 9th-November 11th Alianza Americas Annual Conference

Monday, November 12th Books and Bustelo Morristown Panera Bread 7:30pm-9:30pm

Saturday, November 17th-11/19 Let's Drive NJ vigil at NJ Statehouse in Trenton

Sunday, November 18th East Side High School in Newark 10:00am

Monday, November 19th Immigrant Justice Committee Morristown Potluck Dinner

Future Events

Tuesday, December 4th: New Volunteer Orientation 7pm

December 7-9: MUF 15th Annual Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 22nd: 18 years of Wind of the Spirit 8:00pm

Thursday, January 10th: Know your Rights at the Saint Joseph's Sanctuary 7:00pm



Get involved, Join a committee!

Migrants rights working group:

Every other Monday at 7:00pm

Contact: volunteer@wotsnj.org for more information

Dover and Morristown Immigrant Justice Committee

Every Monday at 7:30pm

Contact: Organizing@windofthespirit.net for more information.

Events and Fundraising:

Every other Wednesday at 7:00pm

Contact: volunteer@wotsnj.org for more information

LGBTQ and Immigration:

Every other Tuesday at 7:00pm

Contact: volunteer@wotsnj.org for more information

Temporary Protected Status:

Every other Sunday at 4:00pm

Contact: organizing@windofthespirit.net for more information

Newsletter Committee:

Contact: organizing@windofthespirit.net

For more information



Wind of the Spirit
Immigrant Resource Center, NJ.

**Wind of the Spirit
Immigrant Resource Center**

T: 973-538-2035

E: office@windofthespirit.net

120 Speedwell Avenue

Morristown, New Jersey