

La Voz de La Conexión



August 2021

La Voz, a Spanish term for “the voice,” is the monthly news digest for La Conexión and the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee (LC-ISC). The LC-ISC is a project of La Conexión to build solidarity and support to the local immigrant community in the community at-large.

Connect with us on Facebook

Like the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date events and local and national news. Information about the La Conexión organization is provided on their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

La Conexión News

La Conexión Opens New Office

One of our goals this year was to open our first office. After spending time looking at commercial rental prices, we thought that goal was going to be unattainable. This changed after a conversation with Pastor David Montgomery of the First Presbyterian Church. The First Presbyterian Church once again extended its generosity and solidarity to us. They offered to rent us one of their office spaces on the second floor for a very low fee that includes internet and utilities. We said yes! The moving started already. Our new Assistant Director Torrie Ruiz will start on August 9 and will be working out of this office. Feel free to schedule a time to stop by to meet Torrie and see our new office!



Members of La Conexión outside the First Presbyterian Church BG

Agricultural Workers: Essential Workers with No Rights

We are very happy to report the completion of the relief funds distribution for agricultural workers and their families. The funds were awarded for a second year in a row to La Conexión by Hispanics in Philanthropy and Justice for Migrant Women. The funds benefit agricultural workers who were not eligible for government Covid relief funds, even though they are considered essential workers. We were able to assist 262 families with \$200 visa cards and \$100 store gift cards, impacting an estimated number of 1,048 individuals. Funds were particularly useful for migrant workers arriving in NW Ohio without much capital to get them through their first paycheck. This assistance provided the basics for them to sustain their families until their first pay day. It is also a good opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with the workers and provide basic know-your-rights education. We are so honored to have them in Ohio, and so ashamed that Congress still does not recognize them as persons with basic civic and human rights. Certain members of Congress continue to block bills that have been introduced to provide a path to legal residency to essential workers, agricultural workers, Dreamers and other individuals who are unable to obtain USA documentation because of the Congress blockage. These members of Congress need to know that their own voters support immigration reform. Please contact us if you would like to support our campaign demanding permanent residency rights for essential workers and their families. You can also [Donate](#) to sustain this campaign via Facebook or by mailing a check to **La Conexión POB 186, BG, OH 43402**.



SAVE THE DATE! Our Beloved Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration Is Coming Back This Year

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE & SUPPORT LA CONEXIÓN



SAVE THE DATE:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2ND
6PM to Midnight
Junior Fair Building
Wood County Fairgrounds

After cancelling in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, our beloved event returns this year!

Join us in celebrating with friends, food, and music by Los Hermanos Villegas.

The La Conexión Board has voted to hold our much awaited annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month this year. The event will take place on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at the Junior Fair Building of the Wood County Fairgrounds, and will run from 6 pm to midnight. Music will be provided by Los Hermanos Villegas. The event is free but donations are encouraged to help us cover the cost of the event. The beloved event had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid crisis. We will continue monitoring the situation and consider all safety precautions as advised by the CDC. We will share news about the event in the upcoming months.

National and International News

News

“Biden says 'remains to be seen' if immigration measure part of wider budget bill,”

In mid-July, a U.S. district judge sided with states suing to end DACA, arguing that the program was created illegally. President Biden vowed to preserve DACA and to create pathways to citizenship for more immigrants, but the Democrats have yet to decide whether these measures will be included in the upcoming \$3.5 trillion budget plan.

“Biden releases 21-point immigration plan amid bipartisan criticism,” *The Hill*

The plan includes the controversial expedited removal process, which allows border officials to quickly determine whether migrants caught entering the country are eligible for asylum (more on this policy elsewhere in the newsletter). The plan makes no mention of Title 42, a Trump-era policy that allows border officials to expel migrants “under the guise of coronavirus pandemic sanitary protections” (minors are an exception); the Biden administration still allows for these removals. The official blueprint can be found [here](#).