



Wind of the Spirit Breathing Free News

November 2022 / www.wotsnj.org / Box 345 Morristown, NJ / 973.538.2035 / 2022



HELP THE CAUSE OF IMMIGRANTS

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Wind of the Spirit, from left to right Maria E. Vargas, Rosa Knezevich, Aura Narvaez, Gloria E. Blanco, Jessica Bustamante, Alicia Conde and Jose Torralba. Source: Madison Eagle & Photo by Alex Parker-Magyar.

Q About us: we are an Immigrant Resource Center and together we work to make of our Mission a reality in favor of our rights and responsibilities, and for Just and Humane Immigration policies that allow us to live with dignity.

Our News

Housing, A Local Campaign

Wind of the Spirit has been fighting to keep Dover, NJ from becoming a town similar to Morristown and others; where they sell the town to developers who build big luxuries apartments, with the purpose of avoiding having to pay taxes for around 30 years. These are taxes that could, very well, be going towards our children's schools. This is an excellent business for them, but this affects middle class and immigrant population. This is causing for rents to increase; for landlords to kick people out in order to fix their properties with the purpose of renting them at a higher price, where the only way of paying is if you earn a just salary.

In Dover, they have been building various luxury apartments and they want to build more; this situation, by approving new construction work, does not leave space for accessible housing.

With the support of members from Dover, **we have been able to obtain 9-10% of accesible housing in this new construction.** However, as an organization, we are still fighting for the town to pass a rent control and Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) ordinance, as well as other proposals, which Dover already knows about thanks to a letter we sent and with the support of Dover residents who helped out with 300 signatures.

These measures will increase housing supply by eliminating obsolete and unnecessary ordinances that prohibit the construction of expensive houses and multi-family households. **These measures will increas general safety for all residents, therefore, the quantity of residents who live in super populated guest houses, and those who are subletting without any authorization or supervision will decrease.**



From left to right: Elmerston Dylan Torres, Adam McGovern, Gloria E. Blanco, Jose David Ruiz, Ivannia Canalez representing Wind of the Spirit.

Values Act, A State Campaign, NJ

The *Values Act* is one of the most important bills for us immigrants, especially those of us who are or have loved ones without citizenship (undocumented). Since **2018**, through the Immigrant Confidence Directive, which is temporary, we have managed to stop the police from cooperating with **ICE** (immigration). This Law would strengthen it and make it a Law, if it manages to pass, it would be permanent. In that case, neither the police, nor agencies, nor schools could ask for documents that reveal the immigration status of an individual. They would be just doing their job, as they have done since **2018**, instead of cooperating with **ICE**.

The Struggle Continues

Wind of the Spirit (WotS) with the help and support of its active members and other organizations such as, NJ Immigrant Justice Alliance (NJAIJ), we have been working in favor of this bill. On **October 27, 2022** we were at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey in a lobbying action, in other words, we went with the purpose of educating legislators on the Values Act. For us and for our community, it is important for our representatives to support and vote in favor of this bill, therefore, **WE MAKE A CALL FOR YOU TO JOIN THIS CAUSE AS WELL!** If you have a testimony about something you went through with immigration in the past, if any be loved ones or Friends went through something similar, their story is important to this campaign! **If you have not gone through anything with immigration, but are an immigrant, we need your support!**



Updates

Registry

Want to know what's going on with immigration? Without a path to citizenship for Non-Citizens (Undocumented), at *Wind of the Spirit* we are working on a path to residency and Citizenship through the Registry.



We are holding informational and educational forums about Registry and on immigration updates. The first was held on **Thursday, October 27, 2022, in Madison, New Jersey, and then on Sunday, October 30, 2022, in Dover. Additionally, we will have a forum in Morristown on November 6, 2022, and a final forum in Plainfield on November 12.**

Women who Fight for their Rights



On **October 17, 2022** women of the Domestic Workers group mobilized in Trenton, New Jersey in order to move forward with the proposal for the **Bill of Rights for Domestic Workers (A822)**. This bill comes out of the government committee state and local assembly. Therefore, visits were made to current Legislators and Assembly Members, in order to **demand rights and better working conditions for the Domestic Workers campaign.**



The **Domestic Workers** Committee meets every two weeks in different locations such as **Madison, Dover, Plainfield** and will soon reopen in **Morristown**. We **invite the community to get to know this group and support its cause.**

Teamwork

OSHA 30 Certification



Fuente: WotS—Caridades Católicas

On **October 16, 2022**, 28 immigrants who received training in **OSHA 30 construction** sector were certified. The training was held at the Catholic Charities headquarters in **Yonkers, New York**. The importance of the program highlights the knowledge that is provided to workers, so that they can perform a job safely, and at the same time, identify the rights and responsibilities that they have to keep in mind when performing their job.

Tickborne Illness Project

Outdoor and migrant workers are populations that often experience inequities in health and in access to medical resources. In partnership with the *National Center for Farmworker Health*, we worked in Morris County, collecting data for the project “*Tick-Borne Disease Awareness and Support Needs for Outdoor Workers (TIKSNOW)*.” We come together to publicize the purpose of this project, which recognizes that: Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the US.



Source: National Center for Farmworker Health

The objectives of the project are: **(1)** To evaluate the risk of exposure and contagion of diseases spread by ticks in outdoor workers, especially workers in the agricultural, construction and gardening sectors; **(2)** Learn about the knowledge, attitudes, and practices in this population regarding the protection and prevention of tick bites; and **(3)** Evaluate the possible acceptability of a vaccine to prevent Lyme disease.

We Make History



The “**We Make History**” workshop focuses on claiming the role of domestic workers and trace, in a Timeline, the evolution and the origin of domestic work. This workshop seeks to bring together women in order to provide a space for conversation, education, and empowerment. **In about 17 workshops that last about 6 months or so, the group talks about: slavery, white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism, power, among other topics.** The workshop teaches us that this fight is still going on, for the rights of domestic workers, we demand guarantees such as: rights to a pension, a fair salary, sick days, among other benefits. **If you are interested in starting this workshop, please contact Jessica Bustamante. Our ancestors fight continues...**

Activities



Fuente: Evelyn Saz Organizadora WotS

Plainfield Committee, on October 22 the *Plainfield Committee* carried out cleaning activities in order to maintain safety and comfort in public spaces, with the purpose of enhancing the development of our actions. These dynamics organize the community, strengthen teamwork, promote leadership and communication among our leaders.



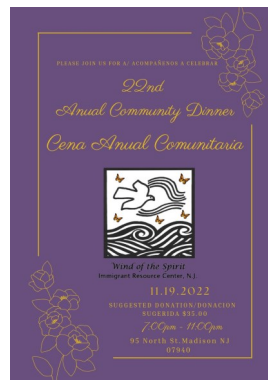
Activity in Madison, The organization participated in a community activity in Madison, where they set up an information table for the event that brings together more than 10,000 thousand people each year on Bottle Hill Day. The event was organized thanks to the efforts of the *Domestic Workers* of said locality.

Community Health Day, Wind of the Spirit participated in the **Community Health Day** as part of the organizing committee and to share information to the participants.



Anniversary

Thank you all for your volunteer work. You make a huge positive impact in fulfilling our mission. **Let's keep going!** We will be celebrating our twenty-second anniversary on Saturday, November 19. Please call (973) 538-2035 to get your tickets.



Calendar

DOMESTIC WORKERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- November 3 | Preparación de Testimonios I en Dover 7PM
- November 10 | Preparación de Testimonios II en Dover 7PM
- November 12 | Registry Forum in Plainfield at 10AM
- November 17 | Values Act and Redistricting in Madison 6PM-7:30PM
- November 21 | ANTH Action Day in Trenton (*all day*)

COMMUNITY FORUMS:

- November 6 | Registry Forum in Morristown 5PM
- November 21 | Forums Values Act and Redistricting in Morristown 6PM-7:30PM
- November 22 | Housing meetings in Dover Townhall at 7PM
- November 22 | Housing meetings in Morristown Townhall at 7PM

COMMITTEES:

- November 14-18 | Probable Mobilization in Washington D.C.
- November 28 | Committee meet-up at Madison Townhall at 8PM- 10PM
- November 30 | Values Act and Redistricting General Committee in Dover 7PM

OTHER:

- November 19 | 22° WotS Anniversary Annual Community Dinner 7PM-11PM

@windofthespirit
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Affiliate, Join or become a WotS Member and be a part of our Fight for Rights and Dignity for Immigrants

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"If you let the wind blow quietly, what prayer do you hear?"