

It goes without saying that 2020 has brought its fair share of challenges – from social unrest, to wildfires, to climate challenges, to the chaos of the 2020 election, and especially the uncertainty that we all continue to face with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, there are many reasons to remain hopeful. We are especially inspired by the way in which members of our community have come together to address these challenges and support the members of our community who are most vulnerable to their impacts.

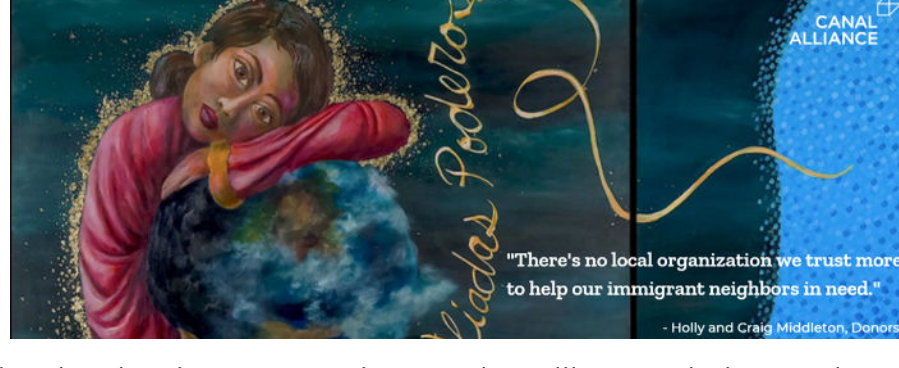
We hope you will read our [Crisis Response & Impact Report](#) to learn more about how together we are working to make Marin a place where everyone can live, work, learn, and succeed. The report provides a high-level summary of how we have pivoted to ensure that our core programs continue to serve the community while also launching new services to address the most pressing health, educational and economic impacts that this crisis is having in the Latino immigrant community.

As the report outlines, your support has allowed us to:

- Transition our Immigration Legal Services almost overnight to serve as a virtual law firm
- Pivot our youth and adult education and workforce programs to provide services virtually
- Partner with the City of San Rafael and the County of Marin to address the digital divide that exists for students and residents in the Canal by implementing a mesh Wi-Fi network
- Raise and distribute over \$2.5M in direct cash assistance to 4,000 households that have lost jobs and wages during the pandemic

These are just some of the highlights of the impact that your investment in Canal Alliance is making for Latino immigrants and their families. Together we can break the cycle of generational poverty.

Make your end of year gift today



Committed and caring community members, like you, desire to take meaningful action. By making a gift to Canal Alliance today, your contribution will directly help immigrants and their families to weather this crisis and continue pursuing their long-term goals for education and employment.

Please make your most generous gift today!

[Donate](#)

UP! alumni turned staff member



Cat Melgar works part-time as a Youth Program Assistant in UP! (University Prep). Although she has been working at Canal Alliance since July 2020, she has been involved with us for over 10 years as a student in UP!

[Read the full story.](#)

Thank you for your guidance, Pellie



Pellie Anderson began volunteering with UP! (University Prep) in 2018. Since then, for two hours every week, Pellie has, provided students with homework support, study skills, and organizational skills for two hours every week.

[Read the full story.](#)

Celebrating a successful pilot semester of online ESL instruction



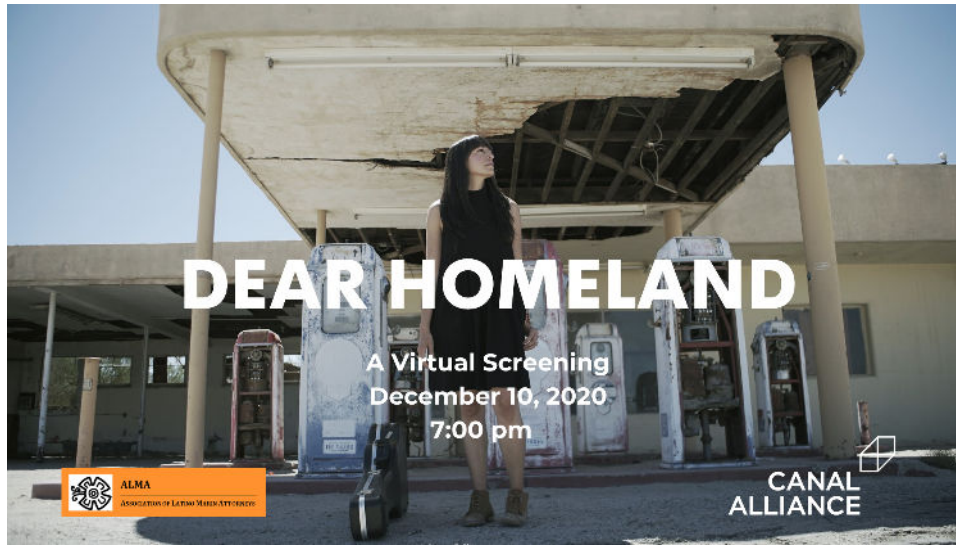
JamBoard created by the ESL Level 200 class

On December 3rd, the ESL program staff, volunteers and students celebrated the successful completion of its Fall 2020 Semester. The semester's completion represented a remarkable accomplishment as staff quickly pivoted to offer a pilot semester of the program through virtual learning. After providing students with Chromebooks and ensuring they had access to the internet, staff and volunteers helped students learn to access and navigate a new online platform to ensure that students could continue to advance their English skills despite the shelter in place orders.

In addition to three full-time program staff, the pilot semester included six teachers, and 98 volunteers (including 53 Dominican Service Learning students). Volunteers served as aides, tutors and conversation partners. In total, seven classes were offered and 140 students registered. As a result of this successful pilot of online learning, students not only learned English this semester, but also gained important digital literacy skills that will help them in their personal and professional lives going forward.

At an online celebration of the semester's completion, students shared their voices and experiences of the semester by creating JamBoards on Google Drive (one of which is pictured above) that illustrate the opportunities, positive outcomes and difficulties they experienced during the semester. We are pleased to congratulate the students, volunteers and staff for their hard work and commitment this semester!

Join us tonight for a virtual film screening



Dear Homeland is a feature length documentary film created by Claudia Escobar and produced by KQED that shares the story of formerly undocumented singer-songwriter Diana Gameros' music and journey home.

The free screening will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Lucia Martel-Dow, Director of Immigration and Social Services at Canal Alliance and featuring **Dear Homeland** filmmaker Claudia Escobar, film subject Diana Gameros, and Andres Perez, president of the Association of Latino Marin Attorneys (ALMA).

[Register here](#)

Meet our new Grant Writer and Staff Attorney



Cerrissa MacNichols, Grant Writer

Cerrissa is helping those living in the Canal neighborhood and beyond by using her skills as a grant writer to demonstrate to funders why their support is important. She is passionate about the mission of Canal Alliance and is grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those we assist.



Edith Jimenez, Staff Attorney

Edith is working alongside the Immigration and Legal Services team to provide pro bono legal services to community members in need. She is working with victims of crime to help them apply for a U Visa and with Special Immigrant Juveniles to help them obtain a green card.

Thank you for your support on Giving Tuesday



We're eternally grateful for champions of immigrants like you who are transforming our shared beliefs and hopes into action and giving people an opportunity to invest in the world they believe in. In these times of uncertainty, we're optimistic that so many people care enough to do the hard work needed to change the world. Together, we raised \$13,118 for Latino immigrants and their families.

Giving Tuesday reports total giving increased from \$1.97 billion to \$2.47 billion in the United States alone, representing a 25% increase compared to Giving Tuesday 2019.

Join us at the 28th Annual Heart of Marin Awards



Celebrating the work and successes of our nonprofit community is more important than ever. Join us at the virtual celebration where Canal Alliance, our staff and volunteers will be recognized in four categories: Volunteer of the Year, Excellence in Leadership, Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence, and as part of a collaborative recognized in the Excellence in Innovation category.

More ways to keep in touch

