

Farmworker

by Juanita Rivera Laush

I am on my knees,
In church, my spirit kneels before God.
On the border I crouch,
At the mercy of patrols: Mexican, American.
In the fields, I stoop to harvest,
Feeding the world abundantly,
My family barely.

I struggle to
Survive in migrant camps,
Overcome the indignities of filth, poverty
Find a voice in another language,
Be heard by land owners, lawmakers,
Improve the lives of my children, my people,
Restore my pride.

I work,
My family works together in fields,
At home, on our own farms,
Sometimes a country and a culture away,
Money earned by all, shared by those in need.
Work is a way of life,
Giving pride, independence, self-worth.

I have been brave,
A military hero in revolutions, wars.
Often a brave woman, equal, by my side,
In combat for causes, crusades, conquests,
Fighting for Spain, Mexico, America.
Facing countrymen to elect leaders
Respectful of the people's needs.

I am rising
Education pulls my mind from slavery,
Bids me stand taller,
Sending my sights above the fields,
Learning, being helped by others
Into positions that can change my life.
Enrich my children's lives.

I am emerging,
Ancestry no longer hidden,
Cultural truth told with ethnic pride,
Roots that boast kings, presidents, artists,
Draw strength and dignity from peasants.
My race a blend of Indian, Spaniard, Mexican
Impressed upon my proud brown face.

I rejoice in
The colors of my life
Woven into beautiful serapes
Worn in contrast to brown skin, black hair.
Murals painted on adobe walls,
Rainbows thrown on simple altars
By sun through stained glass windows.

I enjoy
The music of my culture,
Rich with strings, sharp with trumpets.
It brings tears with sad ballads,
Pageantry with parading bands,
Patriotism with songs of heroism and valor,
Passion with lyrics of love.

I celebrate
Happiness of church feast days,
Warmth of hospitality with food, laughter,
Radiance of bride and bridegroom
Dancing amid families and friends,
A baptized baby's cry,
Wonderous smiles of mother and father.

I am optimistic
About elevation of my people
With endurance, work, creativity, ability.
Dreams pull me up.
I rise, no longer stooping in the fields.
I stand tall, looking forward, upward,
With faith in manana and God's will.

Need health insurance?

CareOregon's goMobile Team makes it easy for you to get dental, mental and physical health care under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Our community partners host us on these dates, where we can check your eligibility for OHP, enroll you in Medicaid/OHP and make your doctor appointments!

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

CAREOREGON

315 SW 5th Ave, Portland
▶ July 11..... 9-11 a.m.
▶ July 18..... 9-11 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland
July 3..... 9-11 a.m.
July 10..... 9-11 a.m.
July 17..... 9-11 a.m.
July 24..... 9-11 a.m.
July 31..... 9-11 a.m.

HOME FORWARD RESOURCE FAIR

16126 SE Stark St, Portland
July 19..... 3:30-7 p.m.

JOIN

1435 NE 81st Ave, Suite 100
Portland
July 12..... 12-2 p.m.

MOUNT HOOD FARMERS MARKET

38600 Proctor Blvd, Sandy
July 13..... 3-7 p.m.
July 20..... 3-7 p.m.

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

111 W Burnside, Portland
July 12..... 8-10 a.m.
July 26..... 8-10 a.m.

**ROSEWOOD FAMILY INIATIVE
HEALTH CENTER FAIR**

8935 SE Powell Blvd, Portland
July 26..... 1-5 p.m.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3 NW 3rd, Portland
▶ July 24..... 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

BEAVERTON LIBRARY

12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton
July 11..... 1-3 p.m.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

6701 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro
July 27..... 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

NEW!

▶ SNAP Assistance available at these locations

For information, or to host our team, call Tamara at 503-416-1479 or Caleb at 503-416-4883.

careoregon.org/gomobile



CareOregon
goMobile team