



Esperanza Newsletter Fall 2024



To our Esperanza Community,

As you're likely aware, Donald Trump will be the next President of the United States. As I reflect on how this will impact our clients and the broader Esperanza community, I am filled with both dread and sorrow. The anti-immigrant policies championed by the Trump campaign—and those enacted during his previous administration—were, and continue to be, devastating, inhumane, and unjust. At Esperanza, we have witnessed the impact of these policies firsthand, and many of you—our dedicated supporters—have seen this harm as well.

Many of us are also deeply concerned about the future of civil rights and democracy in this country. I want to acknowledge the magnitude of this moment—and I also want to ask for your help.

We have faced challenging times before, and we will get through this one too, if we stand together. Today, we are reminded that the work we do at Esperanza is more critical than ever. Our legal teams are on the front lines of removal defense at a time when the President-Elect threatens mass deportations of immigrants. Continuing our mission to educate, empower, and defend immigrants during their most vulnerable moments is both urgent and vital. In the coming months, we will not only continue providing essential services, but also implement new initiatives to address the imminent threats facing our clients and our community.

Inspiring hope and advancing social justice is at the core of Esperanza. We are resilient. We are strong. We will continue to stand up for what we believe in—and I know you will continue to stand with us.

Thank you for being part of Esperanza today. Your actions, your commitment, and your support are everything. Together, we will rise to this challenge—and whatever comes our way.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Plotnik
Program Director



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Rising Together: Advancing Legal Services and Opportunities

*New
Initiative!*

Esperanza launched a new initiative this year, Rising Together: Advancing Legal Services & Opportunities.

Throughout 2024, Esperanza staff, paralegals, interpreters and attorneys partnered with private law firms to host one day legal clinics. Through these virtual and in person events, Esperanza's pro bono department facilitated pro se filing of applications for asylum and employment authorization for unrepresented immigrants. Over 60 participants and their family members, aided by an equivalent number of law firm staff & attorney volunteers, were equipped to file applications through the initiative.

Esperanza was able to significantly increase our capacity, deliver high quality services to the community, and engage new private bar partners in pro bono work in Los Angeles.

We look forward to continuing to explore new and innovative ways to solve complex challenges for vulnerable immigrants in our area! If you or your firm wants to get involved, please contact Scott Ventrudo
Sventrudo@esperanza-la.org



Donate!

GI[♥]INGTUESDAY

is December 3rd!



Join the movement for advancing justice
for our immigrant communities!
Your donations fuel Esperanza's work
and **we need your help!**

To Donate please visit:
<https://www.esperanza-la.org/donate>

Community Appreciation Event



On a Thursday evening in November, over 50 Esperanza volunteers, pro bono attorneys, law students, and other community partners gathered at a brewery in downtown Los Angeles. During this 2024 recognition of Esperanza's Community Appreciation Day, we reflected on the immense impact that pro bono attorneys, interpreters, and other volunteers made during the year. Together, our volunteer cohort dedicate roughly 400 hours each month to work with Esperanza clients!

Former EIRP staffer and current pro bono attorney Anuj Nadadur spoke about how he found Esperanza and how he is motivated to continue volunteering because of the impact that providing pro bono legal services has on those in need in our community. Other all star volunteers who received special recognition were Steven Gordon a retiree who assists the Legal Orientation Program for Detained Adults and third year law students Maricela Murillo & Jennifer Alvarez, both of whom volunteered after their first summers in law school and who returned later in their law school careers to continue contributing.

A massive thanks to all our volunteers and community members for helping us celebrate this event and for your continued support of Esperanza's work.

STAND WITH US!

Become a volunteer interpreter, pro bono attorney or intern with Esperanza

