



CONNECTING THE MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

MULTICULTURAL
INSTITUTE

MI LINKS

TO ITS FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS ❁ NOVEMBER 2016

Dear Friends,

The Multicultural Institute's (MI) focal point is to accompany immigrant families in their journey to a better and productive life. For the past ten years our organization has made a difference in the lives of many by investing resources and keeping a commitment to serve low income individuals in the North Fair Oaks community. MI provides job matching services, wage claim assistance, food aid, immigration and health referrals in collaboration with partner providers. It also provides training in areas where workers experience a critical gap between what they know and what they need to know. However, community needs are as urgent today as a decade ago when we began our presence in the county.

Life as a day laborer is marked by considerable hardship due to work opportunities being sporadic and unpredictable. MI's unique service model based on daily, street outreach allows staff to offer efficient job-matching and social services while also improving conditions on the street where day laborers seek work. This culturally responsive approach lends flexibility to the services provided and allows for cost-effective community partner engagement.

This past summer MI expanded its Youth Programs to NFO by offering 3rd and 4th grade students a fun way to improve their writing skills and confidence. The main focus of creative writing prompts, hands-on activities, and field trips were on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). In addition to the writing prompts students were offered an early exposure to STEAM fields and careers.

MI has been able to reach significant milestones with the implementation of its programs and strategies because of the many institutional partnerships that have placed their trust in our work. We look forward to the new challenges and opportunities ahead of us as we increase our institutional capacity to provide much needed services to immigrant families.



Fr. Rigoberto Calocarivas
MI Founder & CEO

Fr. Rigo

Celebrating

10 Years

*Of walking alongside immigrant families
in their journey to prosperity
in the NFO community*



About the Work of MI



The Multicultural Institute (MI) accompanies day laborers in the Redwood City/North Fair Oaks since 2006. Our program uses several strategies to serve immigrants: street outreach on weekdays, job matching, health services, settling wage claims, educational opportunities, skill development, housing, food, and clothing distribution.

The institute prides itself in providing individualized attention and making a significant impact in the lives of the people we serve. The following brief story offers an insight into the impact of MI's work.

Alvaro is one of the many day laborers we have served. Alvaro came to seek help from the institute as his back pains impeded him from working. Sadly, Alvaro was not going to recover simply by resting, he had to have surgery. Being that he did not have any relatives in the USA, nor did he have a steady income, the possibility of being able to afford the surgery and recovery time seemed to be very slim. Fear grew as the doctor told him that he would be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life if the surgery was not performed soon.

The MI team assisted him with the necessary paper work to make sure he could have the surgery without devastating his finances. The team provided him with housing and support during his recovery process. Within a year, Alvaro recovered his health and returned to work. When saying goodbye to return to his native country, he wrote:

*"I thank all the people that work with you Cesar,
I will always remember the amazing work that you all do."*



Cesar Meza-Esveile, Program Director
visiting Alvaro after his back surgery.

Life Skills/Day Laborer Program

The Life Skills/Day Laborer program assists day laborers and other low-income adults in transitioning to better fair wage jobs and into the labor market by offering economic and educational opportunities to ultimately reach economic self sufficiency.

MI staff conducts street outreach on weekdays connecting with each day laborer and offering job-placement assistance, health referrals, settling wage claims and other legal issues. We also offer transitional housing, educational opportunities, skill development and food.

The program has been and continues to be a great resource for the people of the community. Over the last decade, MI has proudly served thousands of families and we hope to reach thousands more in years to come.

Youth Programs

Mentoring for Academic Success & Youth Writing Festival

MI has a presence with the youth of our community offering programs that help them navigate the educational system. Since 1999, Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS) has offered a continuum of academic support for students from third grade through high school. Its goal is to help reduce racial inequality in education, leading to students' readiness for academic success.

MAS expanded to the community of North Fair Oaks in efforts to assist students from 3rd-5th grade in reaching Academic proficiency through academic guidance, after school tutoring, and summer writing with an integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) lessons, field trips, and hands-on activities. Ultimately, increasing the presence of low-income community members at universities.



The Youth Writing Festival (YWF) is the summer component to the MAS program and it was created in order to offer continuous instruction to the youth in the community. Preparing for our expansion into Redwood City/North Fair Oaks, we have incorporated STEAM education into our curriculum in order to expose our youth to this field of studies.

The program is also filled with excursions to various companies, such as: Facebook and Barracuda. The program concludes with a publishes anthology containing each student's work throughout the summer.

This academic school year we are proudly serving up to 30 students ranging from 3rd to 5th grade at Fair Oaks Community School.

MI Accomplishments in North Fair Oaks Over the past 10 years

3,684
Registered Day
Laborers

2,709
Job Matches

180
Full Time Jobs

1,590
Other Low Income
Served

1,193
Employers Registered

13,246
Food Bank Snacks/Meals

1,378
Legal Cases

1,605
Health/Dental Cases

3,292
Other Referrals/Cases

47 Day Laborers in Transitional Housing (Since 2014)

40 Students in STEAM Mentoring Programs (Since summer 2016)

Employer Testimonials



"Eliseo did so much good work! I'm so grateful. He worked hard consistently for two full days. I do appreciate MI's role as intermediary. You have a great model."
-Laura, Menlo Park, CA

"Walter is great! Extremely professional, polite, kind, trustworthy, and a very hard worker. I would recommend him HIGHLY. We are very pleased."
-Veda, Woodside, CA

"Juan was the best! He was quite a worker. I told him I will contact him for more work. He made my yard look great."
-Kathy, Redwood City, CA

North Fair Oaks Staff Members

NFO Program Director

For the last decade, MI has had the privilege of having Cesar's positive attitude and leadership skills lead the North Fair Oaks/Redwood City site to tremendous success. His passion and whole-hearted devotion to bettering the life of others has led to countless long-lasting partnerships and a wide-range of supporters.

MI thanks Cesar for his hard work, dedication, and support to the people we serve. MI is looking forward to working many more years alongside such a compassionate leader.



NFO Program Site Coordinator

Stephanie Martinez, a former program participant, recalls her experience in MI's program to be life changing providing enrichment, confidence and success.

"Being a shy pre-teen, the program's constant push for public reading terrified me. However, I not only developed as a student and writer, I learned that I was good enough. The confidence this program gave me is something I will have for the rest of my life and I now get the privilege to apply it to my new journey."

Stephanie will be commencing her studies in Cognitive Science at the University of California, Berkeley in the Spring of 2017. She is the program site coordinator and is assisting with the Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS) program.



NFO Program Assistant

Oscar Macias has been part of the MI team for four years. He is extremely dedicated to his work at MI. During his time as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, he was a tutor and Site Coordinator for the Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS) Program. He is currently pursuing his graduate degree at Stanford University.

As NFO program assistant, Oscar does street outreach to day laborers every morning and has helped with the expansion of the MAS program to NFO.





MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

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Our MISSION: We accompany immigrants in their transition from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation.

Our VISION: We envision a community in which immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, are embraced and valued in the communities in which they work and live.

Our VALUES:
Dignity of each person –promoting respect and communication.
Social Equality – believing that resources should be shared by all.
Transparency & Integrity –good stewards of all gifts given to us.
Community Involvement – Supporting those we serve.
Simplicity & Flexibility –keeping our work efficient and effective.

Contact Us

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