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# JCIRA

## Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates

*We support the rights of immigrants and their families, giving priority to those who live or work on the Olympic Peninsula and immigrant detainees within Washington State, through access to legal services, standing witness, family support, community education and advocacy.*

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***A Note from Outreach Coordinator Natalia Durán:  
November Tamale Time in Brinnon***



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created a space for different activities like Cornhusk doll crafts and *papel picado* (pictured above) that are common during this season in some parts of Latin America like México. We interacted with the families and had fun learning how to wrap the tamales! The beauty of the day was all of the conversations that happened. The community was happy to have this kind of cultural event and recalled histories from their visits to Mexico and other cities of Latin America. Of course people were able to practice their Spanish. I strongly believe in the personal connections that happen when we share who we are, where we come from and how fun it is to enjoy these differences together.



Special thank you to the Jefferson County Library for the great approach and work together! (Photo from Natalia Durán).

## JCIRA is a Proud Partner of the United Good Neighbor's Give Jefferson Campaign

The annual Give Jefferson campaign organized by the Jefferson County Foundation is in full swing until December 31. Give Jefferson is a one-stop way to help support more than 30 organizations that work for our community. You can also choose which of those groups, including JCIRA, that you'd like your donation to go to. As in past years, JCIRA's individual goal for this campaign is \$10,000. Click [here](#) or on the button below to donate to this great effort that helps the Jefferson County community in so many ways!



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## JCIRA Supports the WA Immigrant Relief Fund

Close to 450 members of the immigrant communities in Jefferson and Clallam counties are awaiting news that they have qualified for the [WA Immigrant Relief Fund](#) (WIRF). From the middle of September to November 12, JCIRA dedicated time and resources in both counties to assist people with their applications for the fund. The fund was set up for qualifying immigrants in Washington state who were adversely affected by COVID-19 but who did not receive any federal pandemic relief funding such as unemployment benefits and stimulus checks due to their immigration status.

The statewide coalition Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network ([WAISN](#)), of which JCIRA is a member, has been working tirelessly on behalf of the immigrant community to obtain economic relief during the past three years of Covid. As stated by the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC): *"Many of the workers who were growing and harvesting our food, caring for our elders and children, cleaning our medical facilities, and performing other roles essential to the continued functioning of our economy were completely left out of the financial aid programs that the rest of us benefited from when we had our worlds rocked in 2020. This Fund was a response to that, and will provide enormous relief to families who are still struggling to regain stability."*

In total, the Fund received 116,690 applications from across Washington, and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will be distributing \$306 million to approved applicants by the end of January 2023. In Jefferson and Clallam counties, close to 450 people applied for the WIRF, and we are hopeful that each and every one will qualify to receive the guaranteed \$1000 minimum per person!

In an effort to reach as many immigrants as possible, JCIRA conducted outreach in Spanish and English through text messaging, phone calls, flyers, visits to schools. We held events to assist people in person to complete their applications in Port Townsend, Forks and Sequim. Our work on this campaign also helped us to establish stronger ties with community members in those areas who also advocate for immigrant rights.

The campaign for economic justice for immigrants is far from over. The pandemic has made it even clearer that Washington needs to do more for the immigrant community in an ongoing way. In the coming weeks JCIRA will keep you updated on the legislative campaign that we and other immigrant rights organizations like WAISN will be waging in Olympia through the 2023 Washington Legislative Session. The two main initiatives for 2023 are healthcare for all, and state-sponsored unemployment benefits for all workers regardless of immigration status. Mark your calendars for Advocacy Day on February 16<sup>th</sup> and plan to join in the campaign for economic justice for immigrants in Washington. We'll keep you posted!

## JCIRA May Be Expanding (Space Exploration)

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and for an immigrant center. The space would be used for ESL and other classes, meetings, consultations with clients, and would have some open drop-in hours. This exciting step, if taken, will be possible because of a generous three-year grant that we received from Group Health Foundation. The grant is unrestricted so we can use it however it will best serve the immigrant community. Our “Space Team” has been working hard to evaluate whether this is a good use of the funding, where it might be located and how doing this might affect the rest of what we do.

One of the critical pieces of the decision is whether members of the immigrant community think this would be beneficial to them. We’ve been collecting their opinions, thoughts and ideas through a survey and conversations with groups of immigrants.

No decision has yet been made whether to take this big step. We will keep everyone posted as it develops. If we go forward with this, there will be many opportunities to be involved. If you have ideas, questions or concerns, or might want to help with this project, please contact Jean Walat at [jmwalat@gmail.com](mailto:jmwalat@gmail.com).

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## JCIRA NEEDS YOU as a VOLUNTEER!

We are growing and our program is expanding. We hope to involve more volunteers in JCIRA activities and so increase our ability to fulfill our mission. There will be opportunities in a variety of areas including working directly with immigrants, working with youth, education, advocacy, communications, research, and JCIRA administration. If we open a [JCIRA Immigrant Center](#) as discussed elsewhere in this newsletter there will be many possibilities for volunteers to help staff the center and participate in its programming.

If you have any interest in being part of any of these areas, let us know. Once we have an idea who is interested, we will arrange a meeting to discuss.

- teams to work together in the areas mentioned above,
- possible tasks for volunteers,
- skills needed for various tasks,
- and levels of time commitment.

An expression of interest now is NOT a commitment. We hope to hear from you so that, together, we can determine if and how you might become more involved in JCIRA's work in a way that you will find rewarding.

Contact Larry Jensen at [lpjensen15@gmail.com](mailto:lpjensen15@gmail.com) or Outreach Coordinator Natalia Duran at [natalia.jcira@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.jcira@gmail.com).

## An Afghan Family Thanksgiving

Holidays can be hard for those who are far from home. Most of us have had that experience. All the more so for refugees--especially those who don't share our holidays. Two people welcomed our Afghan family on Thanksgiving Day. One cleverly asked the family if they wanted to share some of our foods. They were very excited to do so! The Co-op had the food on Wednesday and our volunteer extraordinaire took it to them on Thursday and all of them passed judgement on the good and better of the meal - pumpkin pie was the favorite! The rest of the afternoon was spent at another volunteer's home playing with musical instruments.

Christmas will be another opportunity to share our ways of celebrating with a Muslim family of three--soon to be four. If you would like to help them celebrate by inviting them to your house, sending them a gift card, or providing some foods (they LOVE fresh fruit, nuts, cookies and cakes and CHOCOLATES) contact Holly Hallman at [hhhallman@gmail.com](mailto:hhallman@gmail.com).

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## Welcoming Library

This is a new cooperative project between the WA State Library, the PT Library and JCIRA. The collection of books focuses on children from around the world and their experiences as immigrants in the US.

Each book is a different child's story, beautifully illustrated and wonderful for reading aloud. The books can be borrowed for free; no library card or registration is required to borrow the books. Please tell your friends and neighbors. The books will be available in the PT Library through December. After that, JCIRA will help the Welcoming Library move to other locations in Jefferson County.



## FURTHER VIEWING

### Eastern Washington: [The Struggle is Real](#)

Grays Harbor, Westport, Raymond, Aberdeen...towns that have suffered businesses closing down and workers losing their jobs - including immigrants who have lived in the area for 20-40 years. The past few years of pandemic have hit these families especially hard. Check out [this website](#) to watch a series of short (1-2 minutes) videos of people telling their stories. The videos are directed to WA state legislators, urging them to pass laws that provide real help with unemployment assistance and medical insurance for undocumented WA residents.

### Penninsula College: [La Resistencia Program](#)

Maru Mora Villalpando and Manuel Abrego, both from La Resistencia, discuss the past few years of their efforts to end detention and close down detention centers, focusing on the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. During Manuel's long period as a detainee, he became an activist, initiated hunger strikes and was finally released in 2018. Maru was undocumented for 25 years, during which time she joined other undocumented people in forming La Resistencia. Maru reviews the various legislation and lawsuits during the past few years, bringing us up to date - and also looking to the future. The program was moderated by Lesley Hoare, Forks activist from the Comité de Derechos Humanos, and Kate Reavey, Peninsula College Studium Generale

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### [New Video](#) on the Current Status of DACA (National Immigration Law Center)

Now is the time for Congress to pass a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (or DACA) is a transformational policy that has allowed more than 825,000 immigrant youth to pursue their work and educational dreams, better provide for themselves and their loved ones, and contribute more fully to their communities. In October 2022, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that DACA is unlawful. [Watch the NILC video](#) and then [call on Congress](#):

### **Black and Undocumented (NPR)**

Actor Bambadjan Bamba, most recently seen in the blockbuster film "Black Panther," shares his experience of being both black and undocumented. The interview is 5 minutes long and is worth a watch [here](#).

## Just in Time for Christmas: Tamale Recipes!

*These recipes were provided after the Tamale Time event between JCIRA and the Jefferson County Library.*

### **General Notes**

Equipment you will Need:

Strainer, Steamer and pot, Mixer

Dough Ingredients:

For batch 40-45, depending on size of corn husks

- Masa harina 6 cups
- Paprika 2 t
- Chile powder 2 t
- Powdered cumin 2 t
- Salt 2 t
- Baking powder 1/2 t
- Broth 1 quart
- Shortening or lard 2 cups

General Method:

1. Combine dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl
2. Use mixer to soften shortening or lard
3. Add dry ingredients and broth into shortening a bit at a time until masa is peanut butter-like

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### ***Vegetarian filling: Tamales de Rajas con Queso***

Ingredients:

- ¾ lb poblano peppers
- 1.25 lb tomatillos
- 1 onion
- Salt and pepper
- Cilantro
- Jack cheese

Method:

1. Roast poblanos 5 mins.
2. Transfer to zip lock and steam 15 mins., peel skin
3. Boil tomatillos 5 mins.
4. Cook chopped onion in skillet until translucent, add chopped tomatillos, salt and pepper 5 mins.
5. Add poblanos and 3 T chopped cilantro. Cool 10 mins.
6. Fill with slim wedge of jack cheese

### ***Pork filling Tamales de Puerco (or shredded mushrooms)***

Ingredients:

- 1.5 lb shredded pork shoulder cooked with onion, garlic, bay leaves, salt, pepper
- 1 lb roma tomatoes
- 4 dried chile de arbol
- 4 guajillo chiles stemmed and deseeded
- 1 T cornstarch

Method:

1. Boil tomatoes and chiles—5 mins.
2. Cool, blend with cornstarch and ½ cup water
3. Strain through fine sieve
4. Combine with pork (or shredded mushrooms)

### ***Vegan filling***

Ingredients:

- Pinto or white beans
- Onion
- Minced garlic
- Anaheim pepper finely diced



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- Cumin
- Chile powder
- Minced cilantro
- Salt, pepper

### ***Spinach and ricotta filling***

Ingredients:

- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon chile powder
- 1 large bunch spinach
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 8 ounces whole milk mozzarella cheese, or similar white cheese such as queso quesadilla
- 2 tablespoons parmesan cheese
- 1 T cornstarch
- Salt and pepper to taste

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## FOR YOUR CALENDER

**December 7: One America Meeting (see flyer below)**

**December 12: Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe (walk from La Isla to St. Mary's)**

**November 14: Youth Team Meeting (PT Library)**

**February 21: Advocacy Day, Olympia**

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**OneAmerica  
Winter Member  
Meeting**

Join us for our last meeting of 2022!

- See which election races we won!
- Get involved to fight for immigrants rights!
- Learn about our powerful legislative agenda
- Sign up to attend Lobby Day in Olympia February

**When and Where:**  
December 7th,  
6pm to 8pm on  
ZOOM

**Interpretation  
Available!**

**Register here:**



SCAN ME

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Resource of the Month: The WIC Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (under 5 years)



**The WIC Nutrition Program** for Women, Infants and Children under 5 years old, provides:

- Nutritious Foods
- Nutrition Education
- Referrals to local resources
- Breastfeeding support

WIC is more than just food and serves families of all sizes and types. Citizenship

**El Programa de Nutrición WIC** para mujeres, bebés y niños menores de 5 años, proporciona:

- Alimentos nutritivos
- Educación nutricional
- Referencias a recursos locales
- Apoyo a la lactancia

WIC es más que solo comida y sirve a familias de todos los tamaños y tipos. La

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de nutrición WIC.

It's easy to get an appointment and currently all appointments are over the telephone.

We use the Language Line interpreter services to serve families who speak languages other than English.

**Call Jefferson County Public Health at 360-385-9432** to find out if your family qualifies for WIC.

Es fácil conseguir una cita y ahora todas las citas son por teléfono. Utilizamos los servicios de interpretación de lenguaje para servir a las familias que hablan otros idiomas además del inglés.

**Llame a Salud Pública del Condado de Jefferson al 360-385-9432** para averiguar si su familia califica para WIC.

## Medical and Health

JC Mash (free clinic)  
136 Water Street, Suite 109  
PT, WA 98368 360-385-4268

JFC Express Clinic  
834 Sheridan St., Suite B  
PT, WA 98368 360-385-2204

North Olympic Healthcare Network  
Two locations in Port Angeles  
360-452-7891 [www.nohn-pa.org](http://www.nohn-pa.org)

Jefferson Dental Clinic  
915 Sheridan  
PT, WA 98368 360-344-1005

Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization  
1110 Jefferson St., PT, WA 98368  
360-379-3246 [www.echhojc.org](http://www.echhojc.org)

WIC Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children under 5  
Jefferson County Public Health  
615 Sheridan St., PT, WA 98368  
360-385-9432

## Food

All Food Banks:  
[Jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org](http://Jeffersoncountyfoodbanks.org)

Quilcene Food Bank  
294952 US 101  
Quilcene, WA 98376

Tri-Area Food Bank  
760 Chimacum Road  
Chimacum, WA  
98325  
360-385-9462

Port Townsend Food Bank  
1925 Blaine Street  
PT, WA 98368

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Dove House Advocacy Services  
Advocacy, basic needs, housing assistance, and other resources for recent and past victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and general crime.

[www.dovehousejc.org](http://www.dovehousejc.org)

1045 10<sup>th</sup> Street, PT WA 98368  
Office and 24/7 Crisis Line: 360-385-5291

St. Vincent de Paul

Help with needs like food, gas, prescriptions, mobile phones/minutes, propane, utilities, medical/dental expenses, repairs, clothing and laundry.

<https://svdpejc.org/>

360-379-1325

Olympic Community Action (OlyCAP)

Provides assistance for all basic needs (rent, utilities, energy, prescriptions, gas, public transportation, etc.) for low-income households.

[www.olycap.org](http://www.olycap.org)

823 Commerce Loop Quilcene, WA 98376  
360-385-2571

Bayside Housing and Services

[www.baysidehousing.org](http://www.baysidehousing.org)

310 Hadlock Bay Road

Port Hadlock, WA 98339

360-385-4637

Jefferson County Emergency Shelter

Located in the basement of the American Legion  
209 Monroe St, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Regular hours 4:00 PM-8:00 AM 7 days a week.

## DONATE TO JCIRA!

Support our mission by donating to JCIRA. Click on the word Donate or click [Here](#) to go to the donation page on our website. Thank you for considering!



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