

This image is part of the art project "Working Makes Me Important" taking place at the Martin Luther King Worker Center in Northeast Portland. Four similar images will be turned into murals this summer, and the project participants are looking for walls that could accommodate a mural of about 12 x 10 feet in buildings with good street visibility. If you own or occupy a building (or know of someone who does) that will be a good place for one of these murals please contact Patricia Vazquez at 360 485 9981 or patricia.vazq@gmail.com.

DREAMERS, from page 5

how homeless teens needed shoes and many families needed to learn about the paths to citizenship that were open to them. He also became aware of how many Latino families were living paycheck to paycheck, with no investments.

He said with the current political climate, there is a fear deportations could increase at any moment.

If an executive order came down making any minor violation grounds for deportation, he said, because of Oregon's ban on driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, anyone who drives could be at risk for deportation.

"If they get stopped by the police, they get arrested, and because of Secure Communities, their information is handed over to ICE," he said. "It's a fear that we're living in, because at any point we could get stopped by a police officer for a broken taillight."

His mother often drives from Salem to Canby and Aurora, where she cleans houses. Being Latina and driving through affluent white neighborhoods has resulted in multiple calls to police over the years, with neighbors reporting her vehicle as suspicious.

With no license, she has been arrested and detained multiple times, he said, and the fines, "they stack up with three kids."

He recently traveled to Salem to tell lawmakers about his mother's experiences getting pulled over for being Latina in a white neighborhood in an effort to persuade them to support House Bill 2355, which would require the state to develop a method for recording data on officer-initiated pedestrian and traffic stops.

He was there as a Causa volunteer, along with several mothers who had their small children in tow.

The mothers were lobbying for House Bill 2726, known as "Cover All Kids," which would extend health care coverage to the more than 17,000 undocumented children who are currently excluded from Oregon Health Plan.

Neither bill has yet come up for a vote. Fátima said Joseluis motivated her to

do well in school and pursue her goals. "His passion to give back and serve others is inspiring," she said. "He has a huge heart and always finds a way to make me laugh when I am feeling down or upset about something."

Today, Joseluis is living in Portland and majoring in communications at Warner Pacific College. He's also working two jobs, at United Parcel Service Inc., which is helping him pay for college, and at Five Guys on the weekends. He still finds time to advocate for immigrant rights.

Despite the political climate and the risks their families face on a day-to-day basis, Fátima, Manuel and Joseluis are focused on the future.

"We made it, right?" Fátima said with a smile.

She still isn't sure where the money for the rest of her education is coming from, but she seems confident she'll find a way.

In the meantime, all three are determined to make Oregon a better place for undocumented immigrants through their advocacy work.

They "worked tirelessly" to register their community to vote this past election, said Marquez, advocacy and civic engagement coordinator at Causa. Now she said they are focused on preparing and educating the community about deportations and "against attacks."

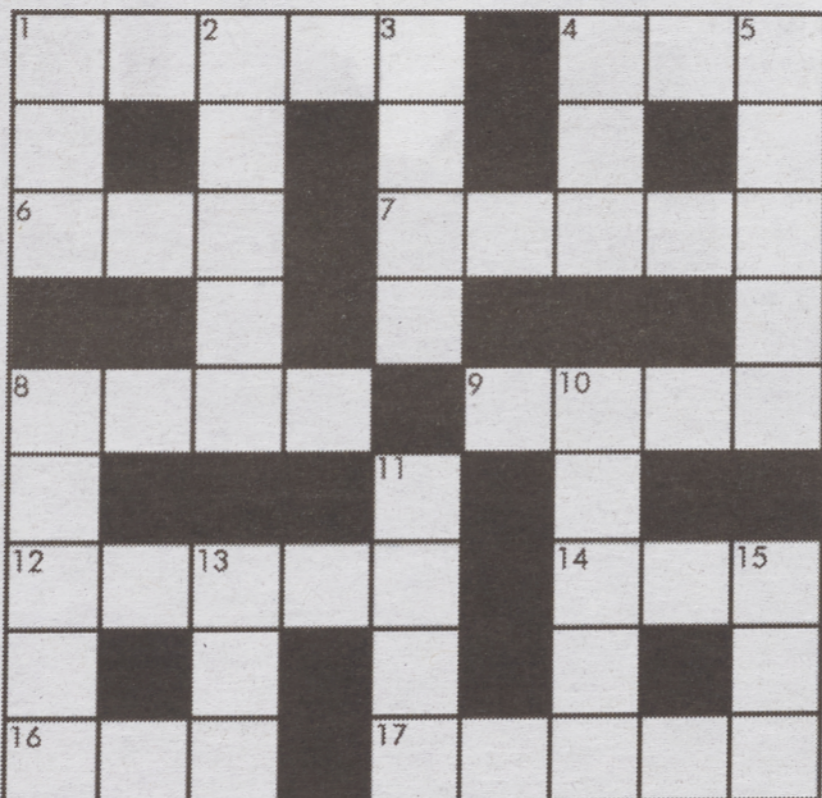
Joseluis said recent marches and protests show that "people's hearts are in the right place," but he said the real test of whether Oregon is a place that supports immigrants will come when the driving privileges for undocumented immigrants comes up for a vote again.

He said lawmakers have a chance now to at least give equity to undocumented children by passing Cover All Kids.

While Dreamers have gotten a lot of attention lately, it's their parents who really need the support of the community right now, Joseluis said.

"I'm an optimist about the future and our generation," he said, "and if they do deport us, then we're going to make Mexico amazing."

VOODOO DOUGHNUT CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Fermentation agent
4. Have a bite
6. Tree fluid
7. Cake ingredient
8. Three-ply cookie
9. Hook's henchman
12. Ground grain
14. The gift of ___
16. Tease or ridicule
17. Francis or Kevin?

DOWN

1. Affirmative!
2. Type of fritter
3. Analyze or try
4. Cake ingredient
5. Tres
8. Deal
10. Potter's practice
11. Nosh!
13. Late rapper; abbr.
15. ___ appétit

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