

# Join America

A Program of



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### **Comprehensive Immigration Reform in Action**

#### **About Join America:**

Join America conducts <u>citizenship classes and English as a second language</u> (ESL) to approximately 2,000 students (adults) annually. We are one of the few organizations endeavoring to assimilate the influx immigrant families and arm them with the skills to be productive residents and citizens.



Dave McKeon, volunteer and son of US Congressman McKeon, instructs students on the topics of the US Constitution and government.





### **Comprehensive Immigration Reform in Action**

### **About Join America classes:**

### Civic Responsibilities

Students learn about the status of citizenship in the United States. As a foundation for studying the rights and responsibilities of citizens, they learn what it means to be a citizen. Students gain a deeper understanding of who they are as citizens of home, school, city, state, and nation and where their rights and responsibilities are derived from at each level. This enables our new citizens to integrate and assimilate into the American society.



Proud students at the completion of their program. David Cleveland/View

#### Civics: U.S. Constitution, Government and History

Students receive the training needed to pass the citizenship exam.

They study US history, American political traditions and institutions at the federal, state, and local levels, and the formation and implementation of the U.S. branches of government. They also learn the logic and rationale behind the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other founding documents.

### English as a Second Language (ESL)

To effectively assimilate into the American society as new citizens, immigrants who have limited English proficiency must study and master the English language. This also enables them to fulfill their civic duties and to participate fully in our institutions of: education, business and employment, government, banking and health care.



### **Community Services**



### **Immigration Assistance & Referral**

In the process of becoming citizens, immigrants are often impeded by errors in their paperwork. CORE, along with other community organizations and local immigration lawyers, partners with the USCIS to hold workshops that guide them through this paperwork to remove this barrier to citizenship. This service is also provided in our office.

### **Civil Rights**

Often immigrants find themselves taken advantage of by employers, landlords, etc. because of their lack of language skills and knowledge of our institutions.

### **Voter Registration**

A critical component of JOIN AMERICA's assimilation program is teaching the new citizens about the opportunities and responsibilities that come with American citizenship. Voter education and registration are one of our many objectives.

#### **Domestic Violence Referrals**

Work with local shelters, such as Safe Nest, to ensure that immigrants receive professional assistance with domestic violence issues.



Representative of Safe Nest advising students on issues of domestic violence



### **Promoting Democracy Across the World**



Because of the groundbreaking work done by **JOIN AMERICA**, the State Department regularly asks CORE to participate briefings with election monitoring teams from around the world.



African Journalists



Members of Central African conflict resolution organizations.



Members of East African conflict resolution organizations



Members of Turkish Parliament



### **Honors Students and New Citizens**



Senator Heller joins CORE to honor students and new citizens at our Nevadans By Choice dinner.



Venetian Hotel and Casino hosted this celebration of new American citizens.

JOIN AMERICA celebrated graduates who became new citizens with an awards dinner. At the Venetian Hotel, 500 new citizens and their families were entertained by speeches from Governor Brian Sandoval, Senator Dean Heller and Congressman Joe Heck.

Special awards were given by the Governor and Senator to students who overcame their physical disabilities to join America.



CORE National Spokesman Niger Innis introduces Gov. Sandoval to new citizens.



### **Target Geographical Population**



#### **North Las Vegas**

Population: 223,491 (2012) 19% Legal Permanent Residents eligible to become naturalized citizens



#### **Henderson**

Population: 265,679 (2011) 9.7% Legal Permanent Residents eligible to become naturalized citizens



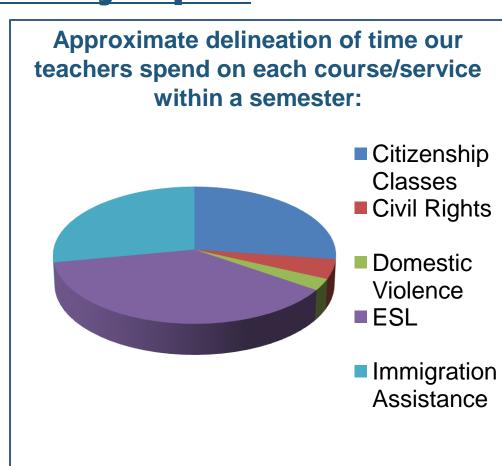
#### Las Vegas

Population: 596,424 (2011) 17.7% Legal Permanent Residents eligible to become naturalized citizens



### **Community Impact**

- Approximately 32.4 percent of Clark County residents speak a language other than English at home, according to the U.S. Census Bureau in January 2013; and 21.9 percent of Clark County residents are foreign born.
- This population benefits from CORE's services in order to fully integrate into our community, contribute to the local economy and build a better life for themselves and their families.
- Because of the acute language challenge in Clark county schools, JOIN AMERICA has been solicited by the mayor of North Las Vegas and the federally funded Head Start program to help address the problem.
- We serve approximately 2,000 students annually with graduation rates over 90%.





### **Media Impact**

## Profiled in the Las Vegas Review Journal's Special 4<sup>th</sup> of July Series

http://www.reviewjournal.com/life/communityorganizations/american-dreams-lead-las-vegans-questcitizenship



The Las Vegas Review Journal followed the JOIN AMERICA students in class for 10 weeks from first day in class and then witnessed the culminating occasion, their citizenship swearing-in ceremony.

David Cleveland/View



David Cleveland/View

#### Featured on NBC - Teacher of the Year

http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/story/ramos-teacher-appreciation-citizenship-las-vegas/pez-QX8eRku6M\_P-VYwONQ.cspx





### **Support Your Community**

Classes are provided at <u>no cost</u> to students. We need YOUR help to ensure the continued success of JOIN AMERICA!



### **OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS**

**Sands Corporation** 

Peabody Energy

Weidner Resorts

National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Telemundo Las Vegas

99.3 FM

Radio Variedades 870 AM

El Mundo

Univision Radio

La Nueva 103.5

Organizacion de Nayaritas En Las Vegas

Entravision Communications Corp.

Success City

CORE is a nonprofit public charity that operates by charitable donations from members and supporters. Contributions assist with providing community outreach services and education to new citizens in the community. CORE receives no government funding. Contributions to CORE are tax deductible.