



# philanthropiece

piecing together a better world

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## PhilanthroStories, March 2022

### LATINX LEADERSHIP & IMMIGRANT RIGHTS FEATURE

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A [2021 survey](#) conducted by the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado found that 71% of Latinxs in Colorado are worried about their kids failing or falling behind in school and 57% of Latinxs parents in Colorado report experiencing barriers when connecting to their school staff and support systems. The most recent [TRENDS Report](#) showed that less than half of Latinx-identifying students in Boulder County pursue university after high school graduation, compared to 71% of their white-Anglo counterparts. While immigrant services do exist throughout our community, a clear need exists to amplify support for this student group.

***Voces Unidas of Boulder County is addressing these challenges, and doing so in a way that is led by people who have lived this reality.*** In this edition of PhilanthroStories, you'll meet two young changemakers, **Jeny Padilla and Citlalli Vazquez**, who are leading the work of developing equitable support systems for immigrant students in our local school systems. Philanthropiece is proud to work alongside these incredible changemakers and to foster the evolution of this critical initiative in our community. Thank you, as always, for reading and for believing in the possibility of piecing together a better world.

With gratitude,  
*Katie Doyle Myers, Executive Director*

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# Voces Unidas

OF BOULDER COUNTY

## Community Leading Community: Voces Unidas of Boulder County

For Jeny Padilla, awareness around immigrant rights and being an active member of her community came at an early age.

“I grew up in a low income neighborhood, everyone was Spanish speaking and most people did not speak English. Any time neighbors would get mail, people would come knocking at my door and ask me to translate their mail for them, even if it was someone I wasn’t super close to. I was just known to help people, so people would show up and I would translate for them,” recalls Jeny.

Citlali Vazquez also became interested and involved in immigrant rights issues as a young girl.

“I remember the first time I was introduced to community leadership and civic engagement was back in 2006, when there was the Immigration Reform protest in Denver. My parents were actually in the process of becoming citizens, so I remember my parents taking me to those protests at a very young age with all of my family. We were always interested in participating. And I remember helping my mom with the flashcards to help study for the citizenship test. I was always very interested in immigrant rights,” says Citlali.

Now both young adults, Jeny and Citlali continue to serve as community leaders and work on behalf of immigrant rights in their roles with Voces Unidas of Boulder County.

READ FULL ARTICLE HERE

Voces Unidas of Boulder County is honored to receive support from the following organizations. ¡Mil gracias!



The Denver Foundation



With special gratitude for contributions from [Xilinx](#) and [VaporTech](#) made via Longmont Community Foundation.

And for [LatinasGive! Denver](#), a circle of women who share both their heritage and a love for taking action in the community.

**The purpose of Philanthropiece is to pursue a just, equitable and sustainable world through collaboration with organizations, movements, and people.**

Learn more about our work and meet our team at [www.philanthropiece.org](http://www.philanthropiece.org)

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