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Wow! As we look back and reflect on the past year we are humbled by your willingness to share the light that shines brightly in each of you as you give of your time, talents and treasures with us. November always reminds us of the many ways you have been instrumental in helping us.

Your partnership is vital to the growth and development of the work here at La Luz Hispana. May you know we are so grateful for your support.

May God’s blessings be ever present and provide you with all you need!

CITIZENSHIP

In the past year, we have focused on getting help for those who want to study for citizenship. We currently have 6 adults working with individual tutors who prepare them for the citizenship test by reading, writing and practicing the one hundred questions that they must know. Of these six adult students 4 have been waiting to hear back from the immigration office on the status of their interview and/or when that interview will take place. Two of these

candidates have been waiting since last November, 2016. We are so grateful for the time and commitment that both students and tutors have given.



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Please remember La Luz Hispana in your giving.

By signing on to Smile.Amazon.com rather than just Amazon.com, a shopper has the ability to designate a charitable Organization to receive a donation of .5% of that purchase from Amazon. So a \$100 purchase would earn La Luz Hispana \$.50. The Smile.Amazon.com website automatically notifies Amazon that there is a contribution involved, but it also allows the buyer to start shopping on Amazon exactly as if they have signed on to Amazon.com. The buyer must sign on to Smile.Amazon.com EVERY time they shop, in order for the donation to kick in.

A Reflection from the Eyes of an Immigrant by Sister Paula Schwendinger, PBVM:

You don’t know me...but I’m the little girl with the black hair and black eyes that you see in the stores with my Mom. I help to take care of my little brother and sister. I hear your comments: “Aren’t they cute?” “What beautiful hair she has!” I also hear the whispers: “Why does that woman have so many kids?” “Probably there’s not a dad in the picture” “Why don’t they go back to where they came from?”

You don’t know me...you see, I was born here almost 8 years ago. My mom and dad came here almost 15 yrs. ago and I’ve heard them talking about being afraid they might be sent back to Mexico because they don’t have the right papers to stay. They work very hard to make a good life for me and my brother and sister. I hear people ask why they don’t speak more English. There are not enough hours in the day to work and take care of things here at home and then learn English.

You don't know me...My parents don't know that at school I am made fun of as well. Kids see my dark skin and tell me that I won't be here long because they are building a wall and will send me back to Mexico and I won't be able to climb over the wall to get back. It hurts my feelings, but I don't tell my parents because they have enough worries of their own. I appear to be older than I am. You see, because I speak both English and Spanish, my parents sometimes ask me to read the letters that come to the house. Some English words are too hard for me to understand, but I do the best I can to explain it to them. At school I am in a special group because I can't read as well as the rest of the kids, and I don't always get the meaning of the story. My parents tell me how proud they are of me, because I can speak two languages. I wish the kids would see that and treat me better.

I know my friends go outside or to the park, and in the summer to the pool. But I help take care of my little brother and sister so my mom can get stuff done, and get the meal on the table for when my dad comes home.

You don't know me...My dad has been gone for a week or so now. No, he didn't leave us. My mom told me he was going to go to Mexico to visit, but the kids at school told me that he's in jail because he is a bad person and they had to lock him up. They don't know my dad. He comes home and sits down and puts us all on his lap on the couch and gives us hugs. He's not a bad person. I know my Mom misses him, and I hear her in her room crying every night when she thinks that we are all asleep.

You don't know me...but I wish that you would try, because I am just like your little children. You may not want me here in your country, even though I was born here. I may not be here

long, because I know that my Mom is trying to put together some money so that we can all be together as a family in Mexico. I am afraid to go there. I can speak the language, but I have heard that it's dangerous there, and that even little kids are being killed in the streets.

You don't know me...and I wish I knew where I belonged.

This reflection depicts the state of many of our immigrant sisters and brothers.

We, at La Luz Hispana, are so aware of the gifts of these immigrants whom we work with every day and we invite you to prayerfully consider advocating for their lawful presence in our country.

WEBSITE:

We are happy to announce our bi-lingual website:

<http://www.laluzhispana.org/>

Please check it out and see what is happening at La Luz Hispana.

CLOSED:

La Luz Hispana will be closed December 25-January 2, 2018.

GRAN FESTIVAL:

Please join us next year on June 9, 2018 in Bandshell Park.

www.granfestivalnorthiowa.com

If you would like to help keep this initiative alive by donating:

Make checks payable to:

La Luz Hispana
116 First Ave. NW
Hampton, IA 50441

All donations are tax-deductible.
Thank You.

Sister Carmen Hernandez, PBVM

Sister Maurine M. Lashby, PBVM

Aimee Hanson

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facebook

www.facebook.com/LaLuzHispana

webpage

www.laluzhispana.org

hours of operation

Monday, Wednesday

1:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.