



CARECEN

CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER / CENTRO DE RECURSOS CENTROAMERICANOS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Tessie Borden**

CARECEN 213-385-7800 ext. 168

C: 323-559-1895

[tborden@carecen-la.org](mailto:tborden@carecen-la.org)

**WORKERS JOIN WITH STUDENTS TO BUILD UP THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH  
EXPANDING A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT GRATTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(April 24, 2015, Los Angeles) – Day Laborers want to provide for their families and contribute to their communities, and they are taking time today to come together to work with elementary school kids to expand a community garden here at Evelyn Thurman Gratts Elementary.

At a time when our city is deciding whether to keep funding the day laborer program, NDLO, IDEPSCA and CARECEN are here today to say that Day Labor Centers are a crucial resource for our neighborhoods, because they provide day laborers with the means and the opportunity to become fully empowered members of our communities.

“Events like today’s garden expansion are not the first time that day laborers have selflessly given of their time and work to improve the community,” said Martha Arévalo, CARECEN Executive Director. “Workers built this garden from scratch in February, and the labor centers regularly street cleanups to beautify the area.

The next street cleanup is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on May 12, 2015, to begin at the CARECEN Day Labor Center at 1675 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

The centers also provide laborers with opportunities to learn new skills. On May 5, the CARECEN Day Labor Center will be hosting the Red Cross for an adult CPR class from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Participants will have a chance to earn a two-year certification, and our day laborers have signed up to be part of the class.

“I’ve often heard the workers tell me that they have nothing but their hands to contribute, but they will gladly give them to show that they can help,” said Pablo Alvarado, Executive Director at NDLO. “Day laborers need to give back, just like anyone else, and the centers make it possible for them to do that.”

CARECEN has worked for more than 31 years to protect the rights and dignity of Central American and Latino immigrants in Southern California. Since its founding in 1983, when thousands of Central Americans were fleeing the brutality of civil war, CARECEN has worked to change unjust immigration policies, win legal status for immigrants, and foster community activism on issues such as education reform, workers and immigrant rights, economic justice and community strengthening.

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