

2015
Year in Review

El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center

Serving the immigrant community of Central Arkansas



Serving the Immigrant Community of Central Arkansas



As we grow in our work of serving and empowering our local immigrant community, we constantly see how much harder it can be for immigrants to obtain basic human necessities like food, health care and education. We also listen to their stories of survival and witness incredible perseverance, commitment to family, and gratitude.

Take a look at our work from 2015...

Mission

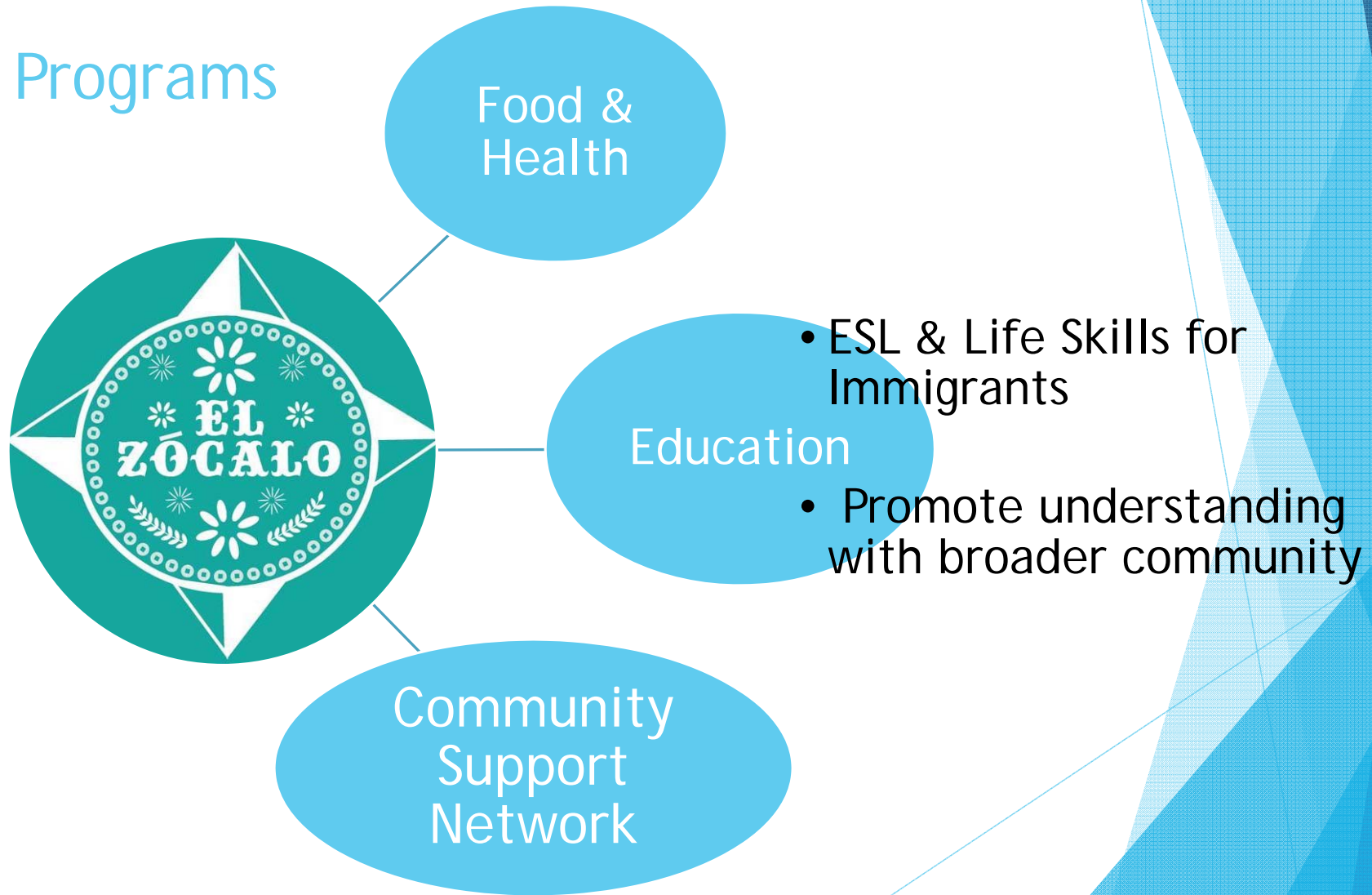
- ▶ To promote a dignified life for immigrants in Arkansas through connecting families to services and foster community-wide understanding through education



Values

- ▶ Serve any immigrant regardless of nationality, age, gender, immigration status, or religion
- ▶ Listen to the voices, strengths and needs of the people serve to shape our programs
- ▶ Engage entire families in our work
- ▶ Work together with diverse community partners
- ▶ Empower immigrants with skills and information to navigate difficult situations

Programs



Food & Health

“Feeding Mouths, Empowering Minds”

2015 @ the Food Pantry

Food & Basic Needs Assistance

- Provided groceries to 380 people: 85 families, & 200 children
- Provided clothing to all our families
- Provided household items like kitchen supplies to families
- Provided Christmas gifts, toys, and educational games to clients' children



Partner: **Interfaith Arkansas**

Health Education and Outreach

Health Care Access

- Provided preventative health screenings to clients through UAMS
- Connected clients to health services
 - Harmony Health Clinic & Health Coaching
 - ConnectCare - helped Medicaid & ARKids recipients coordinate doctor's appointments & transportation

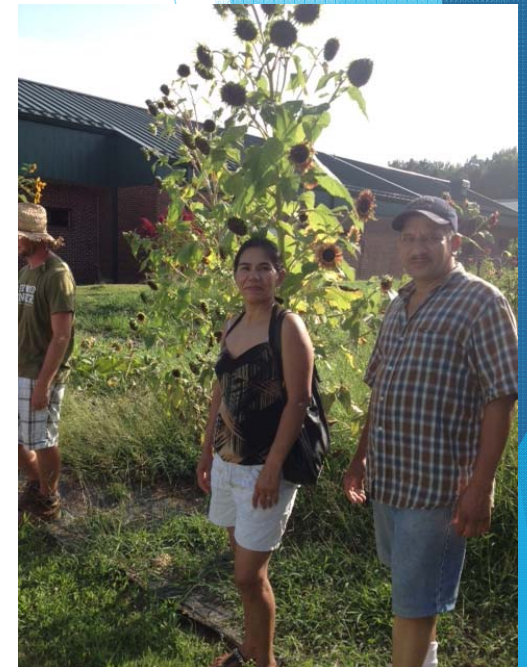
Healthy Lifestyles

- Provided gardening workshops to assist clients in establishing home gardens
- Provided art based workshops to assist clients' children with emotional expression



Garden Fresh Produce

- ▶ Partnered with the 12th & Oak St. community garden to deliver fresh, locally grown produce to clients at food pantry throughout the growing season
- ▶ Took clients on Community Garden outing and tour



Education for Immigrants

Goal: To empower immigrants with language and life skills for life in Arkansas

Over 50 students in
our 2015 ESL Classes!



- Spring, Summer and Fall ESL courses for adults offered in Southwest Little Rock in partnership with the Dee Brown Public Library
- ESL classes for Children in partnership with City Year, Spring 2015

Thank you to Central Arkansas Library System!

ESL Life Skills Classes

- ▶ In Fall 2015, we shifted the focus of our ESL classes to teach ESL Life Skills to...
 - ▶ Teach immigrants English vocabulary and conversation along with skills needed for life in the U.S.
 - ▶ Develop an original curriculum to help community members navigate common situations and access available resources in Arkansas
 - ▶ Topics Covered included:
 - ▶ Opening a bank account,
 - ▶ Reporting an incident to the police
 - ▶ Accessing health care
 - ▶ Participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - ▶ Finding Housing
 - ▶ Finding Work



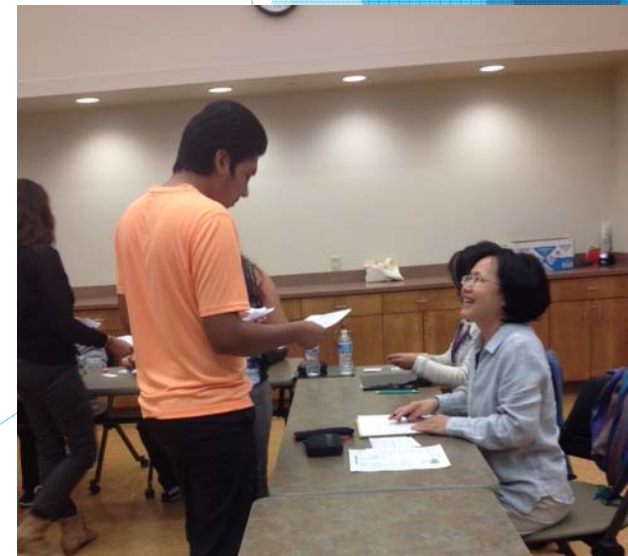
ESL Classes in Jacksonville, AR



20 students participated in our inaugural course hailing from 9 different countries: Mexico, India, Laos, China, South Korea, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru

We began serving the underserved immigrant population in the Central Arkansas community of Jacksonville.

Classes taught in partnership with the Esther D. Nixon Library



Community Support Network

Goal: To connect immigrants to needed services

- ▶ We published and distributed 750 *Immigrant Community Resource Guides* directly to immigrants in our community
- ▶ Provided education on using guides and accessing resources
- ▶ Provided countless referrals to services by phone via our hotline and in person



2016 Plans

- ▶ **Food & Health**
 - ▶ Enhance our Food Pantry and Health Education thanks to a grant from the Blue and You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas
- ▶ **Education**
 - ▶ ESL Life Skills II
 - ▶ Jacksonville ESL Classes
 - ▶ Family Literacy workshops to help parents help their children succeed at school
- ▶ **Community Support Network**
 - ▶ 3rd printing of *Immigrant Community Resource Guides*, Distribute and educate!
 - ▶ Offer weekly office hours for assisting immigrants in person



Our Team

- ▶ Staff: Kelsey Reville and Douglas Ponce (Food Pantry Coordinator)
- ▶ Board: Benji Hardy, Abigail Valentin, Humberto Zarate, Martha Bernardino, Chase Mangiapane
- ▶ Our Awesome Volunteers & Interns!
- ▶ Co-founder: Sara Mullally Broussard



Thank you to everyone
who has supported
our work this year!!!

