



# La Voz de Esperanza

Sept. 2018

Vol. 31 Issue 7

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• We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.

• Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

### La Voz de Esperanza

is a publication of

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

### Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

## San Antonio Bus Ministry continues

Editor's note: *The June issue of La Voz featured stories of the bus ministry of San Antonio assisting immigrants released from Texas detention centers who start their journeys to unfamiliar places where someone will sponsor their stay in the U.S. as they seek asylum. Stories like the one that follows will continue in the October issue of La Voz de Esperanza. Texas has the highest number of detention centers in the U.S. with more than 150.*



As a military spouse, I was excited to move to San Antonio two years ago. The huge release of families to local churches in late 2016 showed me that, here, I had the chance to directly impact the lives of these deserving people. And it's these immigrants' stories that keep bringing me back to work at the bus station with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition.

Their stories come in many languages: Quiché, Spanish, Q'anj'obal and Portuguese. They're told by all kinds of people: mothers, children, grandmothers, fathers, women and men. And they bring their stories from a wide array of countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil and Sudan, to name only a few.

Recent national events have brought these families into the spotlight. Even so, most of the locals and tourists walking down St. Mary's have no idea how the immigration and asylum issue really is to us here. A quiet river of their human suffering—and of human determination—flows through the San Antonio Greyhound bus station and international airport, day in and day out, all year long. And though they've been through trauma and danger, they keep pressing forward. We have the honor of helping them a little along their way.

My family has sacrificed in the service of the United States, and I've seen in my husband's years on active duty the blood, sweat and tears that go into defending our nation. These last two years, it's been important to me that families like ours are fighting for something that's still worth defending. And what's worth defending is a community that gives food to a young asylum-seeking mother, cough syrup to a sick migrant toddler, and words of respect and welcome to the persecuted stranger. Without all of our efforts, our nation's values would remain a set of good intentions. IWC'S ministry puts some of those best intentions into real action, spreading love where there is fear.

—Erin Bill, Joint Base San Antonio



## HAYS STREET BRIDGE RESTORATION GROUP

v.

## CITY OF SAN ANTONIO @ Texas Supreme Court

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, Time: TBA

201 W 14th St #104, Austin, TX

Call 210-228-0201 for more information

See pages 8 & 9 of La Voz for photos of Hays St. Bridge and information on the community trip to Austin for the Texas Supreme Court hearing.

**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.