Caminando Juntos

NEW LIFE,
New Beginnings

"For I know the plans I have for you, to prosper, not to harm you, to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

We are blessed by the new life our office manager, Kathy, brings to our ministry.

Dear friends and partners,

As always, we at *Caminando Juntos* *(Walking Together)* thank you for supporting our mission to live out the Gospel mandate to love one another and to welcome the stranger. In our ministry and in our daily lives, we are challenged to follow in the footsteps of Christ, whose light inspires us to provide hope and a new beginning for newly-arrived immigrants. As we move through the Lenten season and draw nearer to spring, we are reminded of the wonderful gift of new life and new beginnings made possible by our Savior. This letter captures a few of the ways we have inspired hope in our Latino brothers and sisters this year, and how they in turn, have inspired hope in us.◉

INSPIRING HOPE AND A FUTURE FOR "DREAMERS"

For the past six years, our office has assisted more than 60 young people, also known as "Dreamers", obtain DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). They came to the U.S. as children, and have hopes and dreams of building a home and a future in the U.S. These young people contribute to our community as barbers, teachers, bankers, supervisors, and more. They bravely share their stories with South Dakota lawmakers and leaders to advocate for the continuation of the DACA program.

WHAT DOES YOUR DONATION MAKE POSSIBLE?

$50

» **Transportation** to and from immigration court in Minneapolis (for asylum proceedings)

» **Textbooks** for five English Language Learners

$25

» **Welcome Backpack** for newly-arrived children (with school supplies and hygiene items)

$20

» **Good Neighbor Fund** to help with emergency situations (housing, weatherization, basic necessities)

INSPIRING HOPE THROUGH IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Sister Janet Horstman, our Department of Justice Accredited Representative, continues to inspire hope in Latino families who want to adjust their immigration status, petition for a family member to join them from their home country, or apply for U.S. citizenship. One recent "mission moment" Sister Janet experienced was the reunion of a mother with her daughter and grand-daughter from Guatemala; she had waited over 7 years for their visas. It was a very happy and emotional moment for all, as her hope and patience paid off.

INSPIRING HOPE AT CHRISTMAS TIME

This past Christmas, *Caminando Juntos* hosted its First Annual "Fiesta Navideña" with much success. We invited families, whose loved ones are far away, to join us in celebrating the spirit and joy of Christmas with live music, food, and fellowship. Each family wrote a Christmas blessing on an angel to hang in our office, and the children enjoyed several fun games and activities. The party brought people from all walks of life together (clients, community members, volunteers), making them feel welcome and giving them a renewed sense of hope and joy.

INSPIRING HOPE AMONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Through the gracious contributions of our ESL teachers and classroom volunteers, as well as the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, hundreds of adult learners have the opportunity to learn English and advance in their daily lives each year. Dozens of young people from Augustana University and the broader community inspire hope in our students by building their confidence and language skills and by forming lasting connections.

As spring approaches, we at *Caminando Juntos* want to thank our donors, supporters, partners, and friends for the new beginnings you have made possible for countless immigrants in our community. Thank you for holding dear the mission of *Caminando Juntos* and for helping to grow the seeds planted by God and the Presentation Sisters.

In God's all-embracing heart,

April Ross, *Director & Educational Coordinator*
Sister Janet Horstman, *Immigration Legal Services*
Sister Pegge Boehm, *Support Services & Advocacy*
Kathy Donis, *Office & Resource Manager*

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Sisters of the Presentation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
In Joyful Service