

CIVITAS –May 1st Special Edition

Care For All - Healthcare for All

CARE FOR ALL is a program created by local community organizations throughout Chicago to educate low income, uninsured families, about free hospital care.

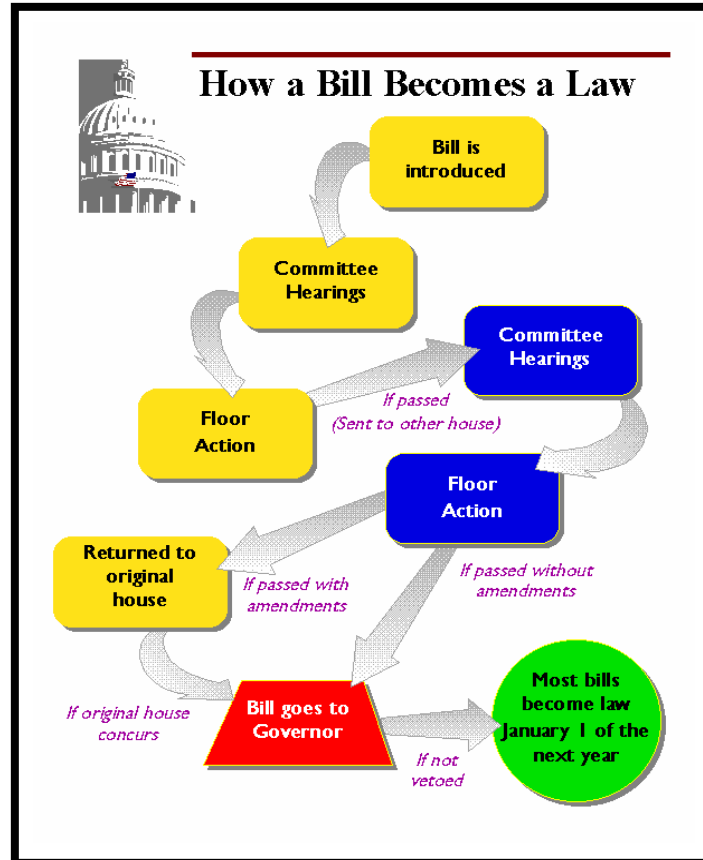
By joining CARE FOR ALL, you are joining a movement to change the way health care is delivered in Chicago. There are over 1.2 million people throughout the city who don't have health insurance and need charity care. So tell your friends, your family, everyone you know who may qualify to join thousands of others in making Chicago healthy.

If you are a family of four and your annual household gross income is below \$38,700. At an Advocate hospital you may qualify to receive FREE hospital care.

If you think you may qualify for charity care and need assistance in applying, call Nancy at 773-248-1019 ext. 18.

Translation services also available.

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Get to know CAAAELII

Citizenship and Voter Instruction Training School (CIVITAS)

Modeled after Highlander Center and Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Schools in the 1960s, CIVITAS is a place to meet, a place to learn, a place to organize. The goals of CIVITAS are to create a space for reflection and a "gathering place" where community leaders can join together with others who share their concerns, and to integrate the EL/Civics, Organizing, and Technology programs at CAAAELII into a comprehensive and integrated activity for all CAAAELII partner agencies.

For more information, please contact Claudio Gaete-Tapia, CIVITAS Director at 773-248-1019 ext. 14 or at claudio@caaelii.org

CAAAELII Services and Programs

- English Literacy/Civics
- Community Organizing
- Active Citizens and Technology in Our Neighborhood project (ACTION)
 - Policy
- Computer Technology
 - Project (CTP)
- Care for All campaign

Prepared and Edited by Amber Javed

CIVITAS

Citizenship and Voter Instruction Training School May 1, 2006 Special Edition

caaelii
COALITION OF AFRICAN, ARAB, ASIAN, EUROPEAN AND LATINO IMMIGRANTS OF ILLINOIS

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Immigrant Communities Marching Together

By Isabel Anadon

May Day, International Workers day began in 1886 when immigrant workers struggled to legalize an eight hour workday. Since the 1860s, workers worked hard to get an eight hour workday while they were forced to work long hours with no benefits. Unions and labor organizations began organizing to pass this law.



Participants from the March 10, 2006 Chicago rally for immigrant rights. Photo By Claudio Gaete-Tapia

Photo by Claudio Gaete Tapia

Chicago was the center of the struggle where 22 unions joined together.

There were many strikes and people were arrested and killed because of their efforts to protect workers rights. This became the turning point for everyone to know the importance of workers' rights. Workers Day is celebrated all over the world. Today we recognize May 1st as workers' day and celebrate the importance to working class people today.

We continue the struggle to protect our immigrant brothers and sisters who struggle daily and work honest jobs to protect their family's futures.

The rallies on March 10 and May 1, 2006 are historic moments. Hundreds of thousands immigrants march on the street of Chicago asking for their rights. Joining these marches is a first step. Please continue to be active and be involved. Please join the next community meeting or neighborhood forum at a CAAAELII partner agency near you. Find out more about your rights. Learn more on how you can help. To find out more,

Call (773)248-1019 or

log on to at our website at www.caaelii.org



Photographer: Claudio Gaete-Tapia

On March 10, more than 100,000 immigrants came together to voice their opinion against the Sensenbrenner bill HR 4437.

La Familia Latina Unida-Latino Families United

By Roberto Lopez

La Familia Latina Unida is a group of 37 families that have come together for the reunification of their families. This story began when a young single mother named Elvira Arellano was arrested during "Operation Tarmac" at Chicago O'Hare Airport on December of 2002. This operation was meant to capture "terrorists" but instead they targeted workers that cleaned planes, cleaned bathrooms and did food preparation. Elvira was at her house getting her 4 year old U.S. Citizen son ready for school early that morning. The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI surrounded her house, knocked on her door and arrested her. "Why me? I haven't stolen anything or killed anybody. I'm not a terrorist! I just work to take care of my son and to survive in this country," Elvira said. Elvira was placed in deportation. "I didn't want to return to my country because I couldn't provide for my son in Mexico", Elvira added.



Elvira Arellano, who was arrested and placed on deportation, is pictured here with her son

"Since I am undocumented I could not work and because the community supported me emotionally and financially I felt a commitment to speak for the rights of the undocumented and for legalization," Elvira said.

The committee of families was organized after Ana Del Valle who had a similar case to the

Benitez family came to the Centro Sin Fronteras Law Program and declared that she wanted to fight against the deportation of her husband, Adan. After what happened to the Del Valle family, the idea of organizing a committee started to emerge. "Last year we launched the Familia Latina Unida Campaign for legalization, citizenship and voter registration of immigrants. We began to call on elected officials and community leaders. Mr. Rodolfo Benitez and I called on the community to organize." "The committee was already

there. We just had to give it a name and make it official. The Benitez family was there, the Del Valle family was there and my family was there," Elvira said. When the idea of doing a presidential pardon was announced other families joined in and the committee began to grow. The campaign has taken a major step. "Join us in this campaign Legalization and the rights of immigrant families," Elvira said.

CAAELII/CIVITAS has supported the La Familia Latina Unida campaign by sponsoring Elvira Arellano as a CIVITAS Organizing Apprentice. Elvira is part of CAAELII first organizing apprentice cohort along with Arab American Action Network, Centro Romero, Cambodian Association of Illinois and Korean American Resource and Cultural Center.

Elvira appeared on the front page of Exito News and when asked how she made her story public she recalls that, "I did not want to talk to the press but, they kept asking me how many people had been arrested? What were the charges? They wanted to give me an opportunity to tell our story." Elvira remembers that organizations called me to give her support and that is how she began to meet members of organizations like Centro Sin Fronteras, CAAELII and others.

Immigration Policy Timeline: Did you know this happened before?

1882– The Chinese exclusion law curbs Chinese immigration. Law also placed a head tax on each immigrant.

1888-Provisions adopted for the expulsion of immigrants.

1924– The first permanent immigration quota law established a preference quota system, established Border Patrol.

1929-Annual quota of 1924 Act made permanent favoring western hemisphere.

1943– Legislation provided to the importation of agricultural workers from North, South and Central America. This was the basis for the Bracero program. The Chinese Exclusion laws were repealed.

1946-Legislation that provided for foreign-born wives, fiancées, husbands and children of U.S. armed forces personnel.

1948-First U.S. policy to admit persons fleeing persecution. Permitted 205,000 refugees to

enter U.S. over two years.

1950-All immigrants were required to report their address manually.

1952-Multiple laws included the following.

A) reaffirmed national quota system.

B) limited immigration from Eastern Hemisphere while unrestricted immigration from Western Hemisphere.

C) established preferences for skilled laborers and relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens.

D) tightened security and screening standard and procedures.

1953-The 1948 law was increased to admit over 200,000 refugees above the existing quota.

1964-Civil Rights Act passed, outlawing discrimination in private facilities, federally funded programs and employment.

1965-Affirmative action policies; Immigration Reform Act eliminates racial and national quotas; "great Society" acts: Medicare/Medicaid.

1966-Voting Rights Act passed.

1988-Civil Liberties Act for Japanese American redress.

1996-Welfare repeal/forced work programs.

1996-Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act passed.

2001- USA PATRIOT Act: new state sanctioned racial profiling, detention of many immigrants of color.

Did you know?

63 percent of the U.S. immigrants live in six states-California, New York, Texas, Illinois, Florida, and New Jersey.