



The Center for People

A voice and a hub for the L  
as we advocate on behalf  
and work to achieve s

Estimad@s Amig@s,

Let's not forget our greater mission and common goals, for social justice and change, for freedom from oppression and racism, for closing the achievement gap and upholding the rights for people of color. Let's keep enacting our mission by providing essential programs and services to the community *and* advocating for *los derechos* - the rights - of those underrepresented in our community.

You're probably as dismayed as we are over President Obama's proposal to drastically cut the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)—the federal funding that is so critical to some 1,100 community action agencies in the United States, of which El Centro de la Raza is one. **Support El Centro and other anti-poverty non-profits of our nation and let your voice be heard by calling the office of the President at (202) 456-1111 from**



**6am - 2pm Pacific Time or go [here](#) and tell him to "Save the Community Services Block Grant!" Go [here](#) for more information.**

Speaking of taking action, *mil gracias* to everyone who signed over 350 letters in support of temporary parking for our south end lot, and *mil gracias* to everyone who came out on Saturday to our Community Design Workshop—we loved hearing your thoughtful ideas. I hope you are as excited as we are to see what Daniel Glenn comes up with from all of our input! See slides from the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

And of course, visit our [website](#) to stay up-to-date on the happenings at El Centro and in *nuestra comunidad*—our community.

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## DO YOU GOODSHOP?

Don't forget  
- if  
you  
use



[GoodSearch](#) as your search engine, or do your online shopping through GoodShop, you can raise money for El Centro de la Raza without spending an extra penny (with coupons through [Goodshop](#), you might actually save money!)

## QUICK LINKS:

## The time is NOW! Inform yourself and TAKE ACTION!

- What does the current lack of police accountability mean to you, and what can you do about it?
- How do you feel about racial profiling in the federal Gang Injunction Bill, and will you take a stand against it?
- Are you disheartened over the the results of the SB 5407 Bill—which would require proof of citizenship prior to issuance of a driver's license—passing 10 to 4 out of committee and are you outraged over the other anti-immigrant Driver's License Bills?

Inform yourself, read on below, come join in the discussion on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and most importantly **take action!**

El Centro de la Raza, along with The Northwest Indian Bar Association, the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, and the Loren Miller Bar Association express their outrage at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's refusal to file criminal charges against Seattle Police Officer Ian Birk's shooting death of the late John T. Williams. Read the [full press release](#).

In light of the recent upsurge of police misconduct, please join in a free and open to the public reception to further discuss the need for greater police accountability and learn more about the work of the [Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System](#).



**Advocacy Strategies for Protecting Civil Rights Reception**  
Seattle University School of Law - 12th and Columbia  
February 24th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Free! Please [RSVP here](#).

**We urge you to contact your representatives this week to ensure the House does not make policy decisions that have negative and disproportionate consequences for communities of color, immigrants and refugees. You can find your legislators online [here](#).**



See the bills we strongly oppose below, and go to [OneAmerica](#) for more information.

► **HB1126** or “the gang bill,” would lead to widespread racial profiling and imprisonment of youth of color under the premise of civil injunctions for gang enforcement. **Read the [fact sheet](#) and then take action and go [here now](#) to ensure this bill does not pass out of committee!**



► **HB1577 and SB5407** will require proof of residence before issuance of a driver's license and thus create a “two-tiered” driver's license system, with those unable to prove lawful presence in the U.S. having licenses branded “not for identification purposes,” thereby clearly identifying undocumented immigrants to law enforcement and others. Read Senator Kline's statement on his opposition to HB 5407, [Immigrants Are Us](#). **Read the [fact sheet](#) and then contact your [legislators](#) today!**

► **HB1958/SB5557** would eliminate numerous ethnic commissions, including the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Commission on African American Affairs, and create in their place an Office of Civil Rights. We believe the bill would reduce access to the policy process and eliminate an important voice for many ethnic communities. **Contact your [legislators](#) today!**

All of these bills have the following in common:

- 1) They target communities of color and immigrants and refugees.

## QUICK LINKS:

### [DONATE NOW!](#)

Support El Centro's 32 programs by simply clicking [here!](#)

### [Learn More About El Centro!](#)

Visit our new website by clicking [here!](#)

Be our friend! Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [MySpace!](#)

Want to keep updated on what El Centro is doing? [Join our Mailing List!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Café Con el Centro**  
Thursday, March 3rd | 8-9am  
*El Centro de la Raza*



Café Con el Centro is a great way to meet our staff, tour our building, and enjoy coffee and *pan dulce* on us!

Café Con el Centro takes place on the 1st Thursday of every month from 8am - 9am.

Reservations are already being made for the March 3rd Café! To RSVP call (206) 957-4652 or [e-mail!](#)



*Mil gracias to Starbucks for donating coffee to our Café!*

¡Hola! ¿Quieres aprender español?

Class is in Session!  
**Adult Beginner - Intermediate Spanish Classes**



Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:30pm

April 12th - June 9th

Classes are instructed by professional native Spanish speakers in an interactive community-based setting. **Space is limited. Class fee is \$300. Sign up today!** Call (206) 957-4605 or [email](#) for

- 2) They negatively and disproportionately impact communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities.
- 3) They exacerbate inequalities in the implementation of existing public policy, from the criminal justice system to discrimination by law enforcement and access to the policy process.
- 4) Their impact is largely misunderstood or ignored by the broader community.

**Contact your [legislators](#) today and tell them you oppose these bills!**

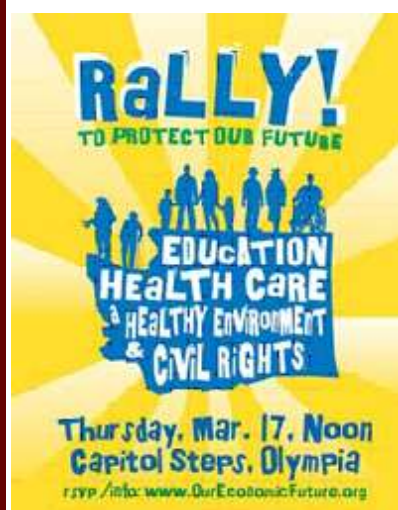


### March to Stop Raids, Deportations and Anti-

**Immigrant Legislation**  
Friday, February 25 begins at 4:00 pm at Westlake Park - 401 Pine St. and ends at Immigration Court and ICE Office - 1000 2nd Ave.

El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social and the May 1st Action Coalition are mobilizing for a march and rally on February 25, 2011 in Seattle to protest the recent escalation of attacks against the immigrant communities in Washington. This will be one of many actions to take place in anticipation of the annual

march set for May 1st 2011. Contact El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social for more information at (206) 324-6044.



### Rally to Protect Our Future!

Thursday, March 17 at 12:00pm on the Capitol Steps, Olympia

We need people of color, immigrants, working families, small business owners, people with disabilities, LGBT families and individuals, people of faith - as many diverse faces as possible! - to show up on March 17th to make sure that our state government puts people before corporate interests.

We must demand that our state government stop attacking vulnerable communities and focus on the real task at

hand: **Raise revenue and put an end to cuts to education, healthcare, the environment, and essential services. [RSVP Today!](#)**



### The 6th Annual Latino Legislative Day is May 4th!

Capitol Campus - West Campus - North Diagonal Lawn  
416 Sid Snyder Ave.  
Olympia, WA 98504

more details. Print out registration form [here](#).

### ¡COMADRES!

*Un grupo de apoyo y de conversación para la mujer Latina!*

Quieres conocer nuevas amistades, hablar y aprender sobre temas que son importantes para la mujer Latina?

Estas cordialmente invitada:  
Próximamente Reuniones 5:30 - 7:30pm  
2, 16, y 30 de Marzo; 13 y 27 de Abril; 11 y 25 de Mayo; 8 de Junio

Se proveerá cuidado de niños, rifas y merienda. Para más información favor de contactar a Diana Mena (206) 957-4641.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get more involved! We always have the need for volunteers, and we have plenty of opportunities for you to help. Check it out:

- **Homeownership Workshop on Feb. 26th** - We need volunteers who can be here on Saturday the 26th, 9-12:30 and 12:30-4 for our workshop with HomeStreet Bank. Prizes, tamales, and pan dulce will be provided. Lunch is on us, so just bring yourself and your energy!
- **Auction Event Intern** - Interested in nonprofit development, fundraising, sales or event planning? Looking to make contacts and get real-world work experience in an amazing organization? We need an organized, outgoing intern who can assist us in getting donations for our Annual Auction Banquet! Applications accepted now, please send me your resume!
- **Cinco de Mayo** - Cinco de Mayo is just around the corner, and we need YOU for photography, food service, decorations, set up,



Expose yourself to many learning experiences and wonderful opportunities to be addressed by a variety of respected state officials including legislators, senators and/or the governor. Go [here](#) for more information, including the agenda and registration!

### Putting food on our hungry neighbors' tables - Part 1



Martin Carcano-Lopez learned about El Centro through word-of-mouth in 2006 when he was looking for a place to volunteer. As a Spanish speaker, he wanted to help others in a place where he could also be comfortable speaking his native tongue—and so his relationship as a volunteer with El Centro de la Raza began.

For the last 5 years now, Martin has diligently shown up to volunteer his time in both our Food Bank and Latino Hot Meal Program. El Centro isn't the only one reaping the value of Martin's dedication—he has learned much about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into running

both programs, and has broadened his knowledge of different types of food and produce. He feels that not only is El Centro a great place for our participants, but a great place to volunteer, as well, saying, "They treat people well here . . . they treat them really well." - *Angela Wilhite*

**Mil gracias to Martin and all our other wonderful volunteers who continue to help strengthen El Centro through their hard work and dedication!**

### Did you know?



Consider this shocking national statistic: **one out of every six adults, and nearly one out of four children** struggle with hunger. 9.3% of Latinos experience hunger, and since 2007 food banks have seen a 25% increase in visits. Here in King County, record numbers of people—our neighbors, co-workers and friends—don't have enough to eat. People have to choose between paying rent and buying groceries, and children are going to bed hungry. As an organization invested in

those we serve, we realize that these aren't just statistics, but evidence of the poverty and hunger striking those in our own neighborhoods. **You can help.** Hunger Action Week begins March 21st—join us in a week-long effort to take action against hunger.

### How can you help?

- **Donate** to El Centro de la Raza and help care for our youngest to our eldest through our 32 programs and services, including the Food Bank, Latino Hot Meal Program, Senior Home Delivered Meals and the Senior Health & Wellness Program
- **Consider hosting a non-perishable food drive for El Centro** at your school, work, or church! Contact Cristina Green at [donor@elcentrodelaraza.org](mailto:donor@elcentrodelaraza.org) so we can coordinate with our Food Bank.

**Mil gracias to [Garfield High School's Razas Unidas](#) for holding a month-long food drive for El Centro de la Raza beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>—be sure to read our March eNews for more on this!**

children's activities, stage management, greeting and much, much more! Cinco de Mayo will be at El Centro de la Raza this year on Thursday, May 5th!

- **Bi-lingual front desk help, interact with our Participants!** - We need focused, detail-oriented, friendly volunteers who speak both English and Spanish to staff the front desks of our Human Services and Facilities departments. During office hours Monday-Thursday.
- And more!

[Email](#) Kendehl Corley, our Volunteer Coordinator, or call her at (206) 957-4602 for more details on these and other volunteering opportunities. Download our volunteer application [here](#).

### MIL GRACIAS TO OUR WONDERFUL JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FUNDERS!

El Centro de la Raza relies on donations from our individual supporters to keep our programs running.

But we are also fortunate enough to have corporate and foundation sponsors and grants for many of our programs and services. For example:

► [Marguerite Casey Foundation](#) - \$25,000 for the Roberto Maestas Legacy Award!

► [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#) through the [Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs](#) - \$10,000 to support El Centro's efforts close the academic achievement gap in Seattle Public Schools!

► [Impact Capital](#) - \$10,000 pre-development loan award for the south end development design process!

► [HUD](#) (SuperNOFA grant) through the [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#) - \$7,500 to keep our Homeownership Program strong!

► [NW Children's Fund](#) - \$5,000 to ensure the continued support provided by our Youth Violence Prevention Program!

► [US Bank](#) - \$5,000 towards our Homeownership Program as underwriting for the 2011 Financial Education Summit!

► [Union Bank](#) - \$2,500 to help increase the self-sufficiency

## Veterans - Know Your Rights!



Are you a Veteran that needs help? Do you know a Veteran that needs help? King County and El Centro de la Raza can help. In fact we have started a new program directed at helping Minority and Women Veterans and their families. Some of the men and women of color who have served in the U.S. Military lack the knowledge of their rightful benefits—but *El Centro can help!*

If you need information on Veteran Services in the area or aid in enrollments and accessing your benefits, contact Alfredo (Tito) Medina at (206) 973-4287 or [email](#), or Victoria Castañeda at (206) 957-4624 or [email](#).

## Anuncios y Felicitaciones - Announcements and Congratulations



**Maria Rico, a teacher in our After School Program**, will be heading to San Diego February 24-26 to attend the [American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Conference](#). Maria will be presenting the work of our After School Program and our collaboration with UW teaching candidates. Safe travels, Maria, and *mil gracias* from us and the children for all the good work you do!

And speaking of our After School Program, **Beata Landes**, one of our students in the program, had starring roles as Lilli and Oompa Loompa 6 in the [Broadwaybound Children's Theatre](#) production of Willy Wonka. *Felicitaciones*, Beata, you were wonderful!

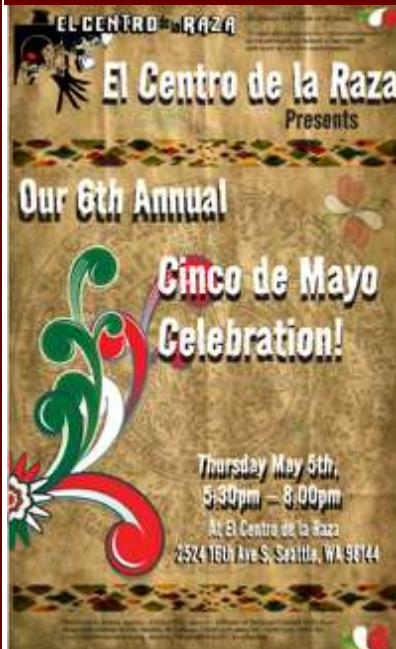
And more! **The Latino Achievers Club robotics team** will begin meeting at El Centro every Monday from 6-9 starting February 28th through June 27th. This group of Latino middle school students build Lego robots and then configure them to move using commands from their computers. Wow!



As of February 22nd, over 258 total returns have been processed, with over \$173,027 EIC and over \$546,932 in total refunds since opening in January at the [United Way of King County Free](#)

**Tax Prep** at El Centro de la Raza. This free service, for households making less than \$50,000, is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm-9pm and Saturdays from 10am-2pm until April 14th. Spanish translators on all shifts, Arabic translators on Tuesdays and Chinese translators on Thursdays.

## Save the Date for El Centro Events!



**6th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration**  
at  
El Centro de la Raza  
Thursday, May 5th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Announcing our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinco de Mayo cultural celebration! Join us for this festive event, featuring traditional Mexican foods for sale, children's activities, arts and crafts from local vendors, a health and services fair, dance and musical performances and more!

Admission is free—but donations are always accepted! Come, let's celebrate together!

of the participants in our programs!

► [Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs](#) - \$1,500 for our Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

► [Waste Management Northwest](#) - \$500 "Think Green" Grant to enhance our food waste collection and composting program!

► [Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest](#) - we'll receive a Bilingual volunteer placement for the 2011-2012 year for our Financial Literacy Program!

► [Lutheran Volunteer Corps](#) - we'll receive three volunteer placements for the 2011-2012 year: Events Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, and Food Bank Coordinator!

*Mil Gracias* to all of our wonderful funders and donors!

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ramon Soliz, *President*  
Jeff Middleton, *Vice President*  
David Gasca, *Treasurer*  
Brenda Williams, *Secretary*  
Roxana Amaral, *Parliamentarian*  
Ricardo Garcia  
Christina Garcia-Valdez  
Norma Guerrero  
Victoria Kill  
Pablo Mendoza  
Madrienne Salgado  
Urbano Santos  
Billy Smith  
Rita Zawaideh

## EL CENTRO'S PROGRAMS:

**With over 24,000 volunteer hours, El Centro de la Raza serves 22,884 individuals and 9,673 families annually through the following programs and services:**

Basic Healthcare Enrollment  
BEBES! Infant Mortality Program  
Café con El Centro  
College Readiness  
Crisis Advocacy  
ECR Transitional Housing  
El Patio Apartments  
ESL & Citizenship Classes  
Eviction Prevention  
Financial Literacy  
Food Bank  
Foreclosure Prevention  
Homeless Assistance Program  
Homeownership Program  
Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights History Classes  
José Martí Child Development Center  
Juvenile Justice Policy Advocacy  
Latino Hot Meal Program  
Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores  
After School Program  
Parent Involvement & Education  
Senior Home Delivered Meals



**Comcast Cares Day**  
at  
El Centro de la Raza  
Saturday, April 30th, time TBA

Join Comcast, City Year, and El Centro de la Raza volunteers with painting, landscaping, cleaning, organizing, event prep, general maintenance, office assistance and more for the Comcast Cares Day! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Kendehl Corley, our Volunteer Coordinator, by [email](#) or at (206) 957-4602.

And of course . . .



**Our 4th Annual Auction**  
on Saturday, September 24th,  
2011 - Location TBD!

We've already gotten some  
FANTASTIC silent and live  
auction items!

Check it out:

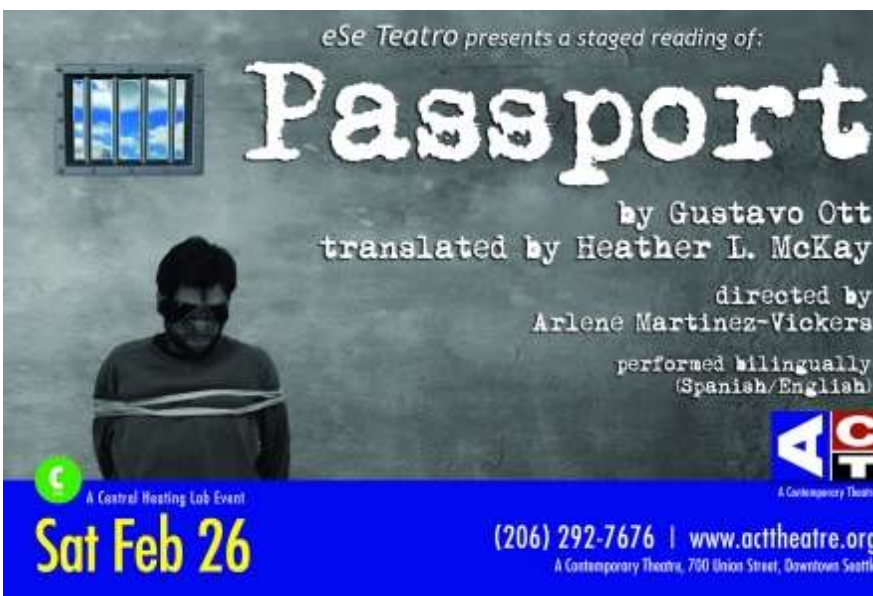
- Valentine's Day will be long gone by the time the Auction rolls around, but how about a chance to spend a week, or two or three away with your honey with these two *unrestricted, round-trip* tickets on [Alaska Airlines](#)!
- Take a step back in time relive the days of the 1890s Gold Rush. This two-hour tour for two aboard the [Queen of Seattle](#) -the largest steam-powered paddle steamer west of the Mississippi - includes a live cabaret show!
- Root, root root for the home team! Signed baseball by the Mariner's 2010 American League Cy Young Award Recipient, "King Felix," #34 - Felix Hernandez!

Have any fabulous items (tickets, gift certificates, wine, sports memorabilia, etc.) you'd like to donate to the auction, or know someone who does? Give our Auction Coordinator, Sonya Ortis, a call at (206)957-4649 or [drop her a line](#).

**Coming Up Soon!**

Senior Nutrition & Wellness  
Youth Violence Prevention  
Veterans Services  
Community Meeting Space  
Community Service Site  
Cultural/Political/Social Events  
Immigrant/Human/Civil Rights  
Social Justice Advocacy  
Legal Clinic Site  
Tax Preparation Site  
Local, State, National &  
International Coalition Building  
Service Learning Site  
Tax Preparation Site





Audiences do not have to be fluent in both languages to enjoy and understand [Passport](#). They will experience an innovative staged reading where Spanish and English are expertly woven together by bilingual actors, challenging the audience to comprehend beyond language. Performances are at 7:30 pm on Saturday, February 26th at 7:30pm at [ACT Theatre](#) and at 2:00pm on March 5th at [Burien Little Theater](#) followed by a panel discussion on immigration. Both performances are \$5.00.



### **Latino Foster Care Information Night** at

El Centro de la Raza

Monday, February 28th from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Would you like to rekindle the hope of a teenager who has fled persecution or abuse in Mexico or Central America? If you live in King or Snohomish County and have a place in your home and heart for a Latino teenager who lacks an adult to look after him, you could become a foster parent through the Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program with Lutheran Community Services NW. Presentation will be in English, with two Spanish translators on hand if needed. To sign up for this event, call (206) 694-5780 or for more information, visit their [website](#).



### **AARP Programa para Seguridad para Conductores** en

28 febrero y 1 marzo, 9am-1pm en El Centro de la Raza

[El Programa de Seguridad para conductores de AARP](#) es el primer curso integral – y de más amplio reconocimiento en todo el país – especialmente diseñado para los motoristas de 50 o más años de edad. El curso brindará un repaso de habilidades y técnicas de manejo, así como estrategias y consejos prácticos para ayudarlo a adaptarse a los cambios físicos normales relacionados con la edad que puedan estar afectando su capacidad para conducir. Miembros AARP \$12 Si no es miembro: \$14. Para inscribirse: (206) 283-6833



## La Velación y Danza del Año Nuevo Mexicaat

El Centro de la Raza

beginning at 6pm on Saturday, March 19th until  
the morning of Sunday, March 20th

Join us for a historic all-night velación  
(vigil) brought to us by Ameyaltónal Danza  
Azteca-Chichimeca, and reflect, dream, and

grow as we celebrate the new year in the Mexica/Azteca tradition. This ceremony brings back the ancient tradition of holding a vigil to invoke the healing power of our ancestors to hear our prayers for the new year. La velación ends at sunrise, when we will depart for the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center at 3801 West Government Way, Seattle, WA 98199 for the Danza with capitanes de Danza from México. Contact Esmael Xuitecatl López at [pecador14@hotmail.com](mailto:pecador14@hotmail.com) for additional details.

### News Roundup

#### LOCAL

- Immigration Raid has Ripple Effect on Ellensburg Economy  
<http://bit.ly/gNbKYQ>
- El Centro Proposes Parking Lot <http://bit.ly/gfRVNa> and Next Stop:  
Light Rail Parking? <http://bit.ly/gKAS6B>
- Immigrants and Their Supporters Rally in Olympia Against Cuts and  
Bills <http://bit.ly/fMUSlb> and see photos from the February 9th rally [here](#).

#### NATIONAL

- NCLR Calls for Urgent Juvenile Justice Reform <http://bit.ly/qLYlzx>



Connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for up-to-the-minute news and information!

Thank you for reading. And of course, for your support, whether monetary - [donate here now](#) - or through volunteering - [e-mail us](#) - that makes our work possible!

*Siempre bienvenidos, nuestra casa es su casa.*

Estela Ortega  
Executive Director



