

~HOPE

~PERSEVERANCE

~GRATITUDE

2017

Year in Review

El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center



# Reflecting on 2017

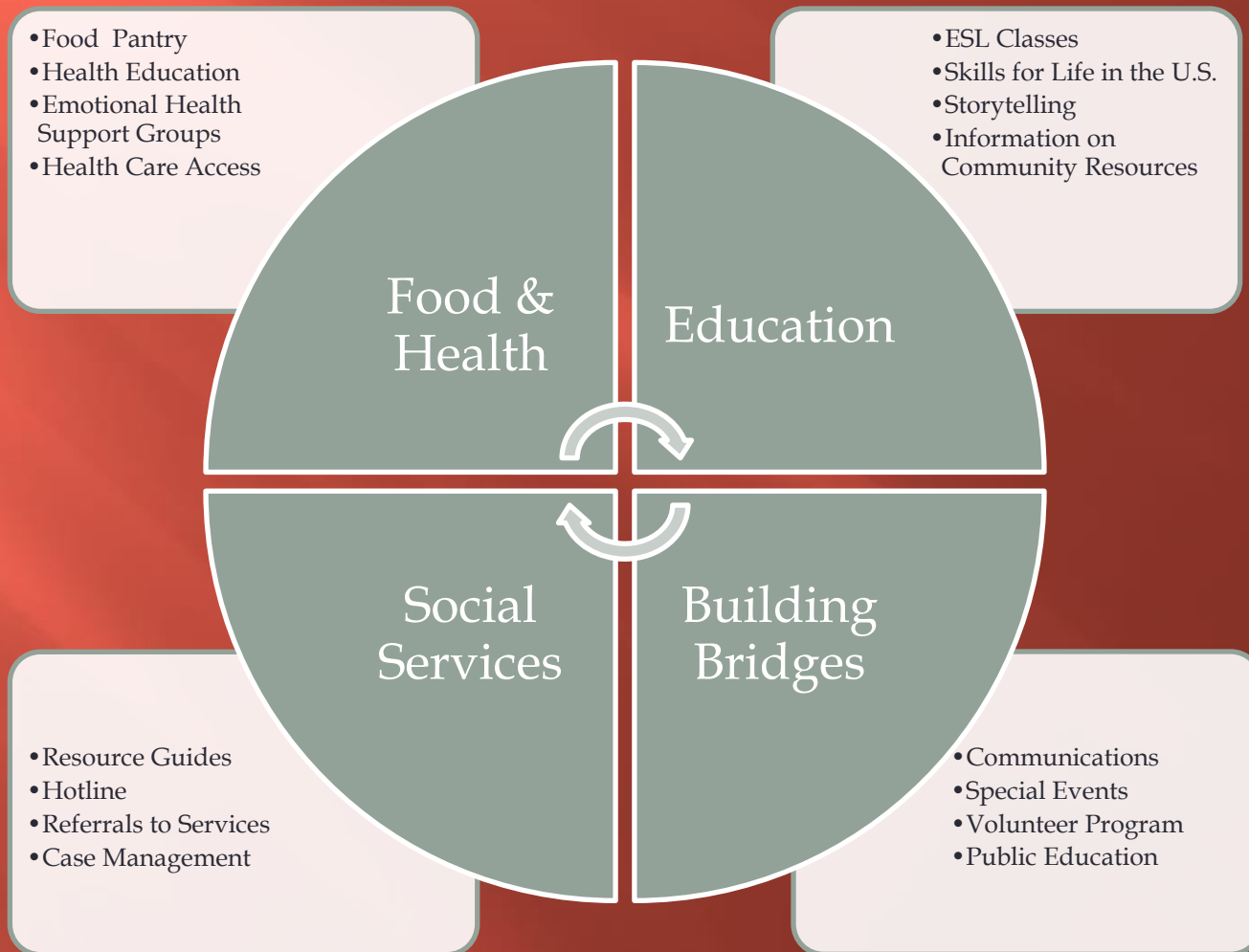
El Zócalo continues to grow our services and programs, rooted in compassionate listening and relationships with the local immigrant community we serve. This year we created spaces for quality information sharing, collective support and skillsbuilding while changes in our nation brought great concern to our community. Our clients continue to demonstrate hope and perseverance, and we express deep gratitude to all who supported our work this year.

# Our Mission

- ▣ To promote a dignified life for immigrants in Arkansas through connecting families with resources and services and fostering community-wide understanding through education



# Our Programs & Services



# Health Education

With changing diet, lifestyle, and stress levels, immigrants have high occurrences of diabetes and other diseases. During our food pantry we provide nutritious groceries and culturally appropriate education on the topics of...

- ▣ Nutrition
- ▣ Gardening
- ▣ Fitness
- ▣ Health Care Access
- ▣ Dental Care
- ▣ Emotional Health



68 people participated  
in 20 workshops in 2017

# Emotional Health

Due to client request for programs to support emotional health, El Zócalo began offering peer-based and culturally-informed support groups and life coaching services, serving 67 people this year



Common experiences that impact immigrant mental health....

Pre-Migration

- “Push factors”
- Poverty, Violence, Natural Disasters

Migration

- Difficulties in migration process
- Experiences with Immigration Detention

Post-Migration

- Stress of learning to live in a new society with a new language
- Home sickness for family and loved ones
- Poverty, neighborhood crime, and lack of stability
- Continued fear and stress with immigration system
- Challenges in achieving initial dreams for life in a new country

# Health Care Access

- ▣ Through our referral and case management services, we...
  - Directly advocate for clients to get the health care they need
  - Provide language support to promote and ensure quality communication with health care providers
  - Provide information about community resources and assistance finding and making medical appointments and ensuring wraparound services.

# English as a Second Language

- ❑ Weekly ESL classes are offered at our space in Little Rock and in the under-served community of Jacksonville, Arkansas
- ❑ In addition to language, our classes serve as hubs for skills-building and information



79 students participated

Thank you to the Esther D. Nixon Library for their partnership with our Jacksonville Class



# E.S.L.

## English & Skills for Life

El Zócalo layers our ESL classes with practical skills-building for life in the United States with role play and conversation practice, reading and writing exercises with real-life materials and practical information on U.S. systems and local resources

This year we taught courses in...

- ▣ Parent & Family Literacy
- ▣ Financial Literacy
- ▣ Civics

Curriculum is being developed in...

- ▣ Health Literacy
- ▣ Job Skills

Classes were taught at El Zócalo, in churches and libraries, serving 118 people

# Parent & Family Literacy



Teaching tools to help parents help their children succeed in school...

- Learning activities to do at home that reinforce learning and language acquisition
- Helping parents know how to navigate and communicate with the school system as partners in the child's education
- Support parents with creative, and culturally-aware discipline techniques for the home
- ▣ Taught 3 Parent and Family Literacy courses serving 33 families.

# Civics & Family Preparedness

- ▣ Educating families to gain needed protections and understand civic processes in their new country
  - Taught a Family Preparedness course, providing 21 immigrants with tools, knowledge and language to be prepared for possible changes in the immigration system that may effect their families.
  - Taught a Civics course informing students of local, state and national political systems, laws, history and English language instruction to interact effectively with these systems.

# Financial Literacy

- ▣ Informative sessions, courses and individual consultations that teach immigrants practical financial literacy skills for managing household budgets, using a bank account, making large purchases and managing credit/debit
- ▣ Through a partnership with the Consulate, we opened a Ventanilla de Asesoría Financiera to provide weekly financial literacy services and education.



# Immigrant Family Advocates

- ▣ Provide information and connections, advocating for immigrants to obtain the services and resources they need.
- ▣ 40 families received in-depth, one-on-one assistance, navigation and advocacy.
- ▣ We also formed a committee of awesome community social service providers and El Zócalo to reshape and build our client advocacy services focusing on deep impact and life changing results!



# Building Bridges

- ▣ We continue to honor the part of our mission to promote community-wide understanding through education, by providing quality information and storytelling about the immigrant experience.

# Tacos & Tianguis



- ▣ Hundreds of people attended our annual event. This year all profits benefitted our clients, Financial Literacy students and immigrant artisans in their entrepreneurial pursuits.



# Sharing Our Story

Through empowerment perspectives and informed consent, we shared stories of our work and the people we serve.

- ▣ Collecting and sharing stories in our e-newsletter
- ▣ Creating a video about a family, their needs, struggles, dreams & achievements
- ▣ El Latino newspaper featured our Tacos & Tianguis project as a cover story.
- ▣ We were invited to speak and be the recipients of an offering at the Community Easter Sunrise Service



# Posada

- ▣ We ended the year with the traditional Latin American posada celebration with delicious food and toys for children. Thanks to donations from Bank of America, and individuals.



# Thank you to our supporters

- ▣ We were able to sustain our work economically through
- ▣ Grants from...
  - Blue and You Foundation to support food and health programs,
  - IME Becas to support English and skills classes
  - Dollar General Literacy Foundation for classes
  - The Summer Foundation
- ▣ Church contributions from...
  - Second Presbyterian Church
  - Pulaski Heights Methodist
- ▣ Organizational contributions from...
  - Interfaith Arkansas
  - Mexican Consulate of Little Rock
  - America's Toothfairy: National Children's Oral Health Foundation
- ▣ Business contributions from...
  - Dave's Retreats
  - Bank of America
- ▣ Individual contributions from many generous community members



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO DONATED,  
VOLUNTEERED &  
SUPPORTED OUR WORK!





EL  
ZÓCALO