

VOLUME

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COPAL NEWS

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Happy Holidays from COPAL!
End-of-Year Updates and More

Hi community!

As we pause to reflect on the journey of this year, COPAL is deeply grateful for allies like you. Your support remains the driving force behind COPAL's impactful work, creating positive changes in people's lives each day.

Throughout the triumphs and challenges of 2023, we have witnessed remarkable signs of progress. Our supporter base has expanded significantly, bringing our community together to champion essential laws such as Paid Family and Medical Leave, Driver's Licenses for All, and more, each contributing to an improved quality of life. As we approach the upcoming election year, we are eager to rally our eligible community members to engage in the democratic process, electing candidates who authentically embody our ideals and values and will fervently advocate for our communities, fostering environments that allow for better, healthier, and more dignified lives.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for standing shoulder to shoulder with us in our mission. Wishing you joyous holidays and a New Year filled with prosperity!

You can read more about some of the other highlights from the past month below. We also invite you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



WWW.COPALMN.ORG



Environmental Justice

This past month, COPAL alongside, Baztec MN, Mankato Area Zero Waste, and Living Earth Center hosted a fishing event at Spring Lake Park in Mankato, Minnesota. After the event, participants gathered at the Mankato COPAL office, ate delicious tamales and pupusas prepared by a local community member, and learned about incinerators, or facilities that burn trash. This was an opportunity for participants to reflect on how community infrastructure relates to clean air and water.

Additionally, a new COPAL Environmental Justice Newsletter launched earlier this month! This newsletter will be used to communicate with the community about current environmental issues, outdoor events/opportunities hosted by COPAL and other organizations, as well as different ways to get involved in la lucha! [You can sign up here.](#)



The COPAL team leads a conversation with students on environmental justice.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK HERE





South Central Initiative Mankato, Minnesota

The South Central Initiative proudly hosted two community health events featuring the updated COVID-19 vaccination as well as information on health insurance enrollment, Licenses for All, and other vital resources. Thanks to the Minnesota Department of Health, the American Legion, and Open Door Health Center for their collaboration!

We also hosted an environmental justice in Mankato where we fished and discussed the importance of connecting with nature and advocating for improvements to the conditions faced by the community in Mankato. Stay tuned for more environmental justice events in the southern region of the state!



COPAL, Baztec MN, Mankato Area Zero Waste, and Living Earth Center hosted a fishing event at Spring Lake Park in Mankato, Minnesota to make the outdoors more accessible to Minnesotans of color and chat about environmental issues in our communities!



CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LICENSES FOR ALL

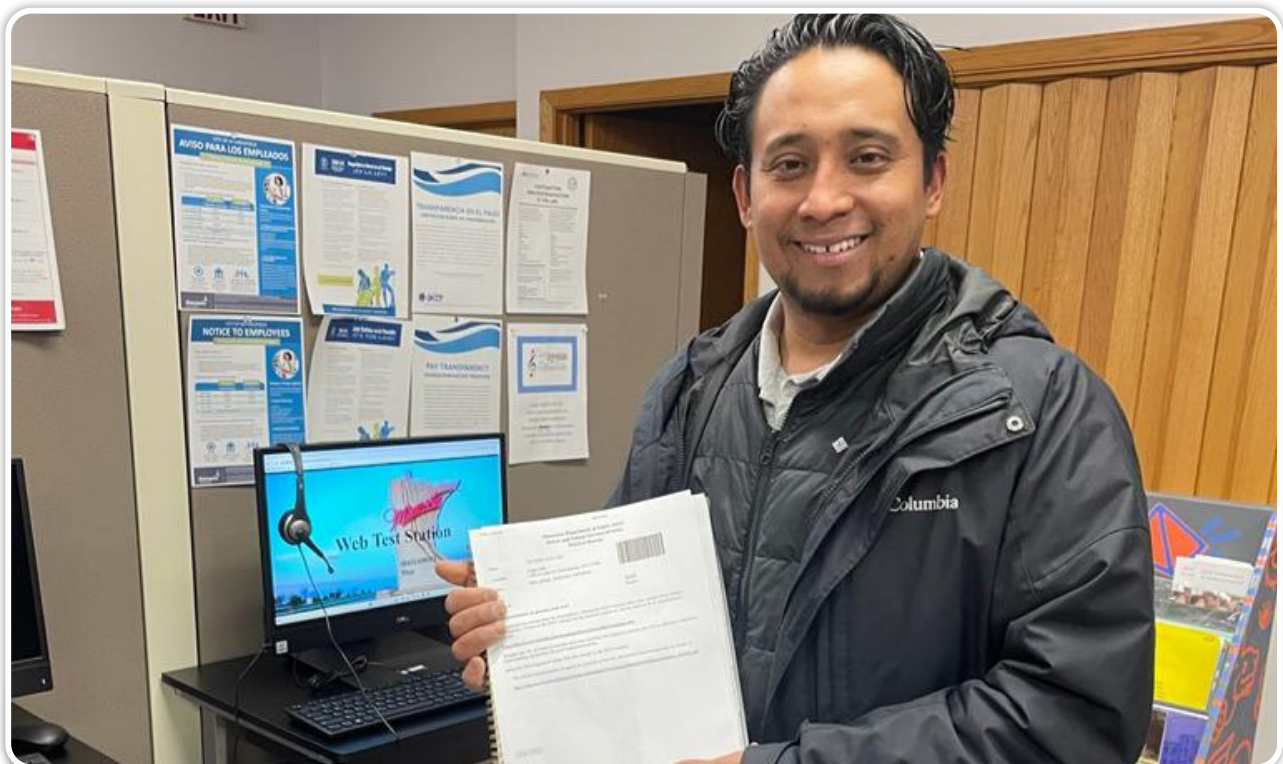


Primero de Mayo Workers' Center

This past month, our team at the Primero de Mayo Workers' Center organized and hosted events with the support of partners to empower workers with information on finances, workers' compensation, and more. Here are some highlights:

- Our youth program, in collaboration with Met Council, provided training for 10 individuals aged 16-24.
- Teaming up with Minneapolis Public Schools, we are launching a project for basic computer classes to support parents in navigating the school system.
- Our partnership with the Latino Chamber of Commerce and Twin Cities Outdoor Services has opened doors for temporary winter employment, benefiting 50 individuals.
- We are gearing up for our next session of computer, citizenship, and GED classes—stay tuned for more details to come!

Stay connected for more events to come in the new year! The Workers' Center is planning trainings for workers on health and safety in the area of construction, expanding our driver's testing opportunities, and much more. Our team remains dedicated to empowering workers with the knowledge and skills needed to be strong advocates and leaders for their communities!



Orlando is one of many community members who successfully passed their written driving exam! ¡Felicidades, Orlando! The Primero de Mayo Workers' Center now offers the Minnesota written driving exam on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMERO DE MAYO WORKERS' CENTER HERE



Organizing

This past month, the Organizing team has been engaged in deep planning for 2024. The first half of the year is another legislative session, or the period of lawmaking in Minnesota, where COPAL members can advocate to change state laws. This past year, Minnesota passed Driver's Licenses for All, Paid Family Leave, and a law for universal public college thanks to the advocacy of groups like COPAL, community members, legislators, and others. These laws advance a more dignified life for immigrants and working families. In the coming months, we will be releasing an updated legislative agenda, including policies like advancing the rights of ITIN holders, improved housing standards, and sanctuary for undocumented community members.

In the second half of the year, we will scale up our MN Latino Vote campaign and continue to raise awareness about candidates and elections processes. We will continue to invite COPAL members to weigh-in on those elections through the COPAL Political Fund, screening candidates for community support. We expect this to be one of COPAL's largest elections programs in our young history.

Lastly, the Organizing team would like to note the growing participation in the Economic Justice Committee, based out of the Primero de Mayo Workers' Center, and the Rochester Regional Committee. If you are interested in joining a member committee, please reach out! We will be sharing updated committee information in early 2024.



COPAL teamed up with Ayada Leads, a non-profit organization that trains and empowers African Diaspora women, to lead a campaign school to provide community members with the skills needed to organize a campaign and run for office!



We at COPAL can do this work thanks to your support.



Make a donation to increase opportunities and foster a dignified life for Latinos in Minnesota!



Mental Health Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the MN Mental Health Crisis Line:



****CRISIS or **274747**

Dial from your cell phone and you will be connected to your county crisis team.

Please see the following summary of mental health, general health and dental services compiled by the Minnesota Department of Health for the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

Low-cost healthcare resources



Radio Jornalera has grown and now has five weekly shows every day of the week and our daily morning show, *El Jornal de la Alegría* with Mike Castillo every weekday from 7 to 10am.



Tune in here



Download the app.

If you liked this newsletter, share it so others can read it!



SUBSCRIBE



COPAL

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Established in 2018, COPAL is a member-based organization leading social impact initiatives to improve the quality of life for Latine families and communities. COPAL advocates for a legislative agenda and mobilizes the Latine community to take action on issues that impact their lives such as health care for all, dignity for workers, environmental justice, popular democracy, immigration and public safety, and education for all by building collective power, transforming systems, and creating opportunities for a dignified life. COPAL envisions a future where the Latine community thrives and is fully empowered to lead significant change in their communities and beyond.