



# La Valiente

*The Van with Butterflies*

BY GIANNE G

# *A NOTE TO FAMILIES*

THIS STORY IS INSPIRED BY THE REAL JOURNEYS OF  
IMMIGRANT FAMILIES ACROSS MINNESOTA.

LA VALIENTE IS MORE THAN A VAN.  
SHE REPRESENTS COURAGE, COMMUNITY, AND THE BELIEF  
THAT EVERY FAMILY DESERVES DIGNITY AND BELONGING.  
**WHEN COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER, FEAR BECOMES  
HOPE.**

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN, PARENTS,  
ORGANIZERS, AND NEIGHBORS WHO REMIND US THAT NONE  
OF US ARE ALONE.



# MEET LA VALIENTE



LA VALIENTE WAS NOT JUST ANY VAN.

SHE WAS BIG AND BRIGHT, WITH TINY BUTTERFLIES  
DANCING ACROSS HER SIDES.

WHEN THE SUN HIT HER WINDOWS, THEY SHIMMERED  
LIKE THEY WERE READY TO FLY.

LA VALIENTE DROVE WHERE COURAGE WAS NEEDED.

# THE BOY WITH THE RED BACKPACK

HER JOURNEY BEGAN IN A  
BUSY MINNESOTA CITY FILLED  
WITH TALL BUILDINGS AND  
SMALL APARTMENT HOMES.

ONE MORNING, SHE MET A  
BOY WITH A RED BACKPACK.  
HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD.  
EVERY DAY, HE CARRIED THAT  
BACKPACK IN KINDERGARTEN.  
HE WAS QUIET. HE WAS KIND.  
HE LOVED DINOSAURS AND  
APPLE SLICES.  
BUT HE WAS AFRAID.



# A FEELING OF FEAR

SOMETIMES, MEN IN DARK UNIFORMS CAME INTO NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE HIS. THEY WORE HEAVY VESTS AND SERIOUS FACES. THEY SAID THEY WERE ENFORCING RULES. HE ONLY KNEW THAT WHEN THOSE MEN CAME, FAMILIES DISAPPEARED.

HE HAD HEAR THE LETTERS WHISPERED IN HIS HOME "I-C-E".

LA VALIENTE SAW THE FEAR IN HIS SMALL HANDS WHEN HE HELD HIS FATHERS FINGERS.

AND SHE FELT SOMETHING RUMBLE INSIDE HER ENGINE.



# LA VALIENTE HAS AN IDEA



LA VALIENTE COULD NOT CHANGE THE RULES.  
SHE COULD NOT MAKE THE UNIFORMS DISAPPEAR.  
BUT SHE COULD TEACH.  
SO SHE BEGAN VISITING NEIGHBORHOODS.  
SHE PARKED OUTSIDE CHURCHES.  
SHE STOPPED NEAR SCHOOLS.  
SHE OPENED HER DOORS AND INVITED FAMILIES  
INSIDE.

# LEARNING TOGETHER



INSIDE, THERE WERE WARM LIGHTS.  
THERE WERE PAPERS IN SPANISH AND  
ENGLISH. THERE WERE NEIGHBORS LEARNING  
TOGETHER.

A circular arrangement of monarch butterflies, with orange wings and black markings, surrounding the central text. The butterflies are scattered around the text, some larger and some smaller, creating a ring-like effect.

"WHEN FEAR  
KNOCKS,



WE ANSWER  
WITH COURAGE."

# THE BOY NEEDS HELP



ONE DAY, THE BOY WITH THE RED BACKPACK DID NOT COME OUTSIDE.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD FELT QUIET.

LA VALIENTE LEARNED THAT OFFICERS HAD TAKEN HIS FATHER AWAY.

THE BOY STOOD ON THE SIDEWALK, CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN.

LA VALIENTE COULD NOT CHASE THE OFFICERS.

SHE COULD NOT UNLOCK COLD METAL DOORS.

BUT SHE COULD GATHER THE COMMUNITY.

# THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS



THE NEIGHBORS SHOWED UP. LAWYERS MADE CALLS.  
ORGANIZERS RAISED THEIR VOICES.

# Across Minnesota

LA VALIENTE  
DROVE FROM  
TOWN TO  
TOWN ACROSS  
MINNESOTA.

FROM FARMS  
IN THE SOUTH  
TO SNOWY  
STREETS IN  
THE NORTH.  
EVERYWHERE  
SHE WENT,  
SHE CARRIED  
THE SAME  
MESSAGE...



# THE MESSAGE:

 YOU HAVE RIGHTS.

 YOU DESERVE DIGNITY.

 YOU BELONG HERE.

# LA VALIENTE KEEPS DRIVING

THE BOY WITH THE RED BACKPACK GREW OLDER. HE STILL MISSED HIS FATHER EVERYDAY.

BUT HE WAS NO LONGER ALONE IN HIS FEAR.

HE HAD NEIGHBORS, HE HAD KNOWLEDGE. HE HAD COURAGE. AND HE HAD LA VALIENTE.

LA VALIENTE'S JOURNEY DID NOT END THERE. BECAUSE THERE WERE MORE CHILDREN. MORE FAMILIES. MORE TOWNS THAT NEEDED TO REMEMBER THEIR STRENGTH. SO SHE KEEPS DRIVING, BUTTERFLIES THINKING, ENGINE HUMMING, DRIVING WHERE COURAGE IS NEEDED. AND WHEREVER SHE GOES, SOMETHING HAPPENS.

FEAR GROWS SMALLER. VOICES GROW LOUDER AND BRAVE COMMUNITIES RISE TOGETHER.





Need help?



If you or someone you love needs support, the Immigrant Defense  
Network is here to help.



Scan the QR code to learn about available resources, know-your-  
rights information, and ways to connect with trusted community  
support.

You are not alone.



SCAN ME

