



## COVID-19 Grantee Spotlight: Compañeros Immigrantes de las Montañas en Acción



In response to the Covid-19 crisis, **Compañeros Inmigrantes de las Montañas en Acción** (CIMA) Raíces (formerly Nuestro Centro), PODER Emma, and Retoño Hñähñu are collaborating to provide mutual aid in the Emma community of Buncombe County, NC, with a focus on our Latinx immigrant neighbors.

**We believe in the transformative power of collective action, and this moment is no exception. In this time of social distancing we remain “Contigo en la Distancia - With You in the Distance.”**

Bruno Y. Hinojosa Ruiz  
Co-Director, CIMA

Beginning in March, we called 130 families that are members of our organizations to hear their needs and concerns, and have since incorporated their input into our actions.

For the first few months of the crisis, we set up additional extensions on CIMA's trusted and familiar hotline so that community members with questions and needs related to COVID-19 could talk with a Spanish or English speaking operator for resource and referral help. This service is now under the umbrella of Consulta Tu Compa, which will provide ongoing bilingual resource referral and case management for individuals and families.

To increase access to protective face coverings, we hired women in the neighborhood to sew masks, using supplies donated by Masks of Love. To date, we have distributed 426 masks!

CIMA is also working on alleviating food insecurity while supporting local businesses. **Our collaborative provided almost \$27,000 in vouchers to 96 families that could be used at three small grocery businesses in our community: Frutas y Verduras, La Plazita, and Hñähñu Produce.** This system of food assistance allowed our neighbors, who come from different Latin American countries, to shop for groceries particular to their culture

while strengthening the stability and longevity of these small, Latinx-owned groceries.

We also joined with immigrant rights organizations across the state, organized by Blueprint NC, to establish the Immigrant Solidarity Fund, which provides direct cash assistance to immigrant families who will not receive state or federal aid.

As the Covid-19 crisis continues, our organizations remain committed to collective action for community care.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare societal inequities that Southern Partners Fund has fought since its incorporation. SPF's capacity for enabling its grantee partners to build coordinated rapid response teams in their communities is well documented. SPF's grantee organizations rely on Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal grants to identify their most vulnerable populations and connect them to agencies and services that can help. In turn, vulnerable populations in these communities trust SPF grantee organizations to provide them with the best support available. In many communities, our grantee partners are their first responders.

COVID-19 is currently the primary focus for the Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal while SPF aggressively seeks new funding partners. To date, SPF has raised over **\$4M out of a \$10M funding goal** and is already issuing its first round of grants to partner organizations throughout the rural Southeast.

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**For more information on *Compañeros Inmigrantes de las Montañas en Acción*, or on contributing to SPF's Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal**, please click below to visit our dedicated COVID-19 page or contact us by phone with the contact details provided below.

[More Info](#)

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