



CHW Support Enables Client to Increase Financial Stability and Housing Support

SDVFP CHWs support clients to get healthcare with compassion and care to access valuable resources.

SDVFP was founded in 2017. It has four programming areas: the state's only provider of free immigration legal services to children and survivors of violent crimes; multilingual outreach and civic engagement; education and training; and rapid response. CHWs work with SDVFP's legal clients and other multilingual community members in translating, educating, interpreting, and advocating for these clients. In addition to connecting clients to services they need, SDVFP CHWs bridge the language gaps for clients to access these services while navigating complex immigration statuses, with the support of the legal team. A client's immigration status directly impacts their access to other social services in the state.

SDVFP CHWs also have in-house immigration lawyers to help figure out clients' access to services and oftentimes educate service providers that a survivor of a violent crime with no current immigration status does, in fact, have access to emergency housing.

CLIENT BACKGROUND

A client, who only spoke Spanish, was referred to the CHW by a previous client due to the severe pain he was experiencing. Having sought medical attention on multiple occasions, it was determined that the client needed his appendix removed, leading to his referral to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for the procedure. Afterward, the client received bills from both Avera and Yankton Medical Clinic as the doctors treating him worked for both, amounting to a total of nearly \$20,000. Even though his brother was able to work, the bill was very difficult for the client as he had not been able to work for the previous two months.



**[BEING] A
COMMUNITY HEALTH
WORKER IS AN IDEAL
WAY TO POSITIVELY
IMPACT PEOPLE'S
LIVES.**

**- ERICA AGUILAR, CHW,
SOUTH DAKOTA VOICES FOR
PEACE**

SERVICES PROVIDED

The CHW was able to support the client by educating him in Spanish and then advocating in English to other service providers. This support included navigating immigration support services, ensuring the client's understanding and accessing the necessary resources.

The CHW assisted the client in setting up a payment plan with Yankton Medical Clinic and helped secure financial aid to cover the client's medical expenses from Avera, alleviating the burden of the substantial financial obligation.

Additionally, the CHW facilitated effective communication between the client and his landlord during a recent move, successfully managing his lease transition. The CHW also helped the client learn how to make a money order and correctly address the envelopes. And finally, the CHW extended assistance to the client's brother, securing financial support when he also faced illness-related challenges.

CLIENT SUCCESSES

With the assistance of the CHW, the client's entire medical bill from Avera was covered, and the money he had

previously paid toward the bills was refunded. He used the refund to pay on his payment plan from Yankton Medical Clinic.

The client's gesture of staying in contact with the CHW to express gratitude speaks volumes of the profound impact her support has had on his journey. Furthermore, the CHW's proactive approach in discussing the significance of having a bank account has equipped the client with valuable information, opening new avenues for financial stability and long-term planning.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

South Dakota Voices for Peace (SDVFP) provides free immigration relief for unaccompanied minors and immigrant survivors of domestic violence. SDVFP builds power and enables healing in immigrant, refugee, and Muslim communities by amplifying their voices and working in solidarity with all who dismantle bigotry and racism. They provide legal services, multilingual outreach, and civic engagement to the communities they work with. To learn more about South Dakota Voices for Peace, visit: <https://www.sdvfpeace.org/>

This CHW success story was submitted by Erica Aguilar, CHW for South Dakota Voices for Peace, erica@southdakotavoicesforpeace.org.



Read more Success Stories by visiting - <https://chwsd.org/success-stories/>