

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter



Spokane Community Unites in Solidarity for Immigrant Workers on May Day

On May 1st, we honor May Day, celebrate the protection of workers' rights, and center immigrants, who are often the most vulnerable to workplace violations. Immigrants in the US have been systematically excluded from accessing basic rights, labor protections, and resources due to their immigration status. The people who grow and process our food, build our homes, and provide essential services deserve access to protections, healthcare, unemployment benefits, and communities that welcome and acknowledge them, treating them with the respect and dignity they deserve. We are more than just labor. We are part of the fabric of the US, Washington State, and the Spokane community.



On May Day, we marched together in solidarity with the Tenant Union, Dorothy Day Labor, Spectrum Center, League of Women Voters, Spokane 350, Muslims for Community Action & Support, Asians for Collective Liberation, Familias Unidas Por La Justicia, WAISN, WFSE, UFCW3000, Mujeres In Action, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium, Spokane Alliance, Jewish Voice for Peace, NW Laborers, Washington State Carpenters, and Veterans for Peace. We aimed to build power, connect the intersections of our collective struggles, and stand together to demand our rights to dignified workplaces, fair wages, housing, tenant rights, safety, health, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, and racial/immigration justice.



We honored the immigrant construction crew who tragically lost their lives on the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore:

Miguel Luna from El Salvador

Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, from Mexico

Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, 26, from Guatemala

Jose Mynor Lopez from Guatemala

Carlos Hernández from Mexico

Maynor Suazo Sandoval from Honduras

These workers were not taking jobs or causing division; they were building bridges and safe homes, providing essential services.

As a collective, we marched to call on our state representatives, federal agencies, the city of Spokane, and the courts. As we enter a divisive political season fueled by hate, we cannot remain stagnant while our rights are being stripped away, and our communities are demonized for existing, workers are exploited, and housing continues to be unattainable. We can build power to fairly distribute wealth and resources and ensure the health and well-being of our communities. We know that when we organize, we can win! As Chief Sitting Bull once said, "They can cut off our fingers, one by one, but if we join together we will make a powerful fist."



**The people
united will
never be divided.**



New Team Member!

Santos Hernandez

Our newest team member of the Poder Legal department joins us from Beaumont, Texas where he started working as an Immigration Caseworker and later became a Department of Justice Accredited Representative. His broad experience of over fifteen years serves as a great addition to provide wrap around services in the area of immigration. Santos has a passion to serve and educate. He is an author, a poet, and an artist which gives our legal department a creative edge as we develop and grow our Poder Legal Department

Free Monthly Legal and Immigration Clinics

Since 2020, Latinos En Spokane has diligently organized free monthly legal and immigration clinics in partnership with Gonzaga Law School, the Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program, and Washington Courts. These clinics offer free legal consultations, assistance with navigating court processes, document reviews, and court self-help services, providing crucial support to our community.

Introducing Poder Legal Department

In 2023, we launched the Poder Legal Department to provide civil and immigration legal support to low-income Latino individuals and families disproportionately affected by systemic inequalities in the legal system. Poder Legal focuses on addressing the unique legal needs of Latinos and immigrants in Eastern Washington, ensuring access to justice and resources for this underserved population. Through this initiative, we aim to empower our community by offering essential legal assistance and advocating for their rights.

Our Services

General Legal Aid: Personalized referral to legal professionals, and assistance for individuals seeking to vacate their criminal backgrounds and obtain driver relicensing.

Immigration Services: We offer family-based petitions, asylum, DACA, Victims of Crime and family violence, work permits, waivers, applying for citizenship, renewals of permanent residence, screening for various forms of immigration benefits and relief, and assistance to documented and undocumented immigrants.

Court Self-Help Services: Free court forms, printing and scanning.

FREE Notary Public Services: Authenticating essential documents to prevent fraud and ensure legal compliance.

SEGURO MÉDICO Y DENTAL GRATIS PARA FAMILIAS INDOCUMENTADAS

¡A TRAVÉS DE APPLE HEALTH EXPANSION!

¡REGÍSTRESE! LLAME A LATINOS EN SPOKANE
509.558.9359



Apple Health Expansion Now Open to Immigrants Regardless of Immigration Status

In 2022, we embarked on an ambitious mission in collaboration with the Health Benefits Exchange, Healthcare Authority, ACLU, NOLA, and WAISIN to ensure that every resident in Eastern Washington, regardless of immigration status, could enroll in health and dental insurance. From November 1st to January 15th, our team worked tirelessly to remove digital and cultural barriers, bridging access to healthcare for all.



Our Work Is Not Over! We're excited to introduce a groundbreaking initiative: Apple Health Expansion! This program marks a significant victory for immigrant families in Washington State, providing them with free medical and dental coverage. Starting June 20th, 2024, Apple Health Expansion will open doors for all qualifying undocumented immigrants, ensuring their access to essential healthcare services without financial barriers. This is a major step forward in prioritizing the health and well-being of our immigrant communities, fostering inclusivity and equity in healthcare access across the state.

Visit our Comadres, Social workers team to assist you with signing up for the Apple Health Expansion program!





Small Business Owners Graduated From Our 2024 Street-Food Incubator Program!

Our entrepreneurs have dedicated themselves to a 3-week course covering finance, business planning, marketing, and essential knowledge for starting a business! they took the knowledge they gain from these workshops and submitted a comprehensive business plan the end of the program.

Empréndete will then select these entrepreneurs to enter the cohort, granting them exclusive access to a shared kitchen at LES, rental options for a food truck, supplies for temporary sales, and other avenues to facilitate the growth of small businesses.

Empréndete Business Center's initiative has not only helped the growth of small businesses but has also provided vital support to street vendors and individuals from Latino, immigrant, and ITIN holder in Spokane County. Through access to resources like a shared kitchen at LES, food truck rentals, and supplies for temporary sales, Empréndete continues to empower entrepreneurs and foster economic development in our community.



JUNE EVENTS

LES Center Events

June 5: Inauguration of Poder Legal 6-8pm

June 7: Compu-Care: Free Computer Repair 3pm - 6pm

June 15: Computer Basics Workshop 10am-1pm

June 21: Compu-Care: Free Computer Repair 3pm-6pm

June 22: Google Docs Fundamentals Workshop 10am - 1pm

Cultural Events

June 20: Healing Circle 6-8pm

June 26: Cooking Class with Melys Kitchen 5-7pm

June 29: El Mercadito - Cultural Market 11am-3pm

Poder Legal

June 1: Justice and Tacos: Free legal clinic 10am-3pm

June 13: Free Immigration Clinic 5-7pm

June 26: Free Legal clinic 5-7pm

Emprendete Workshops

June 5: Empréndete HR workshop series - Setting the Foundation | 5pm-7pm

June 6: Empréndete HR workshop series - Managing Employees and Regulatory Compliances | 5pm-7pm

EL
MERCADITO
SPOKANE, WA



El Mercadito Cultural Market

We've continued to create a vibrant cultural market for the Latino and immigrant community in Spokane! We wrapped up May by enjoying delicious cultural foods from local food businesses, many of whom have been part of El Mercadito over the years!

We'd like to highlight Jackie Antojitos Colombianos and Taqueria Dos Palmas, who began their journey with Empréndete and El Mercadito a year ago! We're delighted to witness their growth as street vendors at El Mercadito and other events. It's inspiring to see their entrepreneurial spirit flourishing! Let's celebrate their dedication and passion by supporting the vibrant small businesses run by Latinos and immigrants in Spokane. Visit these businesses at El Mercadito every month!



During the month of May, El Mercadito served over 181 families and distributed 12,165 pounds of food, along with 600 vouchers for BIPOC food businesses!

Interested in getting involved?
We offer volunteer opportunities every month at el Mercadito!
Call us at 509-558-9359

Sponsor our El Mercadito!
Help us keep this program running and continue to provide to our community

