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The HEAR.US Project - Reducing Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and Myth Through an Online Awareness Intervention

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The HEAR.US Project

Give immigrants a voice,
H.E.A.R. their cause



TACOMA **COMMUNITY** HOUSE



The HEAR.US Project

Give Immigrants a Voice, H.E.A.R. their Cause

Immigrants often leave their home country to escape a multitude of hardships such as violence, oppressive regimes, political and economic instability and countless other reasons. They come to the US in search of a better life for themselves and their families, wagering their lives on an ideal promised on an engraving on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." Yet, once they arrive in the US, often risking their own lives in the process, they realize they may not be as welcomed as they once thought. Immigrants are often looked down upon in American society, labeled as terrorists, criminals, freeloaders or drains on our economy. These are called anti-immigrant myths and they are anything but factual. These distasteful myths dehumanize people that are seeking safety, employment, and a good life for their children. Our society depends on new immigrants as much today as it has throughout history. By dehumanizing and harmfully labeling immigrants, we discredit their worth and legitimacy as human beings, silencing their voices as valuable members of our community. By helping to share truth, you can give immigrants a voice - you can **HEAR** their cause.

Humanize **E**mpathize **A**ccept **R**aise awareness –for immigrants in the **U**nited **S**tates



CONTENTS

In this toolkit you will find just a few of the countless personal stories of immigrants who have faced adversity and found success in spite of the odds against them. Also included are examples of hurtful myths and misinformation circulating through society today, as well as many hard facts that prove these myths are just plain wrong. Finally, you will find information about some new changes in immigration policy, links to find more information and, last but not least, ways you can become part of the change.

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HELPFUL TERMS DEFINED

- **Immigrant:** A person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence. (dictionary.com)
- **Migrant:** A person who moves from one region, place or country to another. Commonly referred to as Migrant Worker – a person who moves from place to place for economic reasons, often to get work, especially a farm laborer who harvests crops seasonally. (thefreedictionary.com)
- **Asylum:** Protection given by a government to someone who has left another country in order to escape being harmed. (Merriam-Webster.com)
- **Naturalization:** A process under federal law granting a foreign-born individual national citizenship. There are often a number of statutory requirements needed in order to qualify for naturalization such as residency, education, literacy and others depending on the host country's application process. (thefreedictionary.com)
- **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR):** Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the US under legally and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as "Green Card Holder," "Permanent Resident Alien," and "Resident Alien Permit Holder." (USCIS)
- **Visa:** An endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time in a country.
- **Undocumented:** Not having the documents that are needed to enter, live in, or work in a country legally (Merriam-Webster.com). Frequently referred to in a derogatory manner as an "illegal." (oxforddictionaries.com)
- **Refugee:** The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2014)
- The Refugee Council USA has designated three priority categories of refugees: Priority One-Individual Referrals, Priority Two-Group Referrals, and Priority Three- Family Reunification Cases. Potential refugees must fall within the specified priority categories and designated nationality or be referred by an approved organization. Countries of origin and quantities of refugees are set annually by the State Department.

For more information about the US refugee program, visit [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website](#).

CROSSING BORDERS

[A DETENTION OFFICER'S IMMIGRATION STORY]

BY DOUGLAS EPPS

My story of immigration is not a physical voyage across national borders, but a journey that crosses the less tangible lines of empathy, knowledge and diversity. You may ask yourself, 'how does a Caucasian American citizen have an immigration story?' I would likely ask the exact same thing. First, it may be helpful to learn where I have come from, in order to understand where I have migrated.

It was not until my desire to enter law enforcement that I was brought face-to-face with some of the issues immigrant families encounter

I was born and raised in a small, dairy farm town in the shadow of the Cascade Mountains where diversity wasn't an issue because there simply wasn't any. I went to school with white kids and learned from white teachers. It was not until my desire to enter law enforcement that I was brought face-to-face with some of the issues immigrant families encounter in their search for a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

I was hired by a well-paying private correctional company that was in need of fresh officers and was excited because I thought this would help me navigate a career into the law enforcement field. I knew little, if anything, about immigration law when I became a detention officer at Tacoma's Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), which is owned and operated by the private prison corporation, The Geo Group Inc. In a contract with the Department of Homeland Security, Geo basically gets paid to detain immigrants - the more persons confined, the more money received.

Immigrants were locked up in cells and addressed by numbers like criminals – and so they were criminals

From what I was told, the general consensus from coworkers was that the people confined in the NWDC were law breakers, regardless of the differences between criminal law and administrative immigration law. Immigrants were locked up in cells and addressed by numbers like criminals – and so they were criminals. It was common for fellow detention officers to validate their way of making a living by sharing common anti-immigrant myths. It was difficult to argue these myths since it was in our best interest to believe them as truth. Information in itself was of limited quantity around the facility. We, as officers, were not supposed to be concerned with laws, policies or criminal histories; our sole purpose was to dutifully contain and confine, to



Protest at Tacoma's Northwest Detention Center.

welcome and embrace mandated ignorance. I willfully complied for some time.

Compliance became less and less easier to adhere to as I got to know people and saw the heartache they experienced as a result of their detention

As days, months and years progressed, this compliance became less and less easier to adhere to as I got to know people (despite the cautionary advice of superiors) and saw the heartache they experienced as a result of their detention and inevitable deportation. I witnessed young men attempt to take their own life out of fear of returning to their "native" country. I sensed the desperation of people suffering through extended hunger strikes in a futile attempt to inspire compassion and change. I stood by as a never-ending supply of sorrowful tears poured from the faces of wives, husbands, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers who were being separated from the ones they care about most in this world. I met people that have been in the US for all but a few months of their lives, with established families and careers, being uprooted and sent to a country where they did not even speak the native language. Despite my deliberate ignorance regarding immigration policy, criminal histories and my own culpability, I found it difficult to continue legitimizing my part in these tragic circumstances.

I eventually left the detention center and was relieved to no longer witness families torn apart

I eventually left the detention center and was relieved to no longer witness families torn apart by overly restrictive immigration policy, yet I still hear the voices of those who fell victim to a system I willingly participated in. I found myself not interested in

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." -JFK

CROSSING BORDERS CONTINUED...

pursuing a specific career but an education. As my education grew, so did the call to raise awareness about the injustices and heartache within the Northwest Detention Center. I discovered that these issues are not just occurring locally here in Tacoma, but all around the country. I also learned that for change to occur in society, a change must first occur within our hearts.

Organizations like Tacoma Community House not only help immigrant families integrate and survive in a strange new world, but also raise awareness to preserve what's truly at stake; current and future Americans

Years ago I gave up knowledge

and awareness in order to perform a job that was part of a system that restricts freedom and tears apart hard working families, but now promoting knowledge and awareness is my mission. For those not directly touched by detention and deportation, it may be difficult to truly know the damage that restrictive immigration policy can do to our community, which is why it's imperative to share this knowledge with others.

Organizations like Tacoma Community House not only help immigrant families integrate and survive in a strange new world, but also raise awareness to preserve what's truly at stake; families, children...current and future Americans. That is the goal of this tool kit you have in front of you. Please take this information, ingest it and share it with others. Use

it to combat the misinformation and ignorance that pervades our common discourse and bleeds into our federal policy. JFK, one of our most beloved presidents and author of the book, *A Nation of Immigrants* once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Please look into your heart and make a change first within yourself, then within your community.

ONE FAMILY'S STORY



Learn about one family's journey to the United States from Mexico. This short video recounts the Cervantes' struggles and accomplishments they have made as a family in the U.S.

Visit our YouTube Channel to watch the video!
<https://youtu.be/9zaZAcHS68o>

IMMIGRATION MYTHS BUSTED



Myth

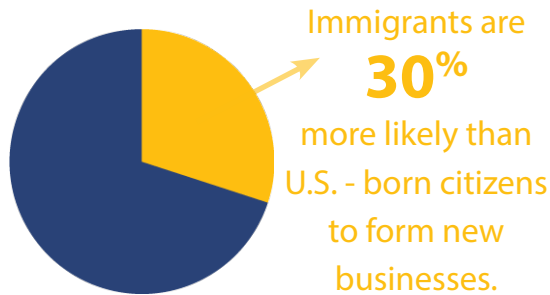
Most immigrants are here illegally.



Fact

Myth

Immigrants take jobs away from U.S. citizens.



Fact

Immigrants at all skill levels actually **create job opportunities.**

Myth

Immigrants drain resources without contributing economically or paying taxes.



Taxes paid by both legal and undocumented immigrants **exceed the costs of the services these migrants utilize.**

Fact

Myth

Immigrants increase crime.



From 1994 to 2005 nationally, the undocumented population **doubled** while the rate of violent crime declined by **34.2%**

Fact

SOK-KHIENG LIM

[A TALE OF TWO BIRTHDAYS]

She came into this world on the night her family's small Cambodian village was invaded. Despite her mother's weakened state, the family was forced to pick up and run for their lives

Sok-Khieng Lim was literally born into adversity. She came into this world on the night her family's small Cambodian village was invaded. Despite her mother's weakened state, the family was forced to pick up and run for their lives once the umbilical cord was cut. The Khmer Rouge was a brutal communist movement that forcibly took over the country in the 1970's, enforcing its anti-capitalist ideals upon the people and exterminating millions of innocent lives in the process. The Khmer Rouge guerillas were not known for their compassion or decency and it was not wise to stick around for their arrival.

During their journey to the nearest city, Phnom Penh, her mother began to hemorrhage, requiring immediate medical care. Her family soon found themselves on a river, trying to cross the waters already crowded with others fleeing for their own safety. In the midst of confusion, a nearby boat bumped into theirs, causing Sok-Khieng to fall from her older sister's arms into the river. Onlookers shouted at the terrified family to leave the baby and keep moving, but her father would not let his daughter drown.

He heroically dove into the water, dodging the nearby boats, and saved Sok-Khieng's life. This day was September 23rd, 1975 and later became celebrated as Sok-Khieng's second birthday. Once they made it to the capital city and found medical help, they were informed that Sok-Khieng had a twin brother, but it was too late to save him. In a few short hours, the Khmer Rouge had already taken her brother's life, depriving her and her family from

ever knowing their brother/son. Her mother somehow survived, but bears the scars of losing a child.

Not too long after their escape to the capital, it was overrun by the regime's troops and everyone was forced into prison camps

Not too long after their escape to the capital, it was overrun by the regime's troops and everyone was forced into prison camps in the fields on the outskirts of the city. "The males at that time were expected to either bear arms on behalf of the guerrilla group or basically get slaughtered. The females at this time were essentially either raped and used to clothe and feed the guerrilla groups or just killed."

Sok-Khieng's family was on their way to an American host family in a small Oregon town

Sok-Khieng doesn't quite know how her family snuck out of the prison camps of Phnom Penh, but she knows they were again running for their lives, eventually winding up in a UN refugee camp in Thailand where they were miraculously reunited with her father and uncles. Several months later, Sok-Khieng's family was on their way to an American host family in a small Oregon town. While grateful for the hospitality, American life was an entirely new experience for Sok-Khieng and her family. They had to relearn the basics, like how to speak, and sometimes struggled with the common luxuries we often take for granted, such as modern plumbing (her uncle accidentally broke a toilet by not sitting on it properly).

She and her siblings in turn worked hard on their education

Thanks to a resettlement program offering services much like those provided at Tacoma Community



Sok-Khieng Lim above.

House, her father was able to take English as Second Language classes (ESL) and was trained to become a welder through an employment training program. Her mom got a job working on a factory assembly line where she worked for 28 years and only took one sick day. She and her siblings in turn worked hard on their education. Three of Sok-Khieng's siblings were valedictorians of their high school.

When my family arrived, all my parents wanted to do was work and to become self-sufficient and not dependent upon anyone

"There is a perception that immigrants 'take' from tax payers in the U.S. and abuse the public assistance programs. However, when my family arrived, all my parents wanted to do was work and to become self-sufficient and not dependent upon anyone. We were very appreciative and wanted nothing more than to give back to the church members who initially assisted us in giving us shelter, food, clothing, and basic necessities." Not all immigrants who come to America face the same hardships that Sok-Khieng and her family were up against although many are escaping from various conditions

of civil unrest, violence, poverty and oppression. Yet, they all come for a new chance at life. Some immigrants may even consider this new beginning similar to a second birthday of their own.

WHERE IS SOK-KHIENG NOW

Sok-Khieng diligently made it through law school and began practicing corporate law

Sok-Khieng diligently made it through law school and began practicing corporate law. In her first immigration case, which was a pro bono asylum case, she represented a woman from Somalia who had been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) at the age of 12, a cultural practice that surgically

disfigures a woman's genitals to discourage and prohibit sexual activity. Winning this case not only changed her client's life, but her own as well, inspiring her to pursue immigration law.

Sok-Khieng now helps to ensure that others get to realize the potential of a second birthday

Sok-Khieng found it "incredibly satisfying" to help immigrants fight deportation cases even though it might not be as lucrative as corporate law. This new passion led Sok-Khieng to create the first immigration practice at the Tacoma Davies Pearson law firm where you can find her still practicing immigration and personal injury

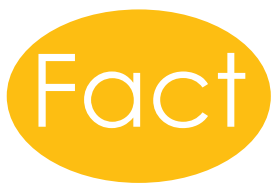
law today. Sok-Khieng now helps to ensure that others get to realize the potential of a second birthday.



IMMIGRATION REFORM MYTHBUSTER



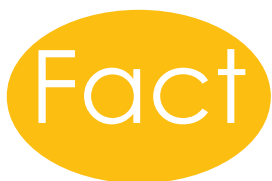
Legalizing unauthorized immigrants would hurt the U.S. economy.



Immigrants, regardless of their status, make **meaningful contributions** to our economy, such as paying taxes and performing labor that grows our GDP.



Immigration reform allows undocumented immigrants to cut in line ahead of people waiting to migrate legally.



The Senate immigration reform bill would clear a backlog of **4.4 million people**. Only after those applications are processed, would undocumented immigrants be eligible.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION POLICY

Currently under legal challenge, implementation delayed.

"Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible. With such a policy we can turn to the world, and to our own past, with clean hands and a clear conscience."

- John F. Kennedy, A Nation of Immigrants

CHANGES THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT FAMILIES

- 3-year deferred action (protection from deportation) program created for unauthorized parents of US citizen or permanent resident sons or daughters (of any age, not just children). DACA extended to DREAMers of any age (eliminates previous max age of 30).
- Parole-in-place for unauthorized family of persons seeking to serve in the military.
- Provisional waiver program expanded to unauthorized spouses and children of lawful permanent residents already in line for a green card.

Information courtesy of BipartisanPolicy.org

HOW THESE CHANGES MAY IMPACT OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS

What exactly is deferred action? Deferred action provides approved applicants with temporary relief from deportation. It does not remove a person's undocumented immigration status or provide a pathway to citizenship; it merely suspends the action that would be taken in regards to undocumented status for a specified amount of time. However, an individual granted deferred action is considered to be in the US lawfully by the federal government during the specified time of deferral.

Children: The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program of 2012 has been modified under the new executive order making upwards of 300,000 more undocumented people eligible. The prior age cap has been removed, allowing anyone who has entered the United States before their 16th birthday to apply for DACA as long as they have resided continuously in the country since January 1, 2010.

Parents: Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) is a new program that allows undocumented parents of US citizen or lawful permanent resident children to apply for an authorization to work in the United States. Eligible applicants must have lived in the US since before January 1, 2010 in order to qualify.

Parole-in-place: The policy giving temporary protection for undocumented family members of active or veteran persons in the U.S. Armed Forces has been expanded under the new Executive Action. The program will now include the family members of those who are seeking enlistment in the US Armed Forces but not yet active members.

"Stateside" Waivers: The stateside waiver process announced in 2013 for spouses of US citizens has been expanded to allow spouses and children of lawful permanent residents to apply for the waiver. This waiver will allow certain individuals seeking lawful permanent residence to eliminate some of the risk of being barred re-entry as well as diminish the time required to be outside of the US when traveling to a foreign consulate for the purpose of applying.

For the latest status on these programs, contact Tacoma Community House Immigration Specialists for more information (253-383-3951) or visit www.tacomacommunityhouse.org

More information about the Executive Action by President Obama can be found at:

- National Immigration Law Center - <http://nilc.org/relief.html>
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services - <http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction>



"Immigration is wind in our country's sails — it's the labor, skills and ideas that move our country forward. But right now our sails are poorly positioned — and our policies are letting valuable wind power go to waste. We need to fix the policies and laws that make up our sails so that all of our wind power can fill our sails and move our country forward."
(Courtesy FrameworksInstitute.org)

JOK NHIAL

[FROM 'LOST BOY' TO CHANGE AGENT]

I believe I survived for a reason; to be a useful and productive member of society, and to give back to my homeland

Can you remember back to when you were 6 years old? Many of us were probably just starting 1st grade or learning how to ride a bicycle without training wheels. Sudanese refugee Jok Nhial's biggest concern, however, was surviving. He grew up in the village of Liliir, in South Sudan, when a brutal attack forever changed the lives of 6 year old Jok and his 9 year old brother.

"I was separated from my family at the age of six. The government troops and their proxy militias killed anyone they could find. Everyone had to run for their lives..." The leader of Sudan at the time, Suwar al-Dahab, had publically decreed to murder all boys in the area, giving them little choice but to run. Jok's childhood was anything but ordinary. Yet, even amidst all the turmoil, he still sought to educate himself. He learned to write by drawing in the dirt with his fingers and was often

taught in a classroom "under a tree."

Jok was offered a life changing opportunity to come to the United States

Despite Jok's desire to learn, it was difficult to get an education living in such uncertainty and conflict, but it didn't stop him from trying. "Schools were common targets for bombings but it was important that we got an education, so we went." After many years in refugee camps in Uganda, Kenya and Sudan, Jok was offered a life changing opportunity to come to the United States.

The "Lost Boys of Sudan" US government program granted asylum to about 3,500 boys displaced by genocide and civil war in Sudan -- Jok was one of those boys. He flew into the Sea-Tac International Airport eager to attend high school, undeterred by the trauma his young life had already endured. He knew a bit of English from his schooling in Africa, but was not near fluency yet, and so English as Second Language (ESL) classes would prove to be critical

for his success at Tacoma's Foss High School.

At TCH, Jok was able to take classes to improve his English as well as take part in the summer youth employment program

Jok, along with four other "lost Boys," was connected to Tacoma Community House in order to take part in some of their helpful classes. At TCH, Jok was able to take classes to improve his English as well as take part in the summer youth employment program, by the end of which he had a job with the Puget Sound Boys and Girls Club. In just a few short months he already had his very first job, a monumental achievement in itself.

Jok obtained a scholarship with Gonzaga University

Upon finishing high school, Jok obtained a scholarship with Gonzaga University where he excelled, graduating with a double major in political science and sociology and was bestowed the Multicultural Honor for academic

Photographed from left to right Yvette Richards and Jok Nhial. Honorees from the 2013 Luncheon.



achievement. He graduated college with a desire to learn more and give back to broader society.

There are a lot of false perceptions and myths against immigrants living in the United States

Even though life in America is much safer than it was in Sudan, it hasn't been easy being perceived as a stranger in one's own home. "There are a lot of false perceptions and myths against immigrants living in the United States. I have noticed that there are some native-born who perceive immigrants as uneducated, terrorists, welfare-breeders, criminals..." Unfortunately, some people have let their fear of difference influence their interactions with Jok. Nevertheless, he maintains an uplifting attitude and boundless perseverance, always grateful for the opportunities that he has made full use of. He remains focused on where he has come from, those that have supported him along the way and where he plans to take the world in the future.

WHERE IS JOK NOW

In 2008, he founded the Liliir Education Project

Since Jok graduated from Gonzaga he has continued his desire to give back to the community. In 2008, he founded the Liliir Education Project (LEP) and has taken on the role as Executive Director. The nonprofit subsists entirely on donations. Jok and LEP has successfully raised enough money to sponsor eleven college students so far and plan to gather enough funds to build a high school in Jok's home region of South Sudan, which has one of the worst literacy rates in the entire world. "I want to help build classrooms for children in remote rural villages who are still being taught outside. When I am carrying out my work, I think of educating the next generations to build up a strong nation."

Jok earned the TCH Alumni Award commemorating his achievements and ability to overcome adversity

In 2013, Jok earned the TCH

Alumni Award commemorating his achievements and ability to overcome adversity. He is currently attending Seattle University in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in non-profit management. Not only does Jok find it his responsibility to return some of his success to the place of his birth, but it also fuels his never-ending passion for making the world a better place. "LEP keeps me motivated because it makes me feel like I am making a real difference in the lives of those students..."

For more information about the Liliir Education Project, to make a donation or to contact Jok Nhial, you can visit www.liliireducationproject.org

NEW AMERICANS IN WASHINGTON

13.3%

of Washingtonians are foreign born

86.5%

of children with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens

79.8%

of children with immigrant parents are English proficient

45.9%

of immigrants in the state are naturalized U.S. citizens

DID YOU KNOW?

Washington would lose **\$14.5 billion** in economic activity and about **71,197 jobs** if all unauthorized immigrants were removed

TAKE ACTION

[BECOME A CHANGE AGENT]

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE, CONFRONT HARMFUL MYTHS

- Text, email or post on social media. Share this toolkit with your friends, family, colleagues or acquaintances.
- Have a conversation about harmful myths that you have learned about.
- Discuss or share your own immigration story with others

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- Assist in ESL classrooms
- Intern or volunteer with the Immigration Assistance Office
- Help gather needed items for immigrant families

More opportunities are available, just ask!

Contact:
Karen Thomas
Volunteer Services Manager
kthomas@tacomacommunityhouse.org
253-383-3951

CAMPAIGN

- **Contact your Legislator:** Use this helpful online tool to find your legislator's stance on immigration and let them hear your voice <http://app.fwd.us/legislators>
- **One America:** Join the campaign for immigrant rights - equal human rights <http://www.weareoneamerica.org/take-action>
- **Center for Community Change - Action:** Amplifies the voices of the people at the grassroots level www.communitychange.org/real-change/something/

- **The National Partnership for New Americans:** A commitment to welcoming and integrating new Americans www.partnershipfornewamericans.org/

SUPPORT TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Your donation will

- Reunite immigrant families
- Provide immigrants with education and employment assistance
- Advocate for immigrants who are victims of crime
- Help immigrants gain legal residency and/or citizenship

Donate online: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/tch/>

TAKE ACTION

[LEARN MORE - KNOWLEDGE IS POWER]

IMMIGRATION

- **FWD.US:** A collection of informative resources found on the web to help frame your stance on immigration <http://app.fwd.us/resources>
- **The Immigrant Learning Center:** Research-based information about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants/
- **The American Immigrant Policy Portal:** A collection of research related to several areas of immigrant integration www.usdiversitydynamics.com/nj/
- **Americas Society/Council of the Americas:** An abundance of research and news about the prosperity and benefits immigrants bring to our communities www.as-coa.org/issue-category/immigration
- **Immigration Policy Center:** Accurate information about the role of immigrants and immigration policy on US society www.immigrationpolicy.org/

MYTH

- **US Chamber of Commerce-Immigration:** Myths and Facts www.uschamber.com/immigration-myths-and-facts-0
- **Immigration Policy Center:** Top 10 Myths about Immigration www.immigrationpolicy.org/high-school/top-10-myths-about-immigration

EXECUTIVE ACTION

- **National Immigration Law Center – Immigration Relief:** Executive Action <http://nilc.org/relief.html>
- **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:** Executive Actions on Immigration www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction

ECONOMY AND IMMIGRATION

- **Economic Policy Institute:** Facts About Immigration and the US Economy www.epi.org/publication/immigration-facts/
- **The White House:** Ten Ways Immigrants Build and Strengthen Our Economy www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/07/12/ten-ways-immigrants-help-build-and-strengthen-our-economy
- **US Department of Treasury:** The Many Contributions of Immigrants to the American Economy www.treasury.gov/connect/blog/Pages/The-Many-Contributions-of-Immigrants-to-the-American-Economy.aspx

"I had always hoped that this land might become a safe and agreeable asylum to the virtuous and persecuted part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong."
-George Washington



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Mission: Tacoma Community House creates opportunities for immigrants and other community members in the Puget Sound region through comprehensive services focused on self-sufficiency, inclusion and advocacy.

Vision: We are a pathway to change leading to generations of self-sufficient people and a region welcoming of immigrants and refugees.

Today TCH annually serves more than 3,600 individuals through four core services:

- **Education:** literacy and language programs.
- **Employment:** job preparation and career placement services.
- **Immigration:** citizenship classes and an array of immigration services.
- **Advocacy:** client advocacy which supports victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes, as well as, social justice advocacy.



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