

NEWSLETTER

Dear Esperanza Community,

Over the past month, we have been deeply alarmed by the surge in immigration enforcement actions across Los Angeles. The fear and anguish within our immigrant communities are palpable. Arrests are happening at immigration court, during routine check-ins, in parks, at workplaces—even on sidewalks. People are afraid to leave their homes. Children cling to their parents. The reality of individuals being “disappeared” as they go about daily life is devastating. But it is not a nightmare—it is the reality we are living today.

Esperanza remains unwavering in our mission to defend and empower the most vulnerable. Our team continues to provide critical legal services and advocate for the rights of those impacted by this crisis.

Information can be a lifesaver. Each day, we explain legal rights and obligations—such as the requirement to attend court—while also sharing the hard truth: immigration agents are targeting people at their hearings. Our clients are forced to choose between following the law and risking detention. We are working closely with individuals in detention and with their families, some of whom are frantically searching for loved ones who have been relocated or moved out of state without notice.

The alarm bells are ringing—and Esperanza is responding. We are proud to be part of a network of support, and we are uplifted by the community members who reach out daily to stand with us. Your solidarity gives us the strength to keep showing up—for our clients, and for justice.

Yet this moment is made even more difficult by recent funding cuts and rising government fees that penalize those seeking safety and protection. Despite this, we will not disappear. Legal services are a vital defense against unjust detention and deportation—and you can help.

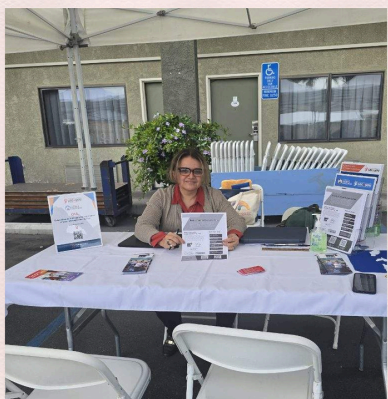
Please consider making a donation to Esperanza’s emergency fund today. Your support—whether as an individual, business, or foundation—helps ensure immigrant families are not left alone in this crisis.

Together, we can protect due process, defend families, and stand for the dignity every person deserves.

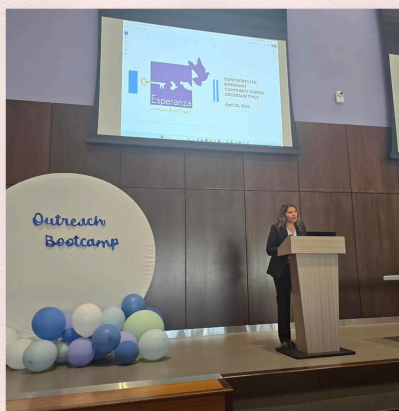
In solidarity,



Kimberley Plotnik
Esperanza Program Director



Esperanza received a one-year grant from the LA County's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Center for Nonprofit Management to lead a coalition that provides housing insecure immigrants residing in the county with access to legal consultations, Know Your Rights (KYR) information, and case management services. The coalition includes Amanecer Community Counseling Service, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Services are provided through a mobile clinic, which allows the team to provide outreach in areas such as Skid Row in downtown and at community fairs. Esperanza is focusing on providing the KYR presentations at homeless shelters and legal consultations when they are conducting outreach.



They are also hosting weekly walk-in clinics to provide legal consultations, and two pro se clinics per month aimed at helping immigrants complete applications for asylum and work permits. These clinics are in partnership with various private firms. The mobile clinic team is also providing Immigration 101 trainings to shelter providers and to the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) to ensure that shelter staff are properly equipped to support long-term and newcomer immigrants. Since the beginning of the program, the team has provided 175 legal consultations to housing insecure immigrants that are either living in shelters, in trailers, or in overcrowded homes. They have also hosted 5 clinics and trained over 500 shelter staff on immigration topics.

Resilience in the face of adversity

Staff Attorney Niraali Pandiri recently secured a victory in state court, obtaining a predicate order for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) on behalf of two young brothers from Honduras. The court recognized that the boys had been raised solely by their mother — a woman who stood by them through every hardship — and that reunification with their fathers was not viable due to abuse, abandonment, and neglect. With this ruling, the boys now have the opportunity to apply for SIJS and pursue lawful permanent residency in the United States. More than a legal milestone, the case marks a turning point in the lives of two children who have endured so much and now walk a path toward safety, stability, and belonging. The decision also stands as a tribute to the resilience of families and honors a mother's unwavering dedication to her children.



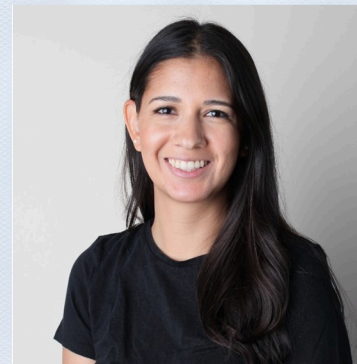
MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS



Daria

I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project for a variety of reasons. Seeing all the care and hard work that every single person working in the organization dedicates to the clients and their families has been very fulfilling. The Esperanza team has created a sense of community and safety for the advocates themselves and for the people experiencing these turbulent and uncertain times. My best experience working for the organization so far has been attending client meetings and having the opportunity to talk and understand the clients and their life stories. Witnessing the work being done and contributing to help change the lives of so many people in need of representation has been an incredible and educational experience

I have enjoyed every minute of my time with EIRP. Particularly, I've enjoyed working with, shadowing, and learning from all of the attorneys. The attorneys lead with kindness in both their interactions with the interns, but also with their clients. I have also enjoyed getting the chance to utilize my legal writing skills and advocate on behalf of clients!



Gaby

My best experience at EIRP has been realizing the impact my work has on my clients. I once knew this priest who told me he knew he'd found his calling when he was in seminary and a desperate man came to him asking for a special blessing. The priest couldn't technically fulfill the man's request because he wasn't a priest yet, but he said some magic words anyway and the man's relief and gratitude affirmed the impact of his choice. This is sometimes how I've felt this summer -- even though I'm only a law student stumbling through Contracts and Constitutional Law, I realize from my conversations with my clients that they trust and rely on me to do good work on their behalf. It's a responsibility, a privilege, and a blessing to work at Esperanza and I hope to continue serving people in this capacity as a lawyer.



Johnny

What drew me to Esperanza was the organization's mission and ability to empower immigrant families and youth through legal resources and education, as well as its effectiveness in helping the immigrant community navigate an evolving political climate. My background as the child of immigrants, along with my academic coursework and prior work within the community, has shaped my commitment to public service. This commitment has grown through my internship with the Social Services group. Getting to work alongside such a welcoming and hardworking team of social workers has expanded my understanding of meeting community needs and deepened my passion for supporting an underserved community through education.



Jhozi

Esperanza's Wellness Corner

The summer is here. This is a season to be outside, enjoy the countryside and the beach. Even when the options for vacation are countless, let's not forget to include small actions that will make a difference in our day.

Sarah Rudell has created a summer bucket list. Some of the items are shared here:

- Eat an entire meal in silence — pay attention to the act of eating and to the taste of the food
- Go for a walk — with no iPhone, no music.... just pay attention
- Take a 24-hour technology detox — no phone, Internet, TV, etc.
- Declare a Day of Kindness and volunteer, engage in random acts of kindness, smile at people you see, and make people's days
- Forgive someone for something (maybe yourself?)
- Watch a sunrise
- Take a class — art, painting, drumming, dance, tai chi
- Make a list of the things you love about yourself
- See the summer list suggestion made by PAVE.

These small actions --and taking care of ourselves --become more important when our communities are being targeted and when we are witnessing high levels of arrests and family separation on a daily basis.

Let's take care of one another so we can continue supporting our immigrant communities in Los Angeles.

These wellness tips have been prepared by Lidia Flores Bush, an Esperanza Case Manager Supervisor.



SUMMER DAILY ACTIVITY LIST

Taking Care of YOU!



PAVE has created a suggested list of activities to follow every day this summer. Give yourself grace if you cannot do everything on the list. Nobody is keeping track. Your reward will be a healthy mindset! Type Mindfulness into the search bar on our website to find other articles and videos to support self-care for everyone in the family.

Morning - Take Care of Yourself!

Do All

- ☐ Eat breakfast
- ☐ Get dressed and take a shower if needed
- ☐ Brush teeth and hair
- ☐ Pick up your room and make your bed
- ☐ Put away 4 things that are out of place



Building up your body

PICK ONE +

- ☐ Challenge yourself to do something outside for at least 1 hour
- ☐ Go for a walk, walk a pet, or draw with sidewalk chalk
- ☐ Help make a yummy healthy meal
- ☐ Play with friends or swing at a nearby park
- ☐ Tired or crabby? Take a nap! 😊

Take care of my home

PICK ONE!

- ☐ Help to wash dishes
- ☐ Load /unload dishwasher
- ☐ Vacuum one room
- ☐ Empty garbage
- ☐ Do a new chore!

Building up your brain

PICK ONE +

- ☐ Do a puzzle, play with Lego bricks, make music
- ☐ Write a story, read a book (at least 1 chapter or 20 minutes)
- ☐ Choose something else creative that you enjoy



Building up others

PICK ONE +

- ☐ Write a letter to a friend or family member
- ☐ Give a compliment
- ☐ Find a small or large way to help someone; a little kindness goes a long way!





This coloring page was designed by Johanna Hernandez, Esperanza UCP Case Manager.

Print it out and enjoy!

Self-Care



P	O	D	C	A	S	T	J	R	E	A	D	U	Y
C	E	E	F	F	O	C	B	T	E	B	A	T	H
L	U	L	I	S	T	E	A	O	W	S	T	I	E
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A	A	M	U	I	I	A	A	O	T	O	J	O	O
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E	I	A	N	S	D	P	T	R	B	I	E	B	S
Z	Z	B	C	H	O	B	B	Y	E	F	R	O	U
P	E	D	I	C	U	R	E	B	I	F	C	N	M
I	A	L	M	O	V	I	E	E	N	A	O	O	D

CREATE
HOBBY
WORKOUT
BRUNCH
LIST
PAINT
PEDICURE
MOVIE
SING
CLEAN
AFFIRMATIONS
READ
BAKE
MUSIC
WALK
COFFEE
ORGANIZE
NATURE
MANICURE
BATH
PODCAST
GAME
MEDITATE
COOK

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8607914/>

This word search puzzle was designed by Susana Tapia, Case Management Supervisor.

Print it out, or go online to solve and enjoy!

PRO BONO

Highlight



"Supporting those who need help has always been important to me, I am honored to be able to serve and help others."



EMILY SINGER HURVITZ

Pro Bono Attorney



About Emily!

What is your role/ position at Esperanza?
Volunteer Attorney

How long have you been working at Esperanza?
Working with Esperanza since November 2024.

Why is Esperanza's mission important to you?
Supporting those who need help has always been important to me, I am honored to be able to serve and help others.

Why did you choose to work for Esperanza?
I heard great things about working with Esperanza and I can now say from experience that the support I received in my pro bono work was critical to my success on my case. I wanted to do pro bono work but to also be supported and working with Esperanza allowed me to learn and help others at the same time.

PRO BONO

ATTORNEY

Highlight

LINDA DAKIN-GRIMM



"Seeing his joy in getting what we were asking for, and the warmth and welcome from the court staff was a real joy."



Meet Linda!



Linda is a Pro Bono Attorney taking cases from Esperanza. She has been working with Esperanza since 2024.

Why is Esperanza's mission important to you?
I have been doing immigration cases pro bono for the past ten years. My faith and beliefs compel me to do this work, welcoming the stranger.

Why did you choose to work for Esperanza?
I have been working with Esperanza folks on the Southern California Catholic Task Force for Immigration for many years. Last year, I felt compelled to take a case from Esperanza after I volunteered at a community outreach day that Scott Ventrudo organized in 2024. I am honored to be working with this terrific group.

What is one memorable experience you have had working with Esperanza?

I was delighted to appear in court in Victorville in December 2024 with a young client who was seeking the appointment of a guardian and SIJ findings. Seeing his joy in getting what we were asking for, and the warmth and welcome from the court staff was a real joy.

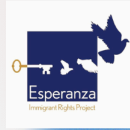
UPCOMING

Non Legal Volunteer Info Session

AUGUST 22
12:30 - 1:30 PM

VIA
ZOOM

LEARN ABOUT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH
ESPERANZA AS A NON LEGAL VOLUNTEER AND
SUPPORT OUR WORK!



LEGAL VOLUNTEER INFO SESSIONS

*Every first Thursday of the month!
12:30-1:30pm via Zoom*

There are opportunities for all attorneys and levels
of immigration experience.

*Join us to learn more!
Register on our website or email
SVentrudo@esperanza-la.org*

**Become a
pro bono attorney
and change a life!**



DONATE

to help sustain our work!

