



SEACM's *mission...*

is to welcome refugees and immigrants of all nationalities and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

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A 501(c3) corporation

From the Desk of Director Alice: The Numbers Game

I try to schedule at least one practice session before a client has their Naturalization Interview at the USCIS Field Office at the Federal Building in Sacramento. It is a long wait as it now takes 18 to 24 months from filing the application to the interview itself. One of the areas many clients stumble with is all the numbers:

- 2 year term of office of US Representatives
- 4 year term of office of the President
- 6 year term of office of US Senators

There are 100 Senators and 435 Representatives (2 Senators from each of the 50 US States) and 9 Supreme Court Justices who are selected for life.

Now add in the 27 Amendments of the US Constitution. That is a lot of numbers to keep straight when English is your second language and your years of schooling are far behind you. People really have to study and want their US Citizenship to memorize all these numbers.

An Ethic of Service

Almost eighteen years ago, Ofelia Alvarez was forced to make an emergency trip down from Fall River to Mercy Hospital in Redding. Her baby was not due to be born, yet she was in labor. At Mercy, no one in OB spoke Spanish so a call was made to community volunteer and future SEACM Director, Alice McFadden. Despite using all measures to stop the labor, baby Jennifer was born at 27 weeks and weighted 2 lbs., 6 oz. She was placed immediately in the NICU (Newborn Intensive Care Unit) where she remained for 3 months, steadily growing stronger.

During this time, Ofelia and Alice developed a close and trusting relationship. Ofelia wanted to become an American citizen and Alice was eager to help her. Fast forward to the present and we find Jennifer a thriving senior at Fall River High. Not only did her mom become a citizen but also her father, uncle and aunt with the assistance of SEACM and Director Alice.

I spoke with Jennifer about her senior project recently. Every 12th grader at Fall River High is required to create a kind of service project and write a paper about the way their project will impact them and their community. Because of her premature birth experience and the support that her family received from Director Alice and SEACM, Jennifer decided to organize a fund raiser for SEACM by selling home-made tamales at school. In her paper she wrote about the life saving impact of the NICU and her own desire to give back by enrolling in training to become first, a Licensed Vocational Nurse and ultimately, a Registered Nurse. She will start an Intern program in LVN training in Fall River after her high school graduation in June and plans to enter a nursing program through Shasta College.

What about the tamales? When she first began selling, there were not many buyers. In a change of approach, she asked to have her project advertised on the school daily bulletin. This strategy paid off. Sales skyrocketed and in 4 weeks she sold 105 dozen tamales. She prepped them on Fridays, her family helped her make them on Saturdays, and she delivered them on Sundays. The result of this effort was, most importantly, the expression of a deep ethic of service within Jennifer. Additionally, she presented a check to SEACM for \$1,384.00. This donation has been gratefully received and will be put to work

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Your Giving Makes a Difference!

Every donation supports the continued operation of SEACM helping immigrants and refugees become productive members of our communities.

You may mail your donations to: SEACM, 2315 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001 or visit our website: SEACMredding.org.



Service (continued)

helping others follow their paths towards becoming productive members of their communities and citizens. Thank you, Jennifer!

Bill Rich-Editor

Immigrant Ally

We can all act as allies for immigrants. This means we can provide support for immigrants with our friends and neighbors who may not have access to important information. One of the areas of concern about immigrants we often find in the media is crime. Typically, a media story will focus on a criminal who is also an immigrant or an undocumented person. Our minds are great at categorizing. This feature of thinking leads us to throw immigrants in general into the category of criminal. Curious about the facts on this topic, three professors from the University of Wisconsin gathered data to determine how much crime is committed by immigrants and undocumented people in the US. Published in 2020, their study is titled, [“Comparing crime rates between undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants and native-born US citizens in Texas.”](#) It turns out that native born citizens commit more crime than legal immigrants or undocumented people for violent crime, property crime and drug violations! This means that enacting policies to deport immigrants or undocumented people will not reduce the actual crime rate in these categories of crime. The authors summarize that, “Our findings help us understand why the most aggressive immigrant removal programs have not delivered on their crime reduction promises and are unlikely to do so in the future.”

Bill Rich-Editor

