Annual Report 2020
Dear MI friends,

I have composed this year's message while visiting the Tahoe National Forest and its incredible landscape filled with snow, beauty, and life. The whispering wind showers grace and peace to my spirit. I have been restless for several months and the long drive provided me with an opportunity to reflect on the deep impact of COVID-19 on domestic workers, day laborers and our MI team.

There is no doubt that this pandemic has disproportionately affected our community: immigrants, low income families, women, and those experiencing homelessness. All of them struggling to make ends meet. All of them facing multiple challenges and difficult decisions because many have lost their jobs may lose their home and struggle with food insecurity. All of them fighting to survive. The extraordinary energy and steadfast commitment of our MI team created virtual ways of keeping those we serve connected with our programs and services.

The words of Teihard de Chardin resonate with me as a gentle reminder that supporting one another is our strength “...we are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other.” As this year comes to a close, I am most grateful for your trust and your support as we navigated uncharted waters. Looking forward to a new year filled with hope and opportunities. Wishing you and your family health, shared happiness, and peace in the New Year.

Sincerely, fr. Rigo

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A word from
MI’s Founder & Executive Director

Due COVID-19 protocols and shelter in place orders, the MI staff meetings are now conducted through Zoom every Monday morning. Here they are smiling for the camera!
The immigrant, day laborer, and domestic worker community have directly suffered and continue to be negatively impacted by COVID-19. Beginning the second week of March, MI staff effectively shifted its unique and effective service model of daily street outreach to a remote and virtual program delivery method. MI had to quickly respond to the COVID-19 related needs of the community it serves. This included adding a bigger focus on health needs.

MI has offered COVID-19 direct services and resources including (1) COVID-19 updates, preventive measures, and resources, (2) Distribution of food essentials and PPEs, (3) Advocacy and application support for relief, rental and financial assistance for the immigrant community, and (4) Direct service and health support/referrals. Thanks to collaboration efforts with MI’s health partners, MI offered two mobile COVID-19 testing events on site, one flu shot event, and three months of emergency dental services following COVID-19 protocols. Partnerships with Alameda County Food Bank and Berkeley Food Network have enhanced MI’s food security program providing weekly food distribution.

Communication between MI and the community served remains constant through individual phone calls, text message campaigns, WhatsApp chats, video calls, and limited in-the-office appointments.

$181,606
Distributed in financial assistance provided to individuals through MI partnerships

194
Individuals received COVID testing

34
Individuals received Flu-shots

215
Dental appointments offered
This year, MI officially completed its remodeling for its “Casa de Paz y Bien” permanent day laborer housing unit in Redwood City. Phase 1 of construction began on December 2, 2019 and the conclusion of this remodeling resulted in: (1) a new 447 sq. ft junior ADU, (2) a second bathroom added to the house, (3) remodeling of the kitchen and hall bathroom, (4) the addition of a laundry room and (5) a new deck. The six day laborers who reside at Casa de Paz y Bien enjoy the open floor plan very much and are excited to host in-person day laborer and domestic worker meetings there.

MI was successful in reaching immigrants, monolingual Spanish speakers, seniors, Latinos, day laborers, domestic workers, and other hard to reach individuals for the 2020 Census. MI provided in-person meetings, community outreach, canvassing and office hours and assisted individuals in completing the Census questionnaire. MI was also very active on social media with Census posts and reached thousands of individuals not registered in MI’s programs. After COVID-19 MI shifted its program model to continue offering its Census services and resources virtually. Overall, MI was able to assist thousands of individuals by sharing information and resources, debunking myths related to citizenship, and in filling out the questionnaire.
MI serves low-income immigrant families in the Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Mateo counties and it has a strong presence in Berkeley, Richmond, and Redwood City/North Fair Oaks. Individuals served are primarily monolingual Spanish speakers who receive services free of charge.

**3,334 Total Individuals served**

- **Day Laborers and Domestic Workers registered**
  - **Services they Benefited from:** Job placements, wage theft support, workforce development trainings, workshops, housing, legal/immigration and health support, Census assistance, food distribution, and case management.

- **Other Low-income Immigrant Adults registered**
  - **Services they Benefited from:** Vocational skills development, educational and entrepreneurship support, legal/immigration and health support, dental services, food distribution, and case management.

- **Low-income youth and parents registered and 34 university tutors working with MI**
  - **Services they Benefited from:** Mentorship, tutoring assistance, STEAM instruction, family engagement, workshops, college guidance, and case management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job placements secured</td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops/trainings offered</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop participants</td>
<td>1,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration/legal referrals</td>
<td>1,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health referrals/screenings</td>
<td>2,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers registered</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring/mentoring hours</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED hours of instruction</td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-400 applications completed</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of food distributed</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food baskets distributed</td>
<td>9,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers assisting MI</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff
Rigoberto Calocarivas  
Founder & Executive Director

Mirna Cervantes  
Associate Director

Phurbu Tsewang  
Accountant

Rudy Lara  
Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Director

Cesar Meza-Esveile  
Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Director

Josue Revolorio  
Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Assistant

Daniela Gonzalez-Perez  
Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Director

Erick Dominguez  
Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Assistant

Maria de los Angeles  
Education & Community  
Outreach Coordinator

Eduardo Rosas  
Education & Community  
Outreach Coordinator

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Nicki Ghafari  
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Armando Zumaya

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Chevron  
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The Multicultural Institute is thankful for the support and generosity of all friends who have donated

in Loving Memory of Astrid von Conta

Questions or comments?  
Contact Mirna at mirna@mionline.org  
www.mionline.org