



PRESS KIT

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1) MISSION

Voces de la Frontera educates workers about their employment rights and organizes to protect and improve the quality of life for low-wage and immigrant workers. We promote grassroots leadership and community and workplace organizing as a strategy to achieve our goals.

2) ABOUT VOCES DE LA FRONTERA

Voces de la Frontera was established in 2001 as a Wisconsin-wide, membership-based organization. Voces has two offices – one in Milwaukee and one in Racine. It also has a student chapter called Students United for Immigrant Rights (SUFIR).

Campaigns and Civic Participation

Voces de la Frontera has been a regional and national leader in the campaign for comprehensive immigration reform. Voces organized three mass marches in 2006, totalling over 125,00 participants. The energy of these marches was later galvanized by a 'Voto Latino: Civic Participation Campaign' into a 32% increase in voter turnout in target wards in south Milwaukee and a 20% increase in Racine in November 2006.

On May 1, 2007, Voces held the second annual "A Day Without Latinos" where over 120 businesses closed and over 80,000 from around the state marched in Milwaukee – the largest ever march in Wisconsin.

Voces de la Frontera is currently engaged in a new civic participation campaign for the 2008 elections and is a national leader in organizing against the Department of Homeland Security's proposed 'No Match' rule.

Center Services

Voces' workers' centers provide a focal point for a range of services and workshops, with more held in community venues. Saturday legal clinics bring in lawyers to offer

free advice for workplace and immigration issues. Recent workshops have included 'Know Your Rights', 'Workplace Rights'. Voces also provides citizenship and English classes, plus referrals to community resources and agencies.

More at www.vdlf.org

3) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHRISTINE NEUMANN-ORTIZ



Christine Neumann-Ortiz is the founding Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera.

Ms. Neumann-Ortiz is recognized as a national leader in immigration reform, serving on the board of a national coalition of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) and featured in national interviews on NPR and CNN.

She serves on the board of the Wisconsin Legalization Coalition (representing 44 allied organizations in the State), Wisconsin Citizen Action board and Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice board. She has received community award recognitions from Labor Council for Latin American Advancement chapters in Milwaukee and Janesville, the 2006 "Do What is Just" Award from MICAH, the 2006 Public Service Award from the National Association of Social Workers – Wisconsin Chapter and the 2006 "Education: A Family Affair Award of Excellence", presented by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the State Department of Public Instruction and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and most recently the Equal Justice Medal by Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee. Ms. Neumann-Ortiz also writes a regular column in the local Spanish Journal.

Prior to directing Voces de la Frontera, Ms. Neumann-Ortiz served as the Coordinator of the High School Equivalency Program at Milwaukee Area Technical College, advancing migrant education in Wisconsin. Ms. Neumann-Ortiz also previously worked as Director of the Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and as Coordinator for of an Economic Development Project in the Printing Industry, supported by the Center for Community Change.

Ms. Neumann-Ortiz earned her Masters Degree in US/ Chicano History at the University of Texas- Austin and her Bachelor of Art degree in English at the University of Wisconsin- Madison.