



Voces de la Frontera  
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# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Voces de la Frontera is a membership-based community organization led by low-wage workers, immigrants and youth whose mission is to protect and expand civil rights and workers' rights through leadership development, community organizing and empowerment.

**VISION:** We strive to create a world where all people live free of poverty and discrimination, have access to safe, dignified work, quality education, and health care; where immigrants can cross borders with dignity; and human rights and workers' rights are respected; where government is truly "of the people", and all families thrive.

### Office Locations

#### Milwaukee

1027 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53204

\*Main Office\*

#### Racine

2100 Layard Ave. Racine, WI 53404

#### Madison

810 W. Badger Rd. Madison, WI 53713

#### Sheboygan

1104 Wisconsin Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53081

### Other Chapters (Voces presence and membership base but no office yet)

Manitowoc

Waukesha

Walworth County

### Contact information

Website: [vdlf.org](http://vdlf.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/vocesdelafrontera](https://facebook.com/vocesdelafrontera)

Twitter: [@voces\\_milwaukee](https://twitter.com/voces_milwaukee)

Instagram: [@voces\\_milwaukee](https://www.instagram.com/voces_milwaukee)

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**2017 BOARD MEMBERS:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Term</b>
Jose Flores	Co-President	2016-2018
Guadalupe Romero	Co-President	2016-2018
Ken Greening	Treasurer	2016-2018
Peter Rickman	Secretary	2016-2018
Kevin Ramirez	Student Officer – Milwaukee	2017-2019
Jennifer Levie	Teacher Representative	2015-2017
Ignacio Silva	Officer	2015-2017
Joanne Lange	Officer	2015-2017
Richard Saks	Officer	2016-2018
Peter Rickman	Officer	2016-2018
Jorge Islas	Officer	2016-2018
Lauro Bonilla	Officer	2016-2018
Jose Rivera	Student Officer – Racine	2017-2019
Christine Neumann-Ortiz	Staff: Executive Director	2016-2018

**2017 FULL TIME STAFF:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff since</b>
Christine Neumann-Ortiz	Executive Director	2005
Nancy Flores	Operations Director	2011
Juan Ruiz	Worker Center Coordinator	2007
Mario Ramirez	Lead Organizer	2013
Sam Singleton- Freeman	Communications Coordinator	2014
Valeria Ruiz Lira	Racine Organizer	2016
Cendi Trujillo	Milwaukee Youth Organizer	2016
Jennifer Estrada	Statewide Organizer	2017
Elliott Magers	Organizing Director	2017
Abril Moreno	Madison Organizer	2017
<i>Part time staff: 5</i>		

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**PROGRAMS:**

**Workers' centers** are community-based organizations that address the needs of immigrant and low-wage workers by taking up issues of exploitation and abuse. They educate workers about their employment rights and support the development of leadership skills. Centers also help direct workers to other organizations that may be able to offer support, such as labor unions, legal services, and Council for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) groups.

**In 2017 we assisted over 430 immigration/labor related cases**

**Legal Clinic:** At Voces de la Frontera we specialize in worker's rights and immigration matters. These are the legal services that we offered our members and the community:

- Saturday Legal Clinic: Assisted 312 people with free consultations
- Caminos Legal Clinic: Assisted 82 people with their DACA renewal, Permanent Resident card renewal and document translations
- Naturalization Services through our BIA-Accredited Representative: filled out 38 n-400's
- Referrals to other community organizations or attorneys

**English Classes** were offered for both beginner and advanced speakers on Mondays and Saturdays.

**Citizenship Classes** are offered at the Voces office on Saturdays and Wednesdays with bilingual instructors, a low cost for books, and a flexible schedule for students.

**Membership** In 2017 we had a total of 812 new and renewed members

**New Sanctuary Movement** is the faith based arm of our organization which assists people from the community on deportation case matters. This year the program helped over 60 families and accompanied over 42 people to court.

**Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES)** is the youth arm of our organization where students from middle school, and high school come together to advocate for issues that pertain to youth of all backgrounds with a focus on immigrant youth.

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**CAMPAIGNS:** In 2017 we focused on the following campaigns

### **No 287g in any Wisconsin counties**

For this campaign we started in the County of Milwaukee. In early 2017 it was known that then Sheriff Clarke was trying to implement this program in Milwaukee. The 287g program would allow county sheriff's to be deputized and take on immigration authorities. We quickly got the word out about this grave threat to our community and people began to mobilize others. After much deliberation and meetings with our members, we voted to hold a general strike: a day without Latinos and immigrants and have a mass mobilization against 287g in Milwaukee. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 we had over 50,000 people march in Milwaukee to oppose the 287g program. Months later we were able to declare a victory as this program was withdrawn and the Sheriff stepped down from office. While this was a victory, the program is moving forward in Waukesha County, which is where we currently have a campaign to stop the program.

### **Protections for undocumented students**

In the spring of 2017 our student arm led efforts to secure protections for undocumented students who attend public schools. By the passage of this resolution, students don't have to fear that immigration will come get them at their school.

### **Push Back against Anti-immigrant legislation at the state level:**

This year much like in 2016, we were pushing back on state legislation that would criminalize immigrants and increase deportations in Wisconsin. We attended several hearings to oppose SB 275 and have been organizing in key districts to ensure that we have members support and awareness on the severity of this issue.

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**2017 INCOME & EXPENSES:**

In 2017, Voces de la Frontera operated with a budget of \$785,000.

<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Individual Contributions	119,290.40
Business Contributions	9,277.50
Giving Campaigns	9,251.33
Grants Revenue	635,122.21
Federal Grants	37,492.88
Special Event Revenue	49,264.43
Membership Fees	13,660.07
Fee for Service	6,650.82
Other Income	114,796.09
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>994,805.73</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Payroll Expenses	419,117.90
Contract Services	104,515.50
Operations	74,531.98
Facilities and Equipment	49,301.65
Travel & Meetings	150,624.46
Business Expenses	25,692.23
Other Expenses	32,552.02
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>856,335.74</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>138,469.99</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
Pass Through Grants Revenue	66,006.63
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>66,006.63</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>	
Pass Through Grants Expense	67,595.63
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>67,595.63</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-1,589.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>136,880.99</b>

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