



With Support from CHW, Client Improves Living Situation and Accesses Vital Resources

Using multilingual assistance, SDVFP CHWs support clients in accessing essential social support programs, healthcare and other resources to improve their lives.

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.



HATE HAS NO HOME IN SOUTH DAKOTA

- SOUTH DAKOTA VOICES FOR PEACE SLOGAN

CLIENT BACKGROUND

The client and her husband recently migrated to the US from Cuba and neither are proficient in English. The couple moved in with a friend, but this living arrangement ended up being a bad situation as the friend was manipulative and emotionally abusive and exploited their finances.

Meeting with SDVFP’s CHW, it was determined that the client needed multilingual assistance in order to apply for essential social support programs such as Cash Assistance, Snap Benefits, and Medicaid and assistance in securing alternative housing arrangements.



SERVICES PROVIDED

Through the CHW's invaluable interpretation skills, the CHW was able to provide assistance in many areas to help improve the client's health, finances, and living circumstances.

First, the CHW connected the client to a clothing program, provided information for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and guided the client in applying for the SD Cares program. The CHW also assisted the client and her husband as they looked for employment.

The CHW helped facilitate stable and safe housing for the client and her husband by locating an accommodating landlord and interpreting during the lease process. The CHW also streamlined contact information for utility services.

To address some of the client's health concerns, the CHW helped navigate the client through the healthcare system. The CHW also coordinated Spanish counseling sessions to promote emotional healing and growth.

Finally, the CHW connected the client to a Spanish-speaking lawyer who was proficient in handling the client's immigration case.

CLIENT SUCCESSES

The client was able to secure safe, stable housing for her and her husband and both have been able to contribute to their financial well-being through new part-time

employment. The client has completed and passed an ESL course and is studying for her driver's license. Both the client and her husband have also been volunteering at the food pantry from which they had previously accessed resources. And to address some of the client's health concerns, she recently had surgery and the recovery process has been going very well.

The client's remarkable journey of success reflects the pivotal role of the CHW and the importance of translation services.

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.



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