Hello, my name is Andrea and thank you for meeting with me.

Today, I want to tell you about Doors of Hope.

(overview) Immigrant families live under the shadows, feeling out of place and doubtful about engaging with certain institutions. They are an important part of our society, yet they are continually made to feel unwelcome even criminal. How can we help improve their quality of life and get them to engage with organizations and institutions that are here to help them?

(initial research) Families coming into America, both documented and undocumented, are looked upon as numbers not as people and are processed through an assembly line atmosphere with little distinction between individuals, asylum seekers or family units. They aren’t afforded safe and free access to present their cases with tangible resources that they can utilize to start their new life. There’s little direction on how to navigate social services, help to reduce trauma and its effects on families from separation, detention or deportation of members.

(id of problem) Doors of Hope is looking to change all that for low-income immigrant families regardless of country origin. These are nuclear families with parents ranging from 25 years old up to 60 with their children anywhere from a newborn to young adults at 21 years of age. They are here without support from any friends or family leaving them feeling isolated. With possible cultural and language barriers, they won’t have quick, easy access to information about the different organizations available to them.

(audience with personas) Take for example, Farah, a 46-year-old wife and mother of three boys aged 16, 12, and 10 years old. She has no criminal history and has lived in the US for 21 years. She and her husband originally left their home country because of a lack of job opportunities and came to the US but without proper paperwork. Farah is worried about her family income as she works 2 full-time jobs and recently her husband, Yahya, got arrested by ICE at his workplace. She barely has time for her children and her oldest took on the responsibility as caretaker for his younger siblings. The children feel depressed and refuse to go to school. Farah knows this separation, and possible deportation, has created a tremendous change for her family, but she doesn’t know what to do or who to go to. She’s afraid and doesn’t trust anyone especially public services. There are no possibilities of going back to her home country because their society is highly oppressed, and economics are severely depressed.

(opportunity) It’s stories such as Farah and her family—worried about financial livelihoods, emotional health, childcare without family present—that illustrate how the current immigration process doesn’t help alleviate the fear, trauma and desperation immigrant families experience. Doors of Hope is here to provide a lifeline of light, clarity and humanity to these families. Our intention is providing real wellness for all the members of immigrant families and guiding them each step of the way in securing the building blocks needed to fully enjoy their new life within the US.

Thank you for your time.