

EVALUATION GUIDE

❖ **Introduction**

Homies Unidos is extremely honored and thankful for your participation in our second annual 2016 Central American Youth Leadership Conference: Youth in Seek of Peace and Prosperity. We once again welcomed our Central American Refugees (CAR), youth and the thousands that continue to arrive into our communities.

Last year's on December 2nd, we had our second successful conference provided services close to 600 youth and, and we look forward to reaching even more this year. In this conference, we addressed today's violence and the status of our refugee youth. We had workshops for youth, their families, and educators. We also had a Resource Fair with a diverse range of resources for refugees and their families, and we culminated with a musical concert that exalted the mixing of cultures: refugees and their families, communities, and schools.

Since attending a conference is a cultural and professionally rewarding experience, where in addition to socializing with other students from other schools and a trip to your possibly future, to be part of the *California State University Los Angeles*. We hope that you achieved the two main reasons for what participants attend a conference: (1) to hear presentations and (2) to come together with other youth. We hope that listening to presentations really informed you of what others are doing to survive and progress, and that would have had inspire your to conquer your own dreams, by exposing you to different ways to move on in your life. As your career advances, you'll learn that even though listening to the talks is extremely valuable, hallway conversations can be even more fruitful. Do everything you can to cultivate such conversations: that is one of your main jobs at a conference.

On the next page you will have a two page evaluative survey. Please answer at the best of your knowledge, but mostly focus I the fact that we had objective to achieve.

❖ **Who will we include in the evaluation?**

- Members of the organizing committee and volunteers
- Organizations
- Masters and administrators of participating schools
- Participating Students

❖ **What will we evaluate?**

We will evaluate the Conference based on what we achieved and not the main objectives of our conference and if they were served and presented well the workshops. We will also make gaps in the organization of the event, venue, transportation, food, resource fair and musical concert.

Goals: The main objectives of our conference were:

(1) Revitalize our support and welcome the young Central Americans and their families who fled violence and economic hardship in their country of origin and are now known as unaccompanied minors in the United States, and

(2) Connect Central Americans Youth with resources provided by organizations in Legal services, mental health, education and prevention of violence.

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(3) Produce a resolution of our youth with a focus on the experiences they have endured that qualify them for asylum, education, health care and employment. Besides, assure that young people who continue to flee from violence are finally given the refugee status in this country.

❖ Workshops Topics:

1 - The cultural shock of Central American Youth in Los Angeles

Workshop Description: Central American youth and their families will benefit from reviewing the historical causes of poverty, violence, and exploitation that has been the experience of Central America. We will discuss the effects of culture shock and forced migration: loss of hope, unresolved trauma, loss of identity and lack of support and how that has impacted their integration into our communities, how they face changing environment, bullying, pandillas, common violence and family reunification. These issues are the major causes for victims of violence who experience self-abusive behavior such as alcohol and drug abuse, adolescent pregnancies, and lack of academic interest among other issues.

2 - Education in a US school system

Workshop Description: Central Americans youth might have difficulty choosing between education and employment under the economic circumstances they find themselves in. Young people and their families would benefit from understanding the benefits of continuing their education, higher education options after high school, and the reality of the lack of resources for our community. The purpose of this information is to empower the student to achieve their personal and education goals. There will also be resources for those young people who have dropped out of school and would like to return to get an education.

3 - Understanding the benefits of the legal system

Workshop Description: Central American youth may qualify for asylum by various laws designed to protect their safety and human rights. Also, there are rights for descendants of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas that are part of international law, which could help Central Americans during this application for asylum in the US. This workshop prepares young people and their families for the process/legal consultation: how to communicate, how to advocate for themselves, and how to be informed.

4 - Your health and wellbeing, how to maintain a healthy mind

Workshop Description: In this workshop we will talk about the cultural, environmental and nutritional impact, which youth face as they transition to the US. Differences and changes in their lifestyle, nutrition (fast food) and surroundings that may have an effect on their body and mind will be explored. Forced migration creates traumas that impact the youth's education, relationships and their state of mind. In this workshop they will learn what mental health is and how it can help maintain a healthy mind, reduce stress, depression and how to create a better environment in their family.