

~~~~~

## **Somos un Pueblo Unido Newsletter**

### **December 2008**

~~~~~

In this issue:

Somos' Holiday Fundraiser 2008

Sign petition to Barak Obama

Film Tribute to Pro-immigrant Labor Leader

Santa Fe Workers to Earn \$9.92 in 2009

PFLAG Volunteering and Scholarship Opportunities

National News Briefs

#### ***Somos'* Holiday Fundraiser 2008**

~~~~~

*Somos'* invites you to celebrate its 14th Anniversary on December 18th, International Migrant's Day. The celebration will be held at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center.

**What: Somos' Holiday Fundraiser**

**Where: Genoveva Chavez Community Center**

**3221 Rodeo Road in Santa Fe**

**When: Thursday, December 18th at 6 PM**

**Tickets: Adults \$15 and children \$5**

Support immigrants' rights in New Mexico by joining us for great live music, tasty Mexican food, a silent auction, raffles and a visit from Santa Claus. To buy tickets, call *Somos* at (505) 424-7832. To obtain a copy of the *Somos'* fundraiser flier click [here](#).

#### **Support immigrants by signing petition to Barak Obama**

~~~~~

President-elect Barak Obama relied heavily on Latinos and New Americans to win the election, and immigration is an issue that remains very important to these communities. The Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM), a coalition spearheaded by 30 national and statewide organizations including *Somos*, is calling

on 1,000 organizations across the country to sign a letter asking the President-elect to stop the raids, end enforcement-only measures like the use of Social Security Administration No-match letters, and make immigration reform an early priority in his administration.

We need as many churches and community groups to sign on to this letter. Please call *Somos* at (505) 424-7832 to endorse or e-mail us at [somos@rt66.com](mailto:somos@rt66.com)

**A Film Tribute to Pro-immigrant Labor Leader**



**What: Tribute to Eliseo Medina**

**To be followed by the feature film *Our Spirits Don't Speak English: Indian Boarding School***

**Where: New Mexico Film Museum, 418 Montezuma Ave. (Santa Fe)**

**When: Thurs., December 4th, 12:45 pm; Sat., December 6th, 5:45 pm**

**Tickets: \$10**

Tribute to Eliseo Medina is a short film by Lucia Duncan that tells the story of one of the most important leaders of the labor movement today. Medina's career began in 1965 when, as a 19-year-old grape-picker, he participated in the historic United Farm Workers' strike in Delano, California. Over the next decade, Medina worked alongside labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez, eventually serving as the United Farm Workers' National Vice President. He went on to become an International Vice President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), where he has led the movement to organize immigrant workers and fight for immigration reform.

For tickets, call (505) 989-1495 or visit the Santa Fe Film Festival box office at 519 Cerrillos Rd.

**Santa Fe Workers to Earn \$9.92 in 2009**



Despite opposition by the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce and talk by some City Councilors, the minimum wage in Santa Fe will increase to \$9.92 at the beginning of 2009. Mayor David Coss announced the cost of living increase of 42 cents on November 24th making Santa Fe the city with the highest minimum wage in the country.

"These are hard times, and Santa Fe workers need the raise to be able to provide for their families," said Manuela Marquez, member of *Somos*' Board of Directors and a housekeeper in Santa Fe. "We were a little worried, but are now relieved that the city's promise to its workers will be fulfilled."

To read more about the Santa Fe Living Wage increase, go to Journal North and The Santa Fe New Mexican.

### **PFLAG Volunteering and Scholarships Opportunities**

~~~~~

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will be awarding several \$1000 scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, regardless of immigration status, who to continue their education or training after high school.

PFLAG is also looking for bilingual volunteers in Albuquerque to meet with Spanish-speaking immigrant community members in need of support and education PFLAG provides.

For more information, call PFLAG at (505) 424-8951 or visit their website.

### **National News Briefs**

#### **Reid: Immigration Reform Won't Be Difficult Under Obama**

~~~~~

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in an interview on November 24, 2008 in the American Prospect that an immigration reform should be relatively easy to pass.

"On immigration, there's been an agreement between (President-elect Barack) Obama and (Arizona Republican Sen. John) McCain to move forward on that. ... We'll do that. We have to get this economy stuff figured out first, so I think we'll have a shot at doing something on health care in the next Congress for sure," said Reid.

#### **Mexican-American to Lead Obama's Immigration Team**

Stanford law Professor Mariano-Florentino "Tino" Cuéllar, 36, was named to lead President-elect Barack Obama's transition working group on immigration, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Cuéllar, raised on the U.S.-Mexico border in Calexico, is a professor specializing in administrative law at Stanford University. He also spent two years at the U.S. Treasury Department under President Bill Clinton.

#### **Close to 350,000 Undocumented Immigrants were Deported in 2008**

Nationwide, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported 349,041 immigrants during the 2008 fiscal year ending September 30. 288,663 immigrants were deported in 2007 and in 2004, 174,000 according to a report released by the federal agency on November 6th.

The Pew Hispanic Center recently released a report showing a decreased number of undocumented immigrants in the US from 2005 to 2008. While not identifying a

specific a reason for the decrease, that report noted increased enforcement of immigration laws.

Read more about this story, go to The Miami Herald and AP.

### **U.S. Census Bureau Now Hiring**

The U.S. Census Bureau in preparation for the 2010 Census has Hispanic/Latino Partnership Specialist positions available for work.

For job description and how to apply, visit  
<http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/howtoapply.php>