
DOORS OF HOPE

by Andrea Pseudonym

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OVERVIEW

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

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.

COMPETITORS

In learning about the organizations and groups out there in this same space, two came across the radar as offering the nearest services to what **Doors of Hope** plans to offer. **RAICES** (The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) provides legal services for immigrants that extend from low-cost residency and citizenship services to pro-bono representation for families and children in detention. They also offer social services to increase their quality of life with resettlement assistance, transit support of recently released migrants and hotline to connect with local community resources.

You also have the **Safe Passage Project**, which is focused on providing legal representation to refugee and immigrant children who face deportation and defend their legal rights to apply for protection. They also work to provide healthcare and education services for their clients, but their primary focus is legal representation.

WHAT'S THE 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

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.

STRATEGY

As immigrants to a country that they know very little about and have no one to reach out to, it's vitally important to make that first impression a trustworthy one. Trust and faith are the important feelings that need be cultivated between migrants and natives. Immigrants coming into this country have a strong faith system and trust in their churches and so our approach is to build upon that by housing our services within religious centers pressing that coming through **our doors, you will be supported with faith that you can trust to help you live in your new home. Give us your trust and we'll give you our hope**

RESEARCH SOURCES

Cultural Insights, Communicating with Hispanics

https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/pdf/audience/audienceinsight_culturalinsights.pdf

“The role of a Faith based Organization.”

<https://cmsny.org/publications/2018smc-nicholson/>

“Immigration, Discrimination and Trust”

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsoc.2019.00032/full>

“Police Abuse”

<https://www.aclu.org/other/fairness-all-work-immigrants-rights-project>

“Foundation Support of Immigrant Communities: Insights From a Survey of Immigrants in Minnesota’s Twin Cities”

<https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1312&context=tfr>

“Reaching and engaging with Hispanic Community”

<https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2016-5ILatinoCommunicationsGuide.pdf>

“Migrantes mexicanos en los Estados Unidos: Una revisión de la literatura sobre integración, segregación y discriminación”.

<http://www.scielo.org.mx/pdf/estfro/v18n37/2395-9134-estfro-18-37-00001-en.pdf>