

WELCOME TO OUR

Accompany Now! Newsletter



Hello Community Partners!

We are excited to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter. As always, we aim to keep you informed about the work we are doing to support unaccompanied minors and highlight the inspiring work our partners and volunteers are doing. We believe that working together can create a better, more equitable world for everyone. So, join us as we share stories of hope, resilience, and progress!

Peace,
The Accompany Now Team

Celebrating Milestones: Helping Unaccompanied Minors Achieve Graduation Goals

Our commitment to journeying with our clients often goes beyond basic needs. Recently, one of our case managers went above and beyond to help one of our graduating clients receive their graduation items, such as a yearbook, cap and gown, and other essentials. We recognize the importance of celebrating milestones and accomplishments and are dedicated to helping our clients achieve their goals and dreams. This kind of care and dedication to our clients make our team stand out and truly make a difference in the lives of the unaccompanied minors we serve. We highlight case manager **Veronica Garces-Villa** for her commitment to service, even in unconventional ways!



Representation and Diversity Matters

Unaccompanied minors face unique challenges when it comes to adjusting to life in a new country, and representation can make all the difference as they adjust. This is especially important for those who may already feel isolated and disconnected from their new surroundings. It is important that they see stories of inclusion and hope to see themselves in. Community outreach coordinator Katia Castañeda recently hosted a presentation at a local high school that accomplished just that! The presentation focused on multicultural inclusion, focusing on who unaccompanied minors are and their uniqueness.

When students see themselves and their experiences reflected in the materials they are learning and the people teaching them, it can lead to increased engagement and a sense of belonging. By prioritizing representation and diversity in education, we connected with the students and allowed a space for the very unaccompanied minors in the presentation's audience. Katia expresses that hope and emotions were palpable during the presentation, stating that the presentation's success was not dependent on the size of the group but rather the impact that the representation had.

Meet our Team!

The Accompany Now team is a group of compassionate individuals committed to walking alongside unaccompanied minors as they navigate the first few months of their new lives in the United States. With their extensive knowledge and experience in social work, our team of regional managers, case workers, and case aides provide support, hope, and resources to help our clients and families navigate these transition periods. Regional Manager Valerie Orellana says, "It's rewarding when we hear back from our clients that they have succeeded in being seen by a dentist or even a psychiatrist. It's great to see that they are taking on bigger and bigger tasks and fulfilling them." From conducting home studies to celebrating graduations, our team is committed to the holistic care of our unaccompanied minors.



In the photo: Regional Supervisor-Blanca Serrano, Family Support Specialist-Lilliana Reyes, Family Support Coordinators-Mayla Molero, Frankemi Hernandez, Maritza Mendez, Veronica Rivas, Stephany Martinez and Case Aide-Miyeli Gutierrez.

Meet May's Employee of the Month!

Please join us in congratulating case manager Vanessa Gerena for May's Employee of the Month! Vanessa's dedication, hard work, and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed. She consistently goes above and beyond in everything she does, and her contributions have significantly impacted our team and our company. She has constantly advocated for her clients in school enrollment appointments and medical appointments to ensure the families are seen and not turned away. She always ensures her families leave appointments with accomplished goals and are well-informed on the next steps. Vanessa's delicious baking always brings smiles and laughter to the office and those around her. We look forward to continuing to see the positive impact you make in our clients' lives. Join us in congratulating Vanessa on being named the Employee of the Month!

Highlighting Community Partners



Did you know that having the right tools for school is super important for a child's education? From colorful pens and fun notebooks to cool calculators and bookbags, having the proper supplies can make a big difference in how a child engages in their learning. With the right tools, they'll be able to take better notes, finish their homework more efficiently, and stay engaged in their studies. At Accompany Now, we make it a priority to make sure that every unaccompanied minor we serve has these supplies. However, this is only a task we can accomplish through collaboration with others.

We are grateful for the constant support and collaboration of our esteemed community partners, **Horizon NJ Health** and **The Church of Brielle**, for their generous school supply donations!

How to get involved...

- If your church or organization is interested in learning more about unaccompanied minors and our program, email our Community Outreach and Education Coordinators to schedule a presentation!
- We are always accepting school supplies such as bookbags, binders, pencils, notebooks, folders, and more. We are available for supply drop-offs or pick-ups Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm.
- Summer enrichment is essential for any child! Please email our Community Outreach and Education Coordinators for more information on how you can sponsor YMCA and Boys & Girls Club summer passes for an unaccompanied minor.
- We are constantly looking for and connecting with different law offices and organizations that can provide legal representation for SIJS cases, U-Visas, and T-Visas. We would love to connect with any law offices that may be interested in collaborating with us!



Want to connect?

**HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORK WE DO
OR HOW TO GET INVOLVED? CONTACT OUR OUTREACH TEAM!**

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