



● Community, we are ending the year 2021,

Without a doubt, it has been a difficult year. In the last 20 months, more than 121 thousand Latinx households in the United States have lost a loved one due to COVID-19. COVID variants continue to affect millions of people, the majority being low-income and People of Color. Please get vaccinated!

Despite the difficulties that we have faced, COPAL has continued to work with the community in search of a better life. By the end of this year, COPAL will have been working with and in the Latinx community for four invigorating years. What used to be a dream is now a reality. In just a short period, we have built a core team of 26 employees, 11 contract employees, members, and board members. In these past few years, we have connected with more than 50,000 Latinx households in Minnesota, from poll work and workers' rights to vaccination events.

In May, we opened our May Day Worker Center. Hundreds of people throughout the state of Minnesota asked for support in the workplace. COPAL heard the call and we opened the Center.

In October, we opened a regional office in Mankato to support the community living in south central Minnesota. Our team has continued and will continue to work tirelessly with the community.

In 2022, COPAL will continue to work on issues of migration, environmental justice, education, health, and leadership development.

COPAL's work is paying off, but we cannot do it alone. Building our community power requires resources. We invite you to become a member of COPAL. Your monthly donation will help support our struggles for a better future. **Can we count on you?**



Photo: COPAL Celebration and Assembly, July 31, 2021.

● Our 2021 Victories and Goals for 2022

● Advocacy and Public Policy

In the area of advocacy and public policy, our leadership helped to pass the “Cumulative Impacts Bill” in the state House of Representatives. This law in part seeks to eliminate incinerators that release pollutants that are toxic to human health and the environment.

We organized various educational events on the division of electoral districts that serve to elect people to public office. This has a major impact on the election of people who represent our community interests and values.

We worked with the Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services to have auto dealers accept more than one form of identification, which helped our undocumented community to register car or mobile home titles in their name.

In September, COPAL led a delegation to Washington, D.C. to advocate for immigration reform.



Next year, we will take time to expand our election campaign, continue to fight for licenses for all, and also endorse candidates who respond to our values and aspirations for a better life.

● Environmental Justice

In the area of environmental justice, we participated in more than 50 community events including protests, marches, student fairs, and educational workshops. We also spoke with 25 Latinx businesses to identify barriers that limit their access to renewable energy.

In June, we stood alongside Winona LaDuke and thousands of water protectors to stop the construction of the Line 3 oil pipeline. Its construction not only violates Indigenous sovereignty, treaty rights and free and informed consent, but will also have devastating effects on the environment.

In October, we contributed to the development of an educational tour to inform community members and elected officials about toxic areas in North Minneapolis. Many areas identified as toxic are located in communities of color. Living in these areas can have a significant impact on health, causing health problems such as asthma.



Next year, we will dedicate time to growing our coalition and working with other organizations fighting environmental racism. We will also work to move towards electric power and renewable energy sources.

● Health and Wellness

In the area of health and wellness, we facilitated, alongside other organizations and the Minnesota Department of Health, dozens of vaccination events where more than 4,000 vaccines against COVID-19 were administered.

In August, we kicked off our Vaccine, Action and Power campaign with the goal of increasing the vaccination rate in our Latinx community. We knocked on hundreds of doors and spoke to thousands of people. As a result, hundreds of people got vaccinated.



We are proud to report that as of December 16th, the collective work has generated that 73.2% of our Latinx community aged 12+ has received their COVID-19 vaccine. Our COPAL helpline and community events connected nearly 10,000 people with resources for employment, food, and other basic needs.

COPAL navigators have also assisted 200 families to apply for rental assistance. So far, we have facilitated the distribution of \$ 498,046.71.

76 families kept their roof.



Next year, we will continue promoting vaccination in our communities and deepening relationships with other organizations to offer and expand access to health care and support for the well-being of Latinxs.

• May Day Worker Center

Photo: First worker retreat at the May Day Worker Center. July 1, 2021.



This year, we celebrate the opening of our May Day Worker Center. In a few months, we have organized a committee of 44 people, who will guide our future campaigns. We have helped members of our community obtain more than \$170,000 in unemployment and recovered wages. In these difficult times, we have been able to support our community in the fight for their rights.



Next year, we will continue building power and supporting Latinx workers. We will accomplish this by developing leadership skills, organizing the workforce, and fighting wage theft and discrimination.



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• Presence in South Central Minnesota

In October, we opened our COPAL office in Mankato, Minnesota. We have expanded our geographic reach to ensure that resources and opportunities are available to our community that lives in rural areas.

In September, we held a rally outside the office of Representative Jim Hagedorn to demand his commitment to immigration reform. In District 1, which is represented by Mr. Hagedorn, a significant number of industries such as meat processing plants, agriculture and others could not open the doors to do business without immigrant labor. Representative Hagedorn does not support immigration reform, but he needs to know that protecting the well-being of immigrants and their families is also protecting our collective future as a society.



Next year, we will continue expanding our reach and being able to bring the resources we have in Minneapolis to Mankato and other rural areas with Latinx populations.

Thank you

Our successes are thanks to you and the community organizations that have believed in our vision. Thanks to your support and commitment, we have been able to build an independent power.

Together, we are building a movement to create a governance and an economy that is by us and for us.

To increase your monthly donation or become a member, visit www.copalmn.org. Your contribution is essential in building an inclusive Minnesota, where we can all live productive and dignified lives.



Can we count on you?

• Abigail's Story

After having lived in Minnesota for 24 years and the same Minneapolis apartment for 11, Abigail's housing stability was suddenly threatened. Her workplace experienced a COVID-19 outbreak. Pregnant in that moment, she made the difficult decision to stop working because she feared for the health of herself and her family.

After receiving numerous late notices and eviction warnings, she turned to COPAL for support.



COPAL's navigators were able to support Abigail in filling out an application to receive financial support. After a stressful period of time waiting for her application to be processed, Abigail received the overjoying news that her outstanding balance had been paid. Abigail secured shelter for herself and her family and was able to return to her work.

Community power is also the ability to obtain resources when we need them.

Photo: Abigail with her son and daughter. November 3, 2021.