



Programs & Services

With over 25,050 volunteer hours, El Centro de la Raza serves 18,633 individuals and 9,387 families annually through the following programs and services:

Basic Healthcare Enrollment
Bebes! Infant Mortality Prevention
Café con El Centro
César Chávez Demonstration Garden
College Readiness
Comadres
Community Meeting Space
Community Service
Crisis Advocacy
Cultural / Political / Social Events
Economic Development
ECR Transitional Housing
El Patio Apartments
Employment
ESL Classes / Spanish Classes
Financial Empowerment
Food Bank
Foreclosure Counseling
Growing & Learning Together
Homeless Assistance
Healthy Cooking Classes /
Nuestras Comidas
Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights
History Classes
HUD Housing Counseling
Immigrant / Human / Civil Rights Social
Justice Advocacy
José Martí Child Development Center
Latino Hot Meal Program
Legal Clinic Site
Local, State, National & International
Coalition Building
Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores
After School Program
Parent-Child Home Program
Plaza Roberto Maestas
Santos Rodriguez Memorial Park
Senior Nutrition & Wellness
Senior Home Delivered Meals
Smoking Cessation
Tax Prep Site
Transit Oriented Parking
Veteran's Services
Volunteerism
Youth Case Management & Cultural
Enrichment
Youth Employment
Youth Technology Training
Youth Violence Prevention

The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community as we advocate on behalf of our people and work to achieve social justice.

March 5, 2014

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
203 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Estimada Amiga Cathy,

Mil Gracias for all that you do for working families of the great state of Washington. We write to ask for your help in ensuring that families are kept together by way of passing comprehensive immigration reform.

El Centro de la Raza is a voice and a hub for Seattle and Martin Luther King Jr. County's Latino community as we advocate on behalf of our people and work to achieve social justice. Through our comprehensive programs and services, we empower members of the Latino community as fully participating members of society. We also work to raise awareness with the general public, and government, business and civic leaders about the needs of the Chicano/Latino community in the United States.

As you know, the Washington State Legislature recently passed the WA State Dream Act/Real Hope Act which will allow undocumented students the ability to apply for state grants and financial aid for college. This is a significant step forward for our state as the young people who will benefit from this legislation are the economic backbone of our future.

But this legislation is not enough long term. Ensuring that our youth have access to higher education is but one part of a larger issue...comprehensive immigration reform.

Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers, how can we make significant investments in the education of our young people without ensuring that they will be able to find jobs when they graduate? Without comprehensive immigration reform students who graduate from college will be restricted from working because of their legal status. This would force the state to squander its investment in our students as they would not be allowed to contribute to the economy and use their degrees here in our own state.

Attached you will find letters that were written by the children in the Jose Marti Child Development Center at El Centro de la Raza. The children have been learning about immigration reform and take an active role in speaking out and

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finding their voice. By writing letters they are not only developing socially/emotionally, fine motor skills and writing, they are also growing an awareness of important issues that face their communities. They ask for your help in bringing the necessary changes to keep their families together and believe that families should not be separated any longer because of a broken immigration system.

Don't throw away one of our most valuable investments. The state legislature has done its part, now we ask that the congress does its part in standing with our youth and families to keep us all united. Help us pass comprehensive immigration reform now.

If there is any way we can be of assistance please feel free to call on us.

Respetuosamente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Estela Ortega". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Estela Ortega
Executive Director