

The Missing Migrant Project

THANK YOU!

For the past 12 years Coalición de Derechos Humanos has had the privilege and pleasure of having Blanca Bay work side by side with other staff, volunteers, and board members and to support the growth of the organization.

Blanca has been a rock for Derechos, for the community and for volunteers. It is with



sadness that we are saying goodbye to Blanca as she moves two offices down to support the Alliance for Global Justice on a full time basis.

But we cannot say goodbye without acknowledging the fact that she is a star!

Blanca met Isabel at the age of 12 when she started volunteering with Manzo Area Council and became a staff member with Derechos 12 years ago. She is part of the rich history of Coalición de Derechos Humanos

and has stayed in the community even when times were tough.

If you have ever attended a Citizenship Fair you could attest to the fact that Blanca can run it with her eyes closed. She is also a walking resource and has helped many community members navigate rough terrains in the injustice system. Throughout the years, Blanca has listened to many stories of pain and has successfully supported in making things lighter by listening and finding the appropriate resources for those community members.

Blanca is filled with courage and she takes action when she sees an injustice.

Thank you, Blanca, for your love for the organization, the community, the volunteers, and every soul who has knocked on Derechos's door and has had the privilege of having you answer it.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Our Missing Migrant Project 24-hour hotline has been ringing off the hook.

In 2014 we received 155 cases and in only four months, from January to April, we have already received 178 cases.

We conduct extensive interviews with families when appropriate, build relationships, document abuses, and empower families by giving them tools to search for their loved ones and to speak out against injustices.

There is no easy way to support families who are going through the anguish of not knowing where their family members are but we are trying and we are making big

strides with Cristen who is only part-time and a team of volunteers who are nothing short than amazing.

Here are the different ways in which we support:

1. We support family members who are lost in the complex detention system.

Once people are apprehended there

are a variety of reasons why the family does not hear from them.

Many do not get phone calls or are prevented from reaching their family

members in a timely manner (sometimes months). We have dedicated volunteers who call the office twice a week to make phone calls to detention centers, jails and hospitals. In successful cases we help the person we are looking for. 1) We support online locators that are used to find people. 2) We support our brothers and sisters in need of a search and rescue when there is no reason to believe they will be found in the desert in a precarious

For these reasons we collaborate with community rescue groups like More Deaths, Texas Hurricane Center to support searches in the desert. When appropriate we contact the Search and Rescue Center (BORSTA) many times

effort. In a recent article from Aljazeera a BORSTA

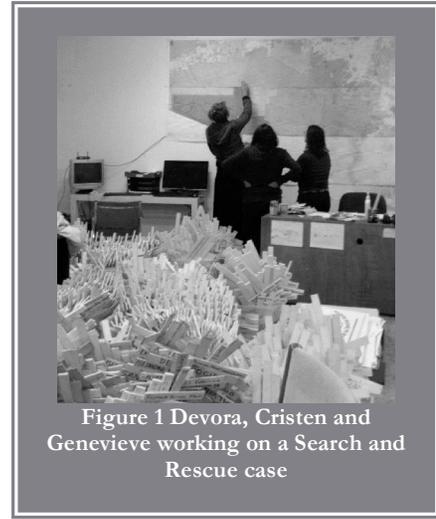


Figure 1 Devora, Cristen and Genevieve working on a Search and Rescue case

Agent recently stated “A lot of what we do is enforcement. The rescue part is secondary, not the main objective”. This statement sums up their rescue efforts and their view of respect for human life.

3) We also support family members who call us because their loved one has either recently perished or for whom they have been looking for oftentimes for many years. In these cases we collaborate with

medical examiners' offices along the Arizona border in the hopes of facilitating the identification of the disappeared. Our Missing Migrant Project continues to be an important space for the community, and we are happy to continue to grow. Be sure to check out the recent article in Aljazeera to understand a bit more about the BORSTAR unit. You can find that article on our website.

something you would like in. To put this in perspective Sentencing Commission reported that “67% of a related offenses make the convictions for immigrant federal system”. To learn more about immigrant prosecutions visit our website and be sure to check out the

The Wage Theft Clinic

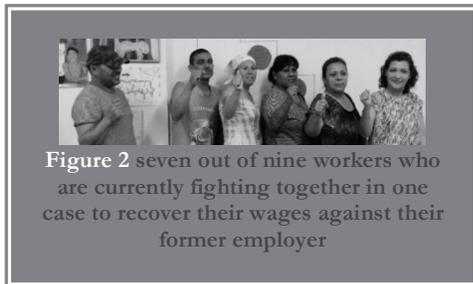


Figure 2 seven out of nine workers who are currently fighting together in one case to recover their wages against their former employer

Since our seed funding ended in December 2014 we have kept the clinic open with Blanca's support and a handful of volunteers.

Currently, we have 11 active workers fighting their cases and because of the high need, we decided to put workers on a wait list until we build capacity. We are hoping to re-open with full capacity by the end of June.

We invite you to join our wage theft action committee by sending us an e-mail at wagetheft@derechoshumanosaz.net we will ask for your support to call employers send faxes and in the event of doing an action we will send you an invitation.

Ending Criminal Prosecutions of Immigrants



Figure 3 Strategy session in action

On April 23rd and 24th Derechos Humanos, AFSC of Tucson, and Grassroots Leadership convened the first Strategy Session to combat the criminal prosecution and incarceration of immigrants. 30 people from Local groups in New Mexico, Texas, California, and

Derechos hosted a lunch for a delegation of a group of 20 women leaders from across the nation working on migrant rights/anti-enforcement, racial justice, and criminal justice reform/mass incarceration. We were also joined by Corazón de Tucson, Las Comadres, Fortín de Las Flores and Mariposa sin Fronteras. We learned a bit about what each organization was doing and Isabel García prepared them for their trip to operation streamline. The group also visited Eloy and the border.

Women Together



4 Luncheon with women

Human Rights Framework

Derechos Humanos has always emphasized militarization of the border, the deaths, and patrol and police collaboration as a violation of human rights. This year as we strategized on next thought about ways in which we could improve messaging and amplify our voices. We joined Human Rights Network, a national network of organizations and individuals working to human rights movement and culture with States. Amanda Garcés, one of our long-

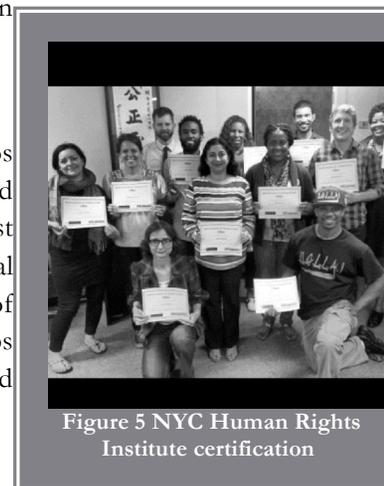


Figure 5 NYC Human Rights Institute certification

volunteers applied to two programs to strengthen Derechos’s work with new tools. The Human Rights Institute trains on the domestic applicability of human rights mechanisms, and the Fighting Injustice through Human Rights Education (FIHRE) aims to equip human rights defenders with human rights strategies, tools and standards to facilitate a coordinated, strategic and holistic growth to the movement.

Amanda was selected in an extremely competitive application process and she joined a team of people working on different issues in the United States to learn these new tools. We are excited to have Amanda learn about the Human Rights Framework and we will be conducting a strategy session to go deep into these new tools and to begin applying them to our work.

Since we only got a partial scholarship, we will be fundraising \$1400 to refund the expenses incurred. You can donate online or send us a check with the memo Human Rights Institute and be part of this new effort.

WHAT IT MEANS TO VOLUNTEER WITH US

We are very thankful for the countless hours volunteers spend supporting Derechos Humanos’s programs and the organization. We do it because we all believe in the vision of Derechos and because Derechos has stood strong against the militarization of the border and our communities. We are lucky to continue to have interns who want to make a difference on the border and who are very passionate about the daily work. In their own words, this is a snapshot of their experience.

Gabrielle Shaw and Isabel Kathryn Ball

Gabby: Volunteering with La Coalición de Derechos Humanos has been a gateway experience to educate myself further on border issues and the government’s negative responses to immigration. The assistance I provide in the Missing Migrant Project has made the injustices of family separation more of a personal issue for me; they are unfortunate tragedies that cannot be ignored. Not only has my empathy increased for those who live as undocumented immigrants, but my voice in politics has grown louder as well. I find myself more plugged into the community and more aware of political figures

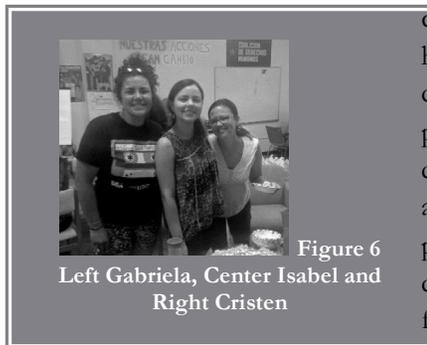


Figure 6
Left Gabriela, Center Isabel and Right Cristen

who may or may not be sympathetic to migrants and their children who live at the US-Mexico border. Volunteering in Tucson has introduced me to other organizations who carry the same belief that “no human being is illegal”, and I have learned that participating in a short-term project is temporary, but to advocate for change is long-lasting.

Isabel: During my time as an intern at Derechos Humanos, I have had the opportunity to participate in the Missing Migrant Project conducting intake interviews, the Center Call Team locating missing migrants, report writing and translating at community meetings. All the projects and meetings at Derechos have been conducted in community networks of mutual support, which has been a testament to the effectiveness of the work itself and my own personal learning growth. As a student in the Border Studies Program centered around studying issues that affect the Tucson community, Derechos Humanos has enriched my knowledge of the political system as it pertains to undocumented peoples, immigrant rights, and border issues as they seriously impact real people every day. It has been a true honor and inspiration to work with people seeking to address and resist these oppressive policies in the Tucson community and beyond.

Rachel Frank

I have volunteered with Derechos Humanos for about 7 months now. My volunteer work has mainly been focused on visiting detention centers to provide support to the Missing Migrant Project, and opposing the private prison system. As a result of calling on detention centers, we have not only learned about the dollar industry, but also about how problematic it is to have a private prison system, or a system where detained persons are across the country in various facilities and poor record keeping reasons. It is a system that is comprised of various agencies that locate people for the Missing Migrant Project. I have gained a lot of knowledge about this system and how to locate people through systematic transparency from the various agencies keeping track of that branch.



Figure 7 Rachel right spends some time with Isabel during our volunteer meeting

By means of my volunteer work with Derechos Humanos, I have also had the opportunity to participate in community events, meetings, and protests. My time here has motivated me to continue my journey in advocating for immigrant rights, especially in fighting against the for-profit detention center system.

Sandra Garnica

For the past two years we also had the honor of having Sandra Garnica with us. Sandra moved from Chicago just to work with Derechos and to end the militarization of the border. While she was with us, Sandra helped lead the creation of the Wage-Theft Clinic and involved herself in all aspects of the community. Not only was she arrested as part of an effort to end operation streamline, but she also threw herself underneath a Border Patrol car to try to stop the detention of Norlan, a prominent leader of the Southside Worker Center.



Last month Sandra packed her life to move back to Chicago and to be close to her family. As we said goodbye we remember that Derechos is built with people like Sandra who come to plant seeds in the lives of many. She is truly missed.

OTHER NEWS



We congratulate **Anna Ochoa O'Leary** as the new head of the UA's Department of Mexican American Studies. Anna has been a strong supporter of Derechos and we see her success as a community victory. Congratulations Anna! We are lucky to have you by our side!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

We could not do this work without volunteers and interns. If you would like to volunteer there are a variety of opportunities to become involved:

- Join the Detention Center Call Team for the Missing Migrant Project
- Join the Missing Migrant Project Case Facilitation Team

- Join the Wage Theft Clinic Action Team
- Join the Wage Theft Clinic Case Facilitation Team

We are also looking for volunteers to help with social media, website, graphic planning and fundraising.

There will be a wage theft train the trainer program on June 27th from 10:00 to there are monthly trainings on the first Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m. the Detention Center call team. If you would like to join any of these opportunities contact volunteer@derechoshumanosaz.net, and we will e-mail you the application information.

BECOME A DERECHOS HUMANOS SUSTAINER

Sign up by going to our website, <http://www.derechoshumanosaz.net/>. Click the Donate Here button. Scroll down to the second option which is: **convenient monthly donation**. Pick the amount you can afford from the drop-down menu. Click the Donate button in the text line and fill out your credit card information. Once the card will be automatically charged.

Please Consider Making a Tax-Deductible Donation Today!

Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or \$5,000 can make all the difference. Donate by going through our website at <http://www.derechoshumanosaz.net> on the "Donate" button. Or you can send a check in the enclosed envelope with our monthly donations with our enclosed form. Please consider being a monthly donor. See your donation go a long way.

We have a lot of work to do! A Community United is a Strong Corner



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