

VOLUME

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COPAL NEWS

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COPAL Launches Campaign for Latine Community Center and More!

Hello community,

As we step into 2024, COPAL is excited to announce the development of a transformative community space—the Latino Center for Community Engagement (LCCE). This 24,000 square foot space at 2905 E Lake Street, a building damaged during the 2020 summer protests in Minneapolis, signifies more than just physical reconstruction. This project represents a pivotal step in empowering our community. It is a return of land ownership to local residents and it reinforces Latines' historical presence along Lake Street. The LCCE will build power with and fulfill the ambitions of our young and diverse community, fostering pride and belonging. It will be where dreams grow and where COPAL's innovative programs bring our Minnesota Latine community's aspirations to life.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the launch of our campaign to construct the LCCE on February 9th, from 4:30-7pm at [Arbeiter Brewery](#). Please RSVP [here](#).

Below, you can read more about some other COPAL highlights. We also invite you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



WWW.COPALMN.ORG



Environmental Justice

In December, Carolina Ortiz, Associate Executive Director of COPAL, joined a team of other Minnesota climate leaders at the global climate summit, COP28, in Dubai. The diverse delegation from Minnesota was organized by Climate Generation and included teachers, youth, activists, storytellers, artists, scientists, community organizers, and others.

The Minnesota-based, multi-racial, intergenerational delegation attended COP28 with 'observer delegate' status, standing in solidarity with often marginalized frontline communities who bear the brunt of the climate crisis.

"Attending COP28 enabled us to hold world leaders accountable for the commitments made in international climate agreements. By being on-site, we were able to monitor progress and ensure that promises translate into tangible results," shared Carolina Ortiz.

Want to learn more about the Environmental Justice work being done at COPAL? [Sign up for the Environmental Justice newsletter here!](#)



Carolina Ortiz meeting with other delegates at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK HERE





It's Tax Season!

Did you know you may be eligible for the following credits?

- Child Tax Credit
- The Renter's Income Tax Credit
- Working Family Credit
- Property Tax Refund
- K-12 Education Credit



Call COPAL to get connected to a bilingual tax preparer

(612) 249-8736





South Central Initiative Mankato, Minnesota

Our recent initiatives in Mankato and St. Peter involved several health and resource events. Collaborating with Open Door Health Center and the Minnesota Department of Health, 85 individuals took action to protect themselves and their communities by receiving the updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Last month's workshop *What is Mental Health?*, hosted by COPAL and the Mayo Clinic, empowered nineteen community members with knowledge and resources, reinforcing the significance of mental well-being.

We also reached out to 54 families in the Minnesota towns of Mankato, St. Peter, and Madelia through door knocking efforts, fostering connections with the community and delivering vital resources. Resource tables strategically placed in businesses and institutions, including a collaboration with Lincoln School in Mankato, enabled us to share information about Licenses for All in Minnesota and other resources, engaging and empowering 45 individuals. These initiatives underscore our commitment to the well-being and empowerment of our communities not just in in the Twin Cities, but also in Greater Minnesota.



COPAL connects kids and adults like to health resources so that our communities can stay safe and healthy!

Rochester, Minnesota

The Rochester Regional Committee gathered to reflect on the triumphs of 2023, including impactful legislation passed in Minnesota, promising positive changes for the Latines throughout the state. Pastor Itzel Lemus, our committee president, facilitated the meeting. Ryan Pérez, Organizing Director of COPAL, also joined the group to discuss the new law on Paid Medical and Family Leave, answering questions from the community.

Our team also hosted a community vaccination event in Dodge County, organized in collaboration with Torres de Libertad Church in Kasson, Minnesota. A total of 96 individuals protected themselves from COVID-19 by getting vaccinated, and 36 received the flu shot. Together, we continue to empower and uplift our community in Rochester.



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LICENSES FOR ALL](#)





Primero de Mayo Workers' Center

This past month at the Workers' Center, we hosted a Workers' Compensation workshop, ensuring our community is well-informed and equipped to be advocates for themselves in the workplace. We also celebrated the graduation of participants in the citizenship, computer, and software classes! Finally, we excited to share that eight individuals received computers through the Hennepin County Digital Navigation program, marking a small yet significant step toward making sure our communities have access to technological tools.

Stay tuned to our social media pages for more information on taking your Minnesota driver's exam, or call us at (612) 427-2011.



The Workers' Center has welcomed a notable influx of newcomers, many of whom are from Ecuador, seeking resources. The Workers' Center serves as a community hub, offering support and knowledge to immigrant communities across the Twin Cities and beyond. You can reach us at (612) 427-2011 for more information.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMERO DE MAYO WORKERS' CENTER HERE



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.