

ANNUAL REPORT

20

A YEAR OF
GROWTH & RESILIENCE

23



LATINO UNION OF CHICAGO



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From the Desk of Miguel Alvelo Rivera

Dear Friends and Community Members

2023 has been a year of struggles and advancements for the Latino Union and the migrant labor movement in Chicago and the United States. Within the Latino Union, we've re-energized our base and returned to the roots of our principles by leading efforts, campaigns, and supporting our base at the intersection of immigration and labor. After months of negotiation and struggle, our labor coalition successfully expanded Paid Time Off to 10 days every year for workers in Chicago. But this battle is far from over. Next year, the focus will be on developing and securing portable benefits for contracted workers. This new phase is vital to ensure that everyone, regardless of their work, has access to fundamental labor rights. The fight also continues for every worker to know their rights and for those rights to be respected.

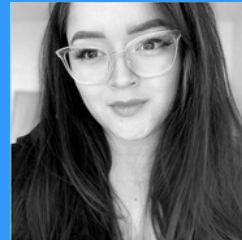
Amidst these advancements, we've faced heart-wrenching challenges. U.S. racist policies persist in dividing and displacing thousands of migrant families. In Chicago, thousands of families have encountered an inadequate support system, leaving them without formal connections to meet basic needs like housing, employment, and food. Nevertheless, amid these challenges, we've maintained unwavering determination. The Latin Union has tirelessly worked to foster collaboration and solidarity among all workers, regardless of their time in the community. As we look to the future, let's remember that our fight is for equality, justice, and dignity for all working communities. We'll continue working tirelessly to overcome challenges, building bridges of support and solidarity to create a world where everyone can live in peace and every individual can secure well-paid, secure, and dignified work without fear or exploitation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Alvelo Rivera'.

Miguel Alvelo Rivera
Executive Director, Latino Union of Chicago

Getting it done Meet our team



Top row: Miguel Alvelo Rivera (Executive Director), Mauricio Huertas (Director of Development and Communications), Evelyn Vargas (Organizing Director)
Middle row: Lety Tellez (Household Worker Organizer), Alondra Jara (Labor Organizer), Harold De Jesus (Day Laborer Organizer)
Bottom Row: Duley Voltaire (Albany Park Workers' Center Coordinator), Raquel Corchado (Operations Manager)

A Message from A Member

Dear friends,

Domestic work is care work. In my time as a caregiver, I've found that it's uniquely rooted in love and affection. I've felt that love in all of the children I've been charged to care for, in all of the houses I've helped keep clean, and whenever someone's home and loved ones have been entrusted to my care. Household workers are special in how we are asked to maintain the health and dignity of some of the most vulnerable members of our families while still looking out for the people who call us mom, dad, aunt, uncle, son, or daughter. I feel truly blessed to be able to do this work as part of my profession.

Latino Union of Chicago is founded and moved by this same love and affection. This is why I joined. We lead with love through the workshops that we coordinate to share our knowledge with other household workers. Other times, it's through involvement in campaigns like this year's expansion of paid time off to include all workers in the city of Chicago, a benefit whose denial has subjected us to the cruel irony of having to take care of other people's families without having the opportunity to take the time necessary to take care of our own. And, sometimes, it's in the act of having a space to come to for solace and solidarity in life's lowest moments. With your support, Latino Union can continue to grow to meet the needs of our community. I'm grateful to count myself as part of this movement; will you join me?



Beatriz Tlaolini

Household worker, Board Member at Latino Union



Day Laborers



2023 saw a bit of change to our work with the jornaleros at Chicago's corner hiring sites. We said goodbye to some of our long term staff, who forged bonds with many of the workers that seek jobs at parking lots across the city, in June. At the same time, we welcomed hundreds of new workers to hiring sites as the city saw a surge in the arrival of new neighbors from Latin America and the Caribbean. We continue to dive into the work of developing relationships between existing jornaleros, newly arrived jornaleros, and our organizing team.

Labor Organizing



This year saw the culmination of a two year campaign to recover a worker's wages through the Illinois Department of Labor. Critically, IDOL awarded the worker a 260% increase in the amount owed. We've also taken the lead in making sure that newly arriving migrants are aware of their rights in the workplace as they start earning incomes to maintain their new homes. This has also meant the development of new tools to streamline Latino Union's process of opening new cases with workers.

Empowering Workers, Driving Results



Together, we won expanded paid time off for all workers in Chicago



Gratitude In Collaboration

This year has been a cornucopia of collaboration and community. At the start of the year, we set about updating our mission and vision statements, forging a new path forward within our work. In doing so, we engaged forty five of our community members to solicit input and guidance about what they wanted our organization to stand for. As the summer went on, we began to engage with our new neighbors, the migrants who were being brought to Chicago with no sense of direction or concrete plan of support. And finally, as the year began winding down, we helped secure the passage of one of the most expansive paid time off requirements in the nation, one that includes household workers and day laborers as covered employees. We couldn't do all of this work without the support of our partner worker centers, allied unions, and supportive members of the business and nonprofit communities.

Most critically, we could not have done it without the support of everyday people like you. You made calls to legislators to urge them to respect the rights of immigrant workers and enshrine those rights in our laws. You petitioned in support of recovering wages from unscrupulous employers. You gave your time, talent, and energy to make sure that our work could move forward. For that, we are eternally grateful. If you're able, we would love to count on your monetary support. If not, we hope that you find other ways to keep standing as par of our movement in Chicago, Illinois, and the greater workers' rights network.


Mauricio Huertas
Director of Development
and Communications

GIVE TO OUR END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN BY SCANNING BELOW



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