

# Somos Un Pueblo Unido Newsletter

## July 2008

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### **Somos 10% July Fund-raiser**

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Support immigrant's rights by dining at one of four restaurants that will be donating 10 percent of one Sunday's earnings to *Somos un Pueblo Unido*. The following are the restaurants participating in the 10% Day Fund-raiser and dates:

\* Sunday, July 6th, Café Castro's located at 2811 Cerrillos Road, open from 7 AM to 9:30 PM.

\* Sunday, July 13 th, Plaza Café Southside at 3011 Cerrillos Road, open from 7 AM to 9 PM.

\* Sunday, July 20th, Mariscos Costa Azul located at 2875 Cerrillos Road, open from 11 AM to 9 PM.

\* Sunday, July 27th, Adelita's Restaurant at 3297 Cerrillos Road, open from 8 AM to 9 PM.

For more information, call *Somos un Pueblo Unido* at 505-424-7832.

### **"Nuestro Voto" Youth Voter Project Kick-off Event**

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Join us at our first "Bowling for Votos" event at Silva Lanes at 1352 Rufina Circle on Friday, July 11 from 6 to 8 PM. Gladys Cobos and Juan Carlos Deoses, *Somos un Pueblo Unido* Community Organizers, have arranged a night full of fun, prizes and a voter registration booth.

Individuals participating in the "Nuestro Voto" campaign will bowl for free, have access to the pool table, and get information about voter registration, candidates, workers' and immigrants' rights.

For more information, visit the "Nuestro Voto" website at <http://www.myspace.com/somosunpueblounidom> or call *Somos un Pueblo Unido's* office at (505) 424-7832.

### **US Conference of Mayors adopts Santa Fe Mayor's Pro-Immigrant Resolution**

David Coss, Santa Fe Mayor, introduced a resolution that supports comprehensive immigration reform during the 76th Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USMC). On June 23, 2008, the USMC unanimously adopted Coss' resolution, which calls for an end to raids and deportations and promotes reform that would reunify families and provide a path to earned citizenship to undocumented workers.

We want to thank the Mayor who worked with the Santa Fe Immigration Committee and *Somos* to draft the resolution, reflecting Santa Fe's long standing compassionate and sensible approach to immigration policy. We're pleased that other mayors followed his lead.

### **Study reasserts immigrants' economic contribution to New Mexico**

New Mexico Voices for Children, a long time ally of *Somos* and the immigrant community, just released a report "Immigrants and the New Mexico Economy: Working Hard for Low Wages" that concludes that immigrants make a very significant contribution to the New Mexico economy and have a very small impact on national safety-net programs.

The study states that New Mexico's foreign-born population -regardless of their legal status- contributes to the state economy through their high participation levels in the work force. Immigrants are more likely to work in the private labor sector and be self-employed providing economic stimulus and job opportunities to the community.

To read more about the NM Voices for Children's study, go to <http://www.nmvoices.org/>

### **ACORN holds USCIS accountable for citizenship applications**

In 2007, around 1.3 million Legal Permanent Residents in the U.S. applied for their citizenship before a fee change from \$400 to \$675 took effect. According to Clayton Kennedy, Head Organizer of ACORN New Mexico, an organization that conducted a rigorous citizenship campaign, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officials said the fee increase was meant to help make the process faster.

Kennedy explained that most people were under the impression they would not have to wait longer than five months for citizenship interviews and their naturalization ceremony.

However, USCIS didn't keep its promise. Angering many immigrants' rights advocates, the agency announced that the minimum wait for people who applied in 2007 would be 18 months, and most of them would not be naturalized in time to vote in the November elections.

In January 2008, ACORN NM launched a campaign to make the local USCIS field office keep its promise and speed up the citizenship application process for New Mexico applicants. According to Kennedy, the local office has now assured ACORN that 95 percent of New Mexico's applicants will be naturalized in time for the general elections. There will be two naturalization ceremonies in Albuquerque, one in August and another in September. Way to go, ACORN!

**"Nuestra América" New Time Reminder**

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KSFR *Somos'* bilingual radio show "*Nuestra América*", on KSFR Santa Fe Public Radio 101.1 FM, will now air on Sundays at 5 PM. We also stream live on KSFR.org.

Tune in as we interview local and national leaders in the immigrant's rights movement and talk about the struggles and triumphs of Latinos and Hispanos in New Mexico that don't get covered by the mainstream media.

Join us on Sunday, July 13th at 5 PM, as we talk with Delle McCormick, Executive Director of BorderLinks. McCormick will give an on-the-ground report about what is happening on the Arizona and Mexico border.