

Nueva Vida

The Resurrection Project e-Newsletter



Comcast Cares 2013
The economic impact
of immigration reform
Immigrant children stand up





Nueva Vida

The Resurrection Project e-Newsletter



From the desk of Raul...

Immigration reform will make Americans prosper!

Dear friends and supporters,

As many of you know, The Resurrection Project (TRP) has been on the front lines fighting for comprehensive immigration reform for years. Momentum is finally building towards addressing this very important issue for our nation,

but we cannot take anything for granted. Our organizers have taken to the community and local churches giving voice to leaders in the community, including our children, who are affected by our broken immigration system.

For me, immigration reform has never just been a moral or social justice issue: it has economic implications as well. According to a report released by the Immigration Policy Council in January 2010, comprehensive immigration reform will generate an annual increase in U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of at least 0.84 percent, which amounts to \$1.5 trillion in additional GDP over 10 years. It also will boost wages, spurring local economic growth and investment. This infographic also demonstrates the tremendous impact comprehensive immigration reform will have on our national economy. We need reform that not only represents our values as a nation, but that represents the changing needs of our economy—an economy that is craving investment.

As a Co-Chair of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition (IBIC), I am working across business sectors, across political divides, and together with immigrant advocates to enact common-sense reform that provides access to both the high-skilled and low-skilled talent that we need to sustain our global competitiveness. IBIC is recruiting small businesses and their leaders to pledge their support for common-sense immigration reform. I truly believe that immigration reform is no longer an option; it's a necessity for our local economies to once again prosper. We need to stop destroying the social fabric that has made this country great, and build on its legacy as a nation of immigrants.

Sincerely,

Raul Raymundo
CEO, The Resurrection Project

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The Economic Impact of Immigration Reform

There are **11 million** undocumented immigrants in the United States

Providing legal residency and a path to citizenship to **11 million** people **now** can raise the pace of economic growth and improve the U.S. economy over the next 10 years.

+0.9%
gross
domestic
product

\$1,700
per capita
income

\$2.5
trillion
federal deficit
reduction

Immigration reform will generate **prosperity**

\$1.5
TRILLION

Reform will cause job creation and revenues to soar; increasing our gross domestic product to \$1.5 trillion in the next decade.

\$470
BILLION

All Americans will see a spike in their earnings, collectively expected to reach \$470 billion over the next 10 years.

\$392
BILLION

New residents will experience a dramatic increase in their earnings, approximating \$392 billion in just one decade.

\$109
BILLION

Federal, state, and local government will see a \$109 billion projected increase in tax revenue over the next 10 years.

Reform replaces fear with hope for all **families**

400k
PEOPLE



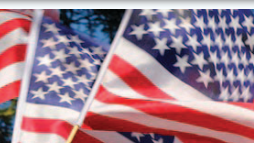
Families can live without fears as reform could halt 400,000 deportations per year.

121k
JOBS



Economic growth will increase job creation and economic stability for all Americans at a rate of 121,000 jobs annually.

\$180
BILLION



Government is bound to save \$180 billion on immigration control over the next decade.

Sources:

Migration Policy Institute
www.migrationpolicy.org

Pew Hispanic Center
www.pewhispanic.org

Immigration Policy Center
www.immigrationpolicy.org

Center for American Progress
www.americanprogress.org


THE RESURRECTION PROJECT
Building Relationships! Creating Healthy Communities!
WWW.RESURRECTIONPROJECT.ORG

A dream come true for two new homeowners, a positive change for an entire neighborhood

Story and photo by Diana Hinojosa

The purchase of a first home can be a daunting task for any couple. Such was the case for Jesse Iniguez and Claudia Guzman, who were on the verge of giving up on the idea after a hard struggle.

They'd been told by one organization that their debt-to-income ratio did not meet their requirements. They sought help from another non-profit organization but it also proved a dead end.

"There were always issues," says Claudia, issues that put the dream of buying a home on the back burner seemingly for good.

But then Jesse and Claudia heard about The Resurrection Project's (TRP) step-by-step home purchase program at an outreach meeting. It was there that they began to believe that, this time, they would finally be able to find a decent, affordable home and qualify for a loan.

TRP's home purchase program is designed to help people become successful, long-term homeowners by providing financial literacy and debt reduction strategies, and then taking them through the process of looking for a home, applying for a fixed-rate mortgage, and closing on a new home. TRP staff started Jesse and Claudia off with free financial counseling that allowed them to reduce their debt so that they would qualify for a home loan. Jesse and Claudia were then offered the option of purchasing one of the homes TRP has rehabilitated in Back of the Yards. The couple reached out to TRP in June of last year, and by March of this year, their dream came true: they had the keys to their new home.

Today, they are ecstatic about their home, which has been completely rehabbed and boasts an updated layout as well as new hardwood floors throughout. They purchased the home for \$135,000, with a monthly mortgage of \$1,000 and the added income of a downstairs rental unit. "The nice thing about the program," says Jesse, "is that it doesn't set you up for failure. It ensures that you will not be placed in a position where you are



The Resurrection Project coached Jesse Iniguez and Claudia Guzman on how to become homeowners. Today they are the proud owners of a Resurrection Project home.

susceptible to losing your home. Now we can even save. That way we are not working only to pay the mortgage."

Jesse and Claudia have become part of the positive changes happening throughout Back of the Yards. "The change in the neighborhood is becoming more evident," says Jesse. "Before, gangs were more prevalent in the area."

Jesse graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago with a B.A in Psychology and Latino Studies, and his wife Claudia received her Master of Science from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. So as more professionals like them begin investing in the area where they grew up, the Back of the Yards neighborhood is reaching a turning point.

"There is more leadership, and more people taking ownership of the neighborhood," says Jesse. "People are doing more to improve their lives. There are more youth programs too. We have been fighting for a high school for the last 20 years, and now we're getting one because of organizations like The Resurrection Project that work with

others to finally get it done."

Today, Jesse and Claudia are happy to have a place where their five-year-old daughter and their dog can run and play freely in their own backyard. They have already settled in as active members of their community.

"Before living here, I never lived in a place where there was a sense of community," says Claudia. "There are roots here. I want to set an example. Being successful doesn't mean making money and then leaving. Some of us need to stay behind to change the neighborhood."

Together, Jesse and Claudia put in service requests for graffiti removal and pothole repairs. Jesse also volunteers as a leadership trainer and is part of a committee for a unified Back of the Yards. He hopes that TRP continues to do the work they are doing.

"If more people benefit from TRP's home purchase program," he says, "we stand to benefit too because it helps to stabilize the community. You're getting home owners who are actually going to live here, not just purchase a property to flip it."



TRP and IHDA help homebuyers at the first State of Illinois Homebuyer Expo

Story by Alex Morales

Photo by Rodrigo Carrillo

TRP took part in IHDA's first annual homebuyer expo to help local families realize their dreams of owning a home.

On Saturday March 23, 2013, The Resurrection Project (TRP) participated in the State of Illinois' Homebuyer Expo that took place at the Illinois Institute of Technology campus. Organized by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the event offered a variety of loan solutions that combined affordable mortgages and as much as \$10,000 in down payment and closing costs assistance for first-time homebuyers.

The Homebuyer Expo was created to help families understand the options available to them as prospective homebuyers, and of the products and services that could help them achieve their dreams. Buying a home helps a family build wealth, but it also benefits the local economy. For example, according to the Illinois Association of Realtors, 500 homes purchased supports 250 full-time jobs and generates almost \$20 million in economic activity.

TRP was excited to take part in this

first-time event, since helping families buy quality homes is a key component of our work to create healthy communities. Through our Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) work in Back of the Yards, TRP has rehabilitated foreclosed properties into quality homes for sale at below-market prices for low- and moderate-income families. In addition, our TRP home purchase courses are a one-stop-shop that offers the financial education to help families learn how to become long-term homeowners, and the professional real estate brokerage services to help them find and purchase the home of their dreams.

Approximately 130 families who attended the Homebuyer Expo are now on the path to homeownership. After pre-qualifying for safe and affordable mortgage products and down payment and closing cost assistance, the next step for these families is to find their dream home. The good news is that this is a great time to start looking for that new home. The Illinois Association of

Realtors highlights a 31% increase in home sales when compared to 2012 numbers. The increase is a good indicator that consumer confidence is improving and families are ready to invest in the purchase of a home—and that the state's economic recovery is advancing.

"This is the right time for families to take advantage of sustainable good mortgages, and cash assistance for qualified first-time homebuyers," says Rodrigo Carrillo, TRP's Financial Services manager. "The economy is recovering, and as consumer confidence increases, more families gear up to make their dreams of homeownership a reality."

TRP is grateful to IHDA for hosting a very successful Homebuyer Expo, and is ready to help area families become successful homeowners. For more information about our TRP Realty and home purchase program, please contact us at 312-666-1323.



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1714 W. 51st St., Chicago

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Fully Remodeled Homes for Sale



- Full rehab- new electrical, plumbing & mechanicals

- Free appliances

- Up to \$10,000 subsidy to bring down loan amount

- Must qualify based on income



TRP CEO Raul Raymundo joined Mayor Emanuel and local leaders to announce the launch of a very special coalition.

Illinois business leaders join Mayor Emanuel and others in support of immigration reform

Story by Ulises Silva

Photo by Jan Terry

How big of an impact would integrating 11 million undocumented immigrants into the national economy have? Big enough that a group of bipartisan business leaders, business groups, trade associations, and immigrant rights groups came together to form the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition (IBIC) to aggressively push both parties of Congress to pass common sense immigration reform. IBIC officially announced its formation on April 2, 2013 at a press event with Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Doug Oberhelman, Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar, Inc., a Fortune 500® company headquartered in Illinois.

“Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue,” said Mayor Emanuel at the event. “It’s time to put partisanship aside and focus on the economic contributions that immigrants have made through our history in building our urban centers and strengthening our economy.”

IBIC is making the strong case that comprehensive immigration reform will provide a vital influx of both high-skilled and low-skilled talent necessary to keep American companies competitive.

“Providing consistent, reliable access to both high-skilled and low-skilled talent,” said Mr. Oberhelman, “is critical to sustain our nation’s global competitiveness in many industries including healthcare, technology, manufacturing, hospitality, and tourism. We need reform that will provide opportunities for immigrants and

foreign students to enter the U.S. and our workforce legally, attracting and keeping the best, the brightest, and the hard working.”

IBIC made an even stronger case that integrating 11 million undocumented immigrants will have a real boon on the national economy. According to a study released by the Immigration Policy Center and Center for American Progress, comprehensive immigration reform will stimulate the U.S. economy by:

Increasing the national GDP by at least 0.84 percent, translating into at least a \$1.5 trillion cumulative increase in GDP over 10 years, which includes approximately \$1.2 trillion in consumption and \$256 billion in investment.
Increasing spending power that would then increase tax revenues from \$4.5 billion to \$5.4 billion in the first three years.
Increasing personal income and consumer spending, enough to support 750,000 to 900,000 jobs in the U.S.
Increasing the number of people who open bank accounts, buy homes, and start businesses, further stimulating the U.S. economy.

“This has never just been a moral or social justice issue, it has always had economic implications as well,” said Raul Raymundo, CEO of The Resurrection Project, Co-chair of IBIC, and the emcee for the press conference. “Immigration reform is no longer an option, it’s a necessity for our l

local economies to once again prosper.”

Moving forward, members of IBIC plan to use their significant influence to endorse immigration reform that will provide Illinois companies with both the high-skilled and low-skilled talent that they need, and promote the integration of immigrants into our economy as consumers, workers, and entrepreneurs with a path to full citizenship.

“Our economy is in need of a comprehensive approach that addresses an immigration system which is no longer meeting the labor needs of American businesses,” said Dave Bender, Executive Director, American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois and an IBIC Co-Chair. “We need a system that will allow small, medium, and larger businesses to remain globally competitive.”

The members of IBIC feel that they are in a strong position to advocate for this new system.

“IBIC,” says Raymundo, “is a unique alliance of businesses and immigrant advocacy groups that will pave the way for legislators to finally make immigration reform a reality.”

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Children spread their wings and advocate for immigration reform in downtown Chicago

Story by Angelica Cruz

Photos Lyndsi Barboza

Parents and their children marched for immigration reform in downtown Chicago.

On March 26, 2013, hundreds of children held up handmade butterflies, many of them reading simple messages like, keep families together and families united can never be divided. This was the Children's March to support comprehensive immigration reform, and it made a powerful statement to local legislators.

Volunteers from The Resurrection Project joined hundreds of U.S. children and their families for the Children's March in support of fair comprehensive immigration reform. The march began at Millennium Park and ended at the offices of Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin.

For days before, TRP families made the iconic butterflies, an appropriate motif since butterflies have to migrate thousands of miles for survival to give their offspring the chance to live. Then, during the bus ride to Millennium Park, participants were encouraged to place calls to Senator Kirk and Durbin's offices, urging them to help put a stop to family separation and support the passage of an immigration bill. School buses crowded Michigan Avenue as demonstrators stepped out with butterflies, banners, posters, and crosses

with pro-immigration reform messages in tow. A large crowd of supporters gathered at Crown Fountain for a quick rally prior to the start of the march toward Federal Plaza. From their banners to their chants, the message was clear: family separation due to deportations had to come to a halt.

The procession of hundreds of marchers brought several downtown streets to a standstill as sidewalks and intersections were filled with demonstrators. People peered out of their office buildings, drivers honked their horns in support, and passersby took pictures as the march trailed on. Children taking part in the march were given bottles with rocks to shake and make noise as they joined in the chant, "Kirk! Escucha! Estamos en la lucha!" (Kirk! Hear us! We are in the fight!). Youth chanted "Education, not deportation!" The energy was palpable throughout.

The Children's March culminated at Federal Plaza with testimonies from U.S. citizen children and youth with undocumented parents and family members. Their stories resonated with the crowd as they spoke about living in

constant fear due to the possibility of being separated from a family member. One of the testimonies was from Michelle, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient who petitioned for her mother to have the same protection against deportation as she now holds. Christian, ten-year-old son of TRP leader Cecilia, plans to become an anesthesiologist. He stated that his mother spent time with him after school and should not be deported because he needs her at his side. Many a tear was shed, and voices quivered, but the young speakers remained strong in their message. They all pleaded for their parents and family members to be able to stay in their country where they belong, together as a family.

The march was covered extensively by the local media. TRP families hope that the march was successful in putting a human face to the real-life consequences of a flawed immigration policy that continues to separate families every day.

To see photos from the march, please visit our photo gallery. (All photos by Lyndsi Barboza.)



Comcast Cares Day in Pilsen

Story by Julio Guerrero

Photos courtesy of Comcast

The Resurrection Project (TRP), 25th Ward Alderman Danny Solis, and 15 other community organizations from in and around Chicago's Pilsen community participated in Comcast Cares Day, the company's signature day of service and the nation's largest single-day corporate volunteer effort.

For the Pilsen project, some 500 volunteers from Comcast and the community came together on Saturday, April 27, to clean, paint, and garden Dvorak Park, Plaza Tenochtitlan, 16th Street, and Throop Street Play Lot.

Stefan Holt, NBC 5 news anchor, emceed the opening remarks which included key leadership from Comcast, 25th Ward Alderman Danny Solis, State Senator Tony Muñoz (1st District), and Cook County Commissioner Jesus Garcia (7th District). During these remarks, Comcast's leadership presented Raul Raymundo, TRP Chief Executive Officer, a corporate grant that TRP will use to support the Pilsen Portal's efforts to promote community news, events, and programs. Additionally, Illinois State Senator Tony Munoz read a proclamation from Illinois Governor Pat Quinn



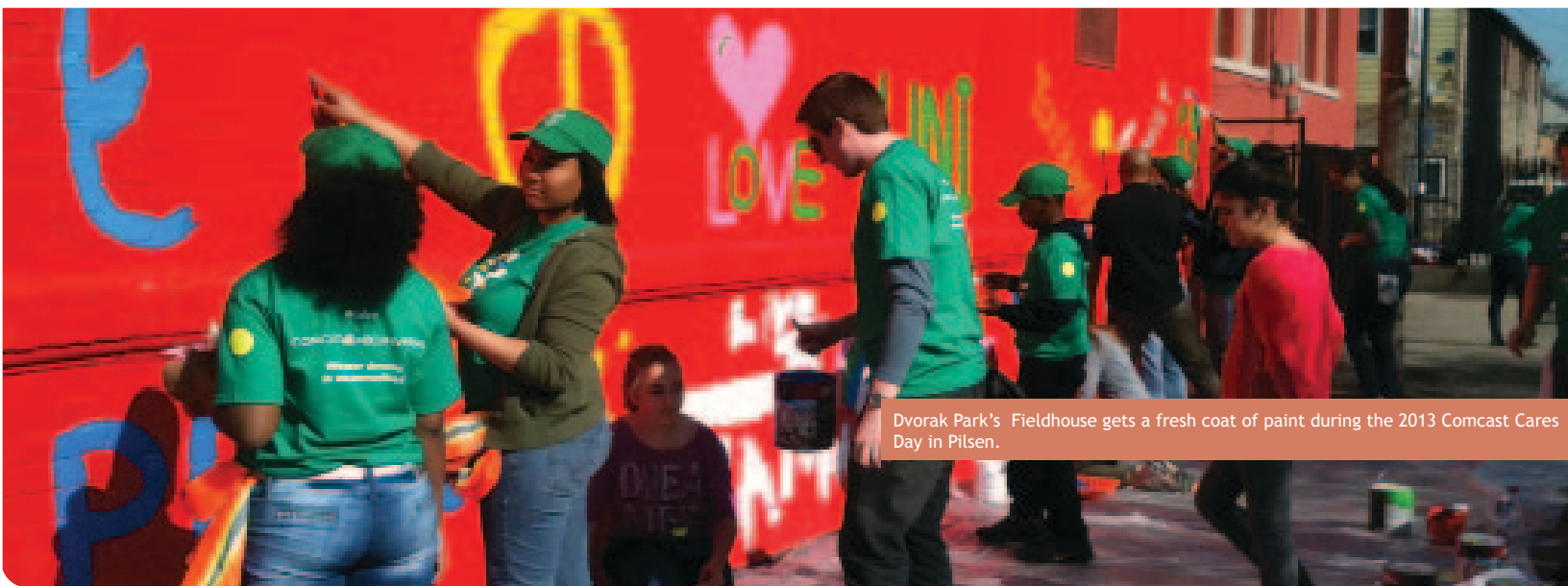
From left to right: Comcast's Regional External Affairs Manager Maria Castro, Comcast Executive VP COO David Watson, Ill. State Rep. Tony Muñoz & The Resurrection Project's CEO Raul Raymundo

declaring April 27, 2013, Comcast Cares Day in the state.

The event would not have been possible without the support and leadership from area organizations and their volunteers. Key organizations participating included: Poder Learning Center, Gads Hill Center, Union League Boys and Girls Club, National Museum of Mexican Art, Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, NBC 5, Telemundo Chicago, CLOCC, El Valor, Latinos Progressando, Instituto Del Progreso Latino, Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, DALE, St. Pius V. Parish, Gary Comer Youth

Center, and more.

In addition to the Pilsen project, thousands of local Comcast, NBC, and Telemundo employees and their families and friends participated in nearly 70 community volunteer projects throughout central and northern Illinois, including the Chicago area, northwest Indiana, and southwest Michigan. Nationally, more than 70,000 volunteers participated in more than 750 projects. Since Comcast Cares Day began 12 years ago, a half million employees and friends and family members have participated and completed more than 3 million volunteer hours.



Dvorak Park's Fieldhouse gets a fresh coat of paint during the 2013 Comcast Cares Day in Pilsen.

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City Colleges of Chicago to host admission event at La Casa, La Casa Open House offers special preview and a special deal

Photo by Vellummedia.com

Visit La Casa!

City Colleges of Chicago Admission Event
Saturday May 11, 2013 • 9:00am - 12:00pm
La Casa Open House
Wednesday May 15 & 29 • 10:00am - 7:00pm

Why would undergraduate students want to live in a modern, exciting, loft-style student residence that combines the experience of on-campus living with the affordability of off-campus housing?

We hope they'll know exactly why after touring La Casa Student Housing during The City Colleges of Chicago Admission Event May 11, and The Resurrection Project's La Casa Open House events May 15 and 29.

Saturday May 11, the City Colleges of Chicago will host their admission event, and showcase La Casa and its amenities from 9am to 12pm. On Wednesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 29, TRP will open the doors to La Casa and offer undergraduate students and their

families tours of La Casa, our award-winning student residence that was designed to incrementally improve the academic success of area students by providing wraparound academic support and programs, an adjacent Resource Center, and a conducive study environment.

"La Casa is a great option for students wanting a supportive learning environment that's still close to home," says Maria Bucio, Director of La Casa. "This is a wonderful place for anyone wanting the on-campus experience but at a more affordable price." Living at La Casa will be even more affordable to students who attend the May 15 or May 29 Open House. Any attendee who fills out an application and is approved for a 12-month housing agreement

will get their first month free.

Free refreshments will be provided throughout both events, and TRP staff will be providing ongoing tours of both La Casa and the Resource Center and answering any questions students may have.

"We're so excited about this open house," says Bucio, "because we want students to see for themselves what an exciting, fun place La Casa can be to live, learn, and thrive alongside peers who share similar academic dreams."

The La Casa Open House Event will be held on May 15, 2013, and again on May 29, 2013. Both events will start at 10 a.m. and will run through 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Mayor Emmanuel Kicks off SEED



TRP Organizer Eréndira Réndon

TRP in the news

The Resurrection Project continues to make the rounds in the news.

The Chicago Tribune ran an article on our work with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and Proviso Township Mental Health Commission to acquire foreclosed homes and convert them into quality, affordable housing through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. We were proud to serve as both the housing developer and housing counseling agency in this initiative. You can read the article [here](#).

TRP's community organizer, Eréndira Réndon, was featured in an article published in *Vívelo Hoy* about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. You can read the article [here](#). She also

appeared on local news coverage of the Children's March on March 23, including ABC 7 and Univision Chicago.

The most exciting media had to be Mayor Rahm Emanuel's second visit to La Casa. This time, he joined World Business Chicago to launch Seed Chicago—Chicago's first curated Kickstarter page that utilizes crowdfunding to grow businesses, catalyze community development projects, and create jobs in Chicago's neighborhoods. One of the projects being featured by this campaign, a bi-monthly marketplace featuring cultural events and local businesses, is being spearheaded by TRP. Local media, including the Chicago Tribune, covered the event. You can read the Tribune article [here](#).

