



colibrí center

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IDENTIFYING

HONORING

HEALING

SUMMER 2021 WELCOME PACKET



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THE COLIBRÍ CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTES HEALING AND CHANGE BY WORKING WITH FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED MIGRANTS TO IDENTIFY AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER.

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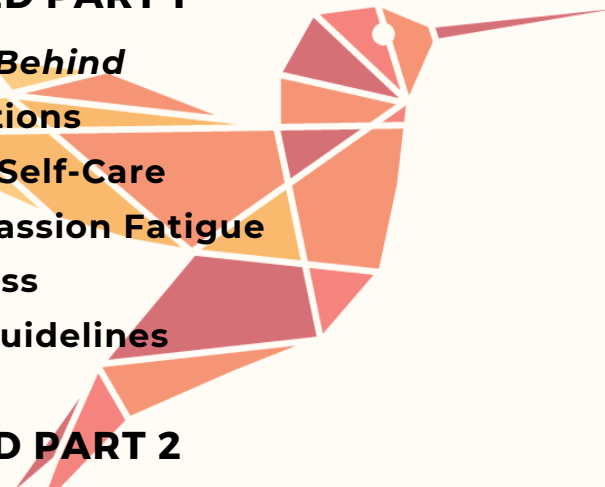
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WELCOME AND CONGRATS!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Colibrí Center for Human Rights team! We are very excited to have you on board with us for the spring! You were selected because of your impressive skills, experiences, and commitments to social justice. We know we have a lot to learn from you. Thank you again for choosing to devote your fall to Colibrí Center for Human Rights and our mission to end disappearance and uphold human dignity along the U.S.-Mexico border.

During your time here, we hope you will challenge yourself to dive deeper into the complexities of immigrant rights and justice work, and working with affected families on both sides of the border. We encourage to stretch and grow your understanding, skills and perspectives by remaining ever-curious, humble, and by wholeheartedly showing up to the work. And we will be there walking alongside you, guiding you throughout the journey.

You have already taken the first big step by agreeing to join the team. Now, we urge to thoroughly read through our welcome packet to get a broad understanding of who we are, our expectations, complete important onboarding forms, and review references and recommended readings. We've also included literary inserts to help illustrate the hostile terrain that we navigate here on the border. We've included: an excerpt from *Border Cantos* by Richard Misrach and Guillermo Galindo; the foreword from *Left Behind: Life and Death Along the U.S. Border* written by Dr. Gregory Hess (with whom we closely work with at the Pima County Office of Medical Examiners); an excerpt from *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail* written by Colibrí Board of Director's president, Jason De León; and a poem entitled "sobre piedras con agartijos (para todos los mojaditos que han cruzado para este lado)" by Gloria Anzaldúa. We hope you will continually use this as a resource throughout your time with us.

Once again, we thank you beforehand for your commitment and service to Colibrí Center for Human Rights. These next twelve weeks will quickly fly by, so let's make the most of it. Pa'lante!

Saludos,
The Colibrí Staff

SUMMER 2021 INTERNSHIP TIMELINE

May 17 2021 – August 13 2021

Date	Event	Relevant Information
May 17, 2021	First day of Summer 2021 Remote Internship	
May 21, 2021	Summer 2021 Orientation	3-6 PST
June 21-25, 2021	Midterm Evaluations	Links for intern self-eval and staff eval further down in the packet
August 2-6, 2021	Final Evaluations	Links for intern self-eval and staff eval further down in the packet
August 13, 2021	Last day of Summer 2021 Remote Internship	Dundees (final awards) to be held that afternoon, time TBA

ORIENTATION AGENDA

May 21, 2021 - 3:00-6:00pm PST

Time	Activity	
3:00-3:10 pm	General Welcome	Gia - Program and Data Associate
3:10-3:15 pm	Welcome from ED	Tony - Executive Director
3:15- 3:35 pm	Introductions & Icebreaker	Perla - Family Network Director
3:35-3:55 pm	Overview	Gia - Program and Data Associate
3:55-4:00 pm	Break	
4:00-5:00 pm	Colibrí Presentation	Lourdes Gonzalez - Colibri Center Ambassador
5:00-5:05 pm	Break	
5:05-5:25 pm	Onboarding	Gia - Program and Data Associate
5:25-5:35 pm	Language Guidelines & Self-Care	Mirza -Missing Migrant Program Director Perla - Family Network Director
5:35-5:45 pm	Q&A and Wrap-up	Gia - Program and Data Associate
5:45-6:00 pm	Team Breakout Sessions	



Richard Misrach, *Border Cantos*
Wall, east of Nogales, Arizona, 2015

“At the end of the twentieth century, the border between the United States and Mexico began taking the form of a wall, installed sections of varying length and varying materials from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. The westernmost states are characterized by long stretches of fencing with periodic gaps. In Texas, the watery divide of the Rio Grande mostly defines the border, with only scant wall construction. Some sections are designed specifically for pedestrian traffic, others for vehicles. The increased wall-building of the last decade was intended as a strategy to discourage migration and drug trafficking. In fact, it has done little to stop either, as it is easily climbed, gone around, or tunneled under. One unexpected result of the new walls has been the funneling of migrants away from crowded urban checkpoints and toward dangerous desert and mountain terrain where they run the risk of dehydration, injury, and death.” (p.17)



MEET THE TEAM



TONY BANEGAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Served as Honorary Consul of Honduras in AZ and served as Philanthropic Advisor at the Arizona Community Foundation and as an Executive with two large nonprofits providing oversight of numerous child-welfare programs in Phoenix. Also serves as the Chair of the Board of Advisors of the Consular Corps of Arizona,



MIRZA MONTERROSO
MISSING MIGRANT
PROJECT DIRECTOR

Worked in Mayan archaeology sites in Guatemala, Belize, and México. Worked as a forensic archeologist, digging clandestine graves created during the Guatemalan genocide. Has been an expert witness in cases of crimes against the civil population. Has taught courses in forensic anthropology in numerous Universities



PERLA TORRES
FAMILY NETWORK
DIRECTOR

Worked as a Case Manager for the Office of Refugee Resettlement working in the reunification of unaccompanied minors in the US-Mexico border with families who reside in the US. She continued her work as the Children's Specialist for the Guatemalan consulate in the Border Protection team.



GIA DEL PINO
PROGRAM & DATA
ASSOCIATE

Co-founder and lead organizer of a grassroots immigrant-led organization called Madres Sin Fronteras, working to ensure justice and protection for communities affected by anti-immigrant platforms. Campaigns included the first ever community bond/bail fund and a 24/7 Rapid Response Hotline to address immigrant-related emergencies.



ISABELLA FASSI
MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT
ASSISTANT

Grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and studied sociology and Spanish for undergrad. Most of my work experience is in education. I've done a lot of tutoring, taught English to speakers of other languages, worked on youth-focused community political education projects, and taught at the secondary level in Malawi and Guatemala. I moved to Tucson in 2018 to start a dual degree Master's program at UA in Latin American studies and public administration, and I've been able to work at Colibrí during that time as part of a fellowship.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS



ANNIE BIANCHI

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Hi everyone! My name is Annie Bianchi (she/her/hers/ella) and I'm from North Kingstown, Rhode Island. I'm a rising senior at Connecticut College majoring in American Studies, minoring in Sociology, and completing a certificate in public policy and community action. Currently, I'm an exhibit coordinator for the Hostile Terrain 94 team at Connecticut College, and I've learned so much throughout the planning process for virtual witnessing events. I hope to contribute to migrant justice efforts and immigration reform in the nonprofit sphere after graduation, and I'm considering applying for a Fulbright fellowship in the fall. As a sophomore at Conn, I applied to the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy with a proposed area of study in migrant farmworker justice in the U.S. As a selected scholar in the Holleran Center, I'm a member of a cohort of community action-oriented students who want to pursue social justice work after college. Additionally, since joining the HT94 team in June 2020, I've completed extensive research with my peers to create a trauma-informed exhibit that strives to prevent the retraumatization of participants during witnessing events. As a result of our research, my co-author and I presented our findings and recommendations at the 2021 Northeastern Anthropological Association conference. I'm so excited to meet and begin working with my fellow interns and team members, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to join such a meaningful and impactful organization. As for my fun fact, I'm the oldest of five kids and my family was asked to be on the show "Wife Swap" when I was younger, but my parents declined! :)



CARMEN RIVERO

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Carmen Rivero is an Honors student at the University of Arizona, double majoring in English and political science. During her time at university she has had the honor of receiving Highest Academic Distinction and becoming part of the Dean's List with Distinction. She is passionate about environmental justice and is an avid lover of books. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career that combines her love for literature and humanitarian work. One interesting fact about her is she read 51 books last year.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS



MEISSHIALETTE ORTIZ

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Meisshialette Ortiz is a Puerto Rican Actress, Entertainer, Model, Beauty Queen, Educator, and Anthropologist. She was born in Ponce, PR on March 14, 1999 and is currently 22 years old. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Concentration in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archeology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Forensic Anthropology from Boston University School of Medicine. And she is conducting her thesis research "The effects of quicklime in the decomposition process in a tropical climate" in Puerto Rico to contribute to justice and criminality in this country and in other regions where perpetrators use this chemical to hide their victims. Her goals and aspirations are to continue with her PhD and become a Forensic Anthropologist, expand this subdiscipline inside and outside of Puerto Rico, and build a body farm in this tropical country. Among her most outstanding achievements have been, reaching university at the age of 15, being an example as a beauty queen with the title of Miss Puerto Rico Petite 2020 and being able to work in TV. A peculiar fact is that, in addition to being a model and anthropologist, she loves sports and arts; She was a basketball player and athlete, and at the same time she was able to develop as an actress in short films, theater and movies.



TASFIA 'TAS' ARSHAD

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

My name is Tasfia Arshad but my nickname is Tas. I am a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NYC and I will be graduating this spring. My major is Law & Society and my minor is Digital Media & Journalism. I intend to go into the social justice field within the international spectrum, specifically a position in public diplomacy or a Foreign Services Officer. I am hoping that this coming year is filled with professional experiences and I will be able to go into graduate school with a clear idea of what I want to do. Some of my major accomplishments in my undergraduate career was studying abroad in Madrid, Spain, become a Vera Fellow and maintain my grades throughout my undergraduate career. One quirky fact about me is that I love cleaning and love stocking up on cleaning products!



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

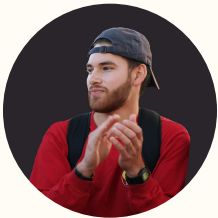
SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS



MIRNA EUNICE CASTRO

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Hello! My name is Eunice Castro, and I am a recent first-generation graduate from West Chester University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Marketing. At the age of 3, my parents and I moved from El Salvador to the United States in hope of a better future, and since then, I have gained a passion for learning about the different experiences that immigrants go through. I have a growing desire to serve Immigrant and/or Latinx communities, whether it be helping provide resources/info, raising awareness about the struggles and successes they face, or being involved in social justice movements. With all of that being said, I am very excited to join the Colibrí Social Media & Communications team this summer! Throughout my undergraduate years, I was the Social Media Coordinator for The Impact Movement, and a member of Mu Kappa Tau (Marketing Honors Society). I also took part in forming a new and upcoming group on campus that is geared towards creating a safe space for undocumented students and raising awareness about their experiences in and out of college. During my free-time, I love to sing/play guitar, go shopping, and spend time with my family. A quirky fact about me is that I am a huge lover of dogs, fun socks, and anything chocolate!



TONY BRUNENKANT

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

My name is Tony Brunenkant from Tucson, Arizona, and I am a rising senior at Wabash College in Indiana where I study Political Science and Film & Digital Media. At Wabash, I have been honored on the Dean's List for each semester and have recently been invited to join Pi Sigma Alpha—the National Political Science Honors Society. After studying abroad in Costa Rica, my academic focus has zeroed in on migration studies and transnational border and asylum policies. Therefore, upon graduating I hope to secure the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship. One fact about me is I was in my high school's marching band.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

FAMILY NETWORK



JULIA QUINTERO

FAMILY NETWORK TEAM

Hi everyone! I have been with Colibrí for a semester now as the audio editing intern for the Historias y Recuerdos project. I am so excited to continue this work as working with the families has been incredibly heartwarming. I have a BA in anthropology from California State University, Chico. During my time in school, I gained experience in a forensic crime lab and in documentary film making. I plan to attend graduate school in the next couple of years to continue studying migration and how to better support migrants and their families. One quirky fact about me is I have become obsessed with perfecting a French croissant recipe.



LUIS OSUNA

FAMILY NETWORK TEAM

Luis is a Xicano filmmaker born and raised in the borderlands and living on Kumeyaay land in the city known as San Diego in the state of California. He's currently in his Senior year on track to completing a Bachelor's degree in Documentary filmmaking at the California State University in Northridge. Luis works with various grassroots desert aid groups such as No Más Muertes, Border Angels, and Armadillos Search and Rescue. He aspires to further his storytelling abilities, and use filmmaking as a tool for resistance and social change. In 2018, Luis was invited as a representative of Armadillos Search and Rescue alongside a representative of No Más Muertes to speak at Vrije Universiteit's 'Border Deaths and Migration Policies' international conference in Amsterdam. There they spoke about the United States' migration policies, their deadly consequences, and how non-state organizations so often take action where the government does not. In 2019, Luis was part of a group of volunteers that submitted for and received a \$20,000 'Lush Charity Pot' grant for Armadillos Search and Rescue. As a grassroots, migrant-led organization, this allowed us to acquire essential safety equipment such as reliable walkie-talkies, satellite phones, and snake gaiters, all very important safety tools for the safety of volunteers venturing into the treacherous deserts on search and rescue missions. When he's not out in the desert, or filming the next story, Luis is probably out and about on his bicycle on his way to the coffee shop or to get some tacos.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

FAMILY NETWORK



ANA BELEM CEBALLOS
FAMILY NETWORK TEAM

My name is Ana Belem Ceballos and I am a recent University of Arizona graduate (Spring 2020), with the goal of one day teaching high school students truthful history. I say one day because my goal at the moment is not to go into the classroom right away, but rather focus on expanding other passions of mine; like migrant rights and other human rights/ advocacy work, dance, music, etc, before stepping in to teach. A recent achievement of mine would be my decision to leave my sweet, beautiful Tucson and move to Virginia/ the DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia) area. Another achievement I feel really good about is the work that was done for the "Cuantos Mas?" campaign while interning here at Colibri in Fall 2020. This was such a special and imperative campaign, we all worked hard and achieved the goals set for the campaign. A fun fact about me is that I am currently teaching myself how to play the guitar, as a lefty, which has been difficult just as much as it has been rewarding.



DESTINA BERMEJO
FAMILY NETWORK TEAM

Originally born and raised in Ogden, UT, Destina worked her way to Tucson, AZ to start graduate school after she earned her B.A. in Global Justice and Identity at Westminster College in 2019. She is now graduating in May 2021 with her M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona. She will be starting her Ph.D. program in Sociology at the University of California Merced in the Fall of 2021. Her work focuses on the intersectional relations with (im)migration/displacement, identity, and Indigeneity in the regions of Central America, Mexico, and the United States. She has been learning Maya Kaqchikel, an Indigenous language that is largely spoken in the region of Guatemala, since the Summer of 2020 and hopes to utilize in her literature and work with Indigenous migrants from Central America that are coming through Mexico and the U.S. Destina loves walking her dog in the Utah mountains, listening to EDM, and collecting stickers.



MARIA JOSE GUTIERREZ
FAMILY NETWORK TEAM

I am a fourth year PhD candidate in the Spanish and Portuguese Department at UC Davis. I was born and raised in Ecuador where I did a bachelor's degree in Multimedia Journalism. I hold a master's degree in Latin American Literature from New York University and during my graduate studies I have collaborated in the digital storytelling project Humanizing Deportation at UC Davis where we facilitate audiovisual testimonies on deportation and its effects. My areas of research include migration studies in the Andes region, visual and material culture, affect theory as well as Latin American female writers and testimonio literature. I am currently writing my dissertation on the connection between affects and migration histories to and from Ecuador looking at different forms, archives and genres. Since January I have been training on podcast production and I hope to create my one podcast on memory and migration in the Andes soon. One quirky fact about me is that I worked as a Yoga teacher for one year in Ecuador and that I speak German fluently.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

INTERNSHIP COORDINATION



ALEXANDRIA HERRERA

INTERNSHIP COORDINATION TEAM

Alex Herrera is a dual Ph.D. candidate in Latin American History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with a graduate minor in Latinx Studies at Penn State University. Her dissertation is on the history of public health and medicine in Guatemala during the 19th and 20th centuries. Alex graduated from the University of Arizona in 2018 with Bachelor's degrees in History and Spanish Literature. As an undergraduate, she interned with Congressman Raúl Grivalja as a casework and outreach intern and held numerous leadership and internship positions on and off campus. Her experiences in the Tucson community and in Guatemala shaped her research interests and passion for immigrant rights. While in Guatemala, Alex learned about the complex reasons for people to leave the country and travel through the Sonoran Desert in search of safety and a better life. Her training as a Latin American historian allows her to approach the humanitarian issue of migration in the U.S. Borderlands from Latin American and U.S. perspectives. Alex is currently learning Kaqchikel Maya, the second most commonly spoken indigenous language in Guatemala, and has participated in Tulane's Maya Language Institute for three years. Alex is passionate about learning Kaqchikel Maya to conduct oral histories for future academic research and aid migrants in asylum cases. In her free time, Alex enjoys traveling (she and her mother have been to 42 countries), cooking, baking, eating delicious food, and spending quality time with her African Gray parrot, Charlie, and Pitbull, Cleo.



ERICA "RICKY" KLAFEHN

INTERNSHIP COORDINATION TEAM

Erica "Ricky" Klafehn (she/her/hers) is a graduate student in the Forensic Science Master's Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice – City University of New York (CUNY), specializing in Toxicology. She currently serves as Secretary of LGBTQ+ & Allies and is the incoming President of JJC Forensic Anthropology, the new student organization she is starting on campus for spring 2021. Ricky hopes to pursue a career in forensic anthropology, and has dipped her toes into many opportunities to learn about both the scientific and humanitarian perspectives of the discipline, including studying remains in Italy and Egypt, as well as interning at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State University during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her current interdisciplinary research on forensic anthropology and forensic entomology explores the effects of blow fly larval feeding on decomposing bone tissues in sites of sharp tool trauma to see if there are any histomorphological changes in wound patterns. In her free time, Ricky is an avid movie-watcher, loves Starbucks and carbs, playing/listening to music, and playing with her cat Bagheera. She is really looking forward to being a part of the Student Ambassador Program, learning about how to continue to spread the mission of Colibrí, and promoting social justice!



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE



KAREN CABARGA

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

My name is Karen Cabarga; I am a student at the Watts College Public Service and Community Solutions at the Arizona State University. I am majoring in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. I am the first out of twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren to attend a four-year university. Being first-gen is an accomplishment in itself, but I am proud to say that I will be graduating this Fall of 2021 with a Summa Cum Laude.

After I graduate, I plan on continuing my education at ASU. I would like to pursue my Master's in Public Administration to hopefully work for a nonprofit that helps create more opportunities for Latinos so they can live a better quality life. My dream job would be to be a Fundraising Director. I would like to be the person who is responsible for raising the needed funds to be able to continue supporting the organization and its mission.

When I am not in school and focusing on my studies, I like to go back home and spend time with my family. My family lives in Douglas, Arizona; it's a small town on the U.S southern border. When I go home, I like having carne asadas with them. I love helping my mom and sister in the kitchen by making the frijoles and ensalada. I love talking to my dad while he cooks the meat, and I love hearing my 98-year-old grandmother sing to boleros, romantic Mexican music. It makes me very sad being away from my family, but everything I do is to make them proud, and I know I have already made them so proud, but there is so much more I want to do for them.

During my free time, I try to find ways I can self-improve myself. I like listening to NPR News every morning to be informed on what's happening. I like watching at least two TED Talks or one documentary every other week to increase my knowledge. I also enjoy reading a good article on topics I don't know about. You're probably wondering, "When does this girl give herself a break?" well I do it when I go for long walks in the evenings. Even though I'm always busy, I always remember to take breaks and enjoy life.

FUN FACT: Karen loves to dance to Norteno, Banda and Cumbias



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE



TERESA PADRÓN

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Teresa Padrón is incredibly excited to return to Colibrí, having worked on the Missing Migrants Project in the fall of 2019, and as an Intern Coordinator in the spring of 2021. A recent graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul Minnesota, Teresa's longstanding commitment to advocacy, access, and change grounded in the community have been her guiding principles and aspirations. Among other achievements, Teresa has helped create and implement the Power, Oppression, and Privilege workshop at Macalester college, a social justice training that is currently provided to all first years. As part of this process, Teresa was also involved in a larger restructuring of the Allies Project, and in training facilitators. Facilitated by her work in the college archives, she has also lead many sessions across campus regarding the way the institutionalized systems of power at the college perpetuate discrimination and disenfranchisement for BIPOC students. While she is still figuring out exactly where her path will take her, Teresa hopes to be an agent of structural change and advocacy. In her free time, Teresa enjoys baking; playing the marimba, vibraphone, and jazz piano; and performing with her college's improv group Fresh Concepts. Teresa is originally from Charlottesville Virginia.



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT TEAM



CRISTIAN SÁEZ FLÓREZ

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT TEAM

Cristian Sáez Flórez has worked with several human rights and peacebuilding organizations in Colombia. Most recently, he worked as a junior specialist with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies' Barometer Project, monitoring Colombia's 2016 peace agreement. Previously, as a research assistant at the House of Memory Museum in Medellin, he developed written content on Colombia's armed conflict for exhibitions. He also served as an intern with the Manos a la Paz project with the United Nations Development Programme, strengthening democratic governance and peacebuilding capacities by supporting the construction of local development plans.

Cristian holds a BA in political science from the University of Antioquia. Recently, he finished his first year at the Keough School of Global Affairs where he is working on his Master's in International Peace Studies. Cristian is originally from the North Coast of Colombia, so you would assume someone from the coast is a good swimmer, but Cristian barely swims better than a rock. On a positive side, he has ridden horses since the age of four and loves it. Cristian also loves eating and trying new food.



JASMINE HERNANDEZ

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT TEAM

Hello! My name is Jasmine Hernandez and I am master student in the Anthropology Department at NYU. I am broadly interested, and have been pursuing a career, in forensic anthropology. My research focuses on human variation, specifically looking at what teeth can tell us about people's geographic origin. My work is concentrated in Mexican and Central American populations (Guatemalan and Honduran) with the hopes of aiding in the identification of migrants found along the Mexico-U.S. border. I have held internships at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York and the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner in Arizona where I had the opportunity to assist in forensic casework and recovery of remains from scenes. These internships allowed me to further understand the need for research in human skeletal variation. I taught my first course in Forensic Anthropology this past summer and can now confirm that I would like to be an educator at some point! I currently work in a bagel shop in New York and get very excited about the smallest of things. You can always count on a "wahoo!" from me for what you might think are the smallest achievements (:



SPRING INTERNSHIP TEAM

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT



ANDREA LEOS

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT TEAM

Andrea Leos is currently a junior at Western Carolina University in North Carolina. She is hoping to graduate in December 2021 and is double majoring in Forensic Anthropology and in Forensic Science with a biology concentration. With her BA she desires to be a Forensic DNA Analyst to aid in the identification of missing individuals.

Andrea has worked with Colibri since June of 2020 and is honored to continue working on the Missing Migrant Project/DNA Program. Currently, Andrea participates in a graduate research project where she aids in the investigation of the relationship between self-identity and forensic genetic predictions of ancestry. She has also been recently elected to be the new lay leader of her local church, where she is to represent the voice of the congregation in working with the Pastor(s) and the mission of the church. Quirky fact: Andrea loves to explore old books stores and antique shops for her collection of comic books!



KAREN TORRES

MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT TEAM

My name is Karen Torres, I am a third-year undergrad at the University of Arizona. I'm studying Physiology, Spanish, and Global & Public Policy and I am planning on going to medical school to be an OBGYN. I intern here at Colibri and at El Rio Health Center in the Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP). RHAP is a group of young people who host free clinics for other young people and take away the barriers to accessing reproductive health. I have presented about the importance of comprehensive and peer led sexual education around the US and have been able to help thousands of people! I'm also in the middle of creating a youth activist curriculum to train other young people about social issues/how to be a peer educator. A fun fact about me is that I'm a dancer and I once danced with drag queens and they told me that they have a profession for me if I didn't become a doctor – that was my peak.



Jonathan Hollingsworth, *Left Behind: Life and Death Along the U.S. Border*
Cooler

Tangent colloquia.

Effugiat risus

Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitea.

Let conversation cease.

Let laughter flee.

This is the place where death delights to help the living.

This quote, attributed to Giovanni Morgagni, an 18th century physician, who originated the anatomical concept of human disease, is a fixture in the offices of pathologists and death investigators. It reminds us of the purpose of investigating the dead, determining cause and manner of death and tracking needs within populations; to help the living.

Pima County, Arizona faces the unique problem of addressing the issues associated with being the location of the highest documented number of migrant deaths in the United States. From 2001-2011, 1,911 foreign nationals who have died in the deserts of Southern Arizona have passed through the doors of the Pima County Forensic Science Center. Often these individuals have left something of themselves behind as they walk the desert; clothing, photographs, backpacks, trinkets, and sometimes their lives. The obstacle these descendants present, other than processing the sheer number of deaths, is identifying the unidentified. Austere environmental conditions hampering recovery of the remains, physical changes from postmortem decomposition, false identification and the use of aliases, foreign nationality, and a general paucity of information all contribute to the struggle to identify and repatriate these migrants remains.

Left Behind: Life and Death Along the U.S. Border is a work that photographically depicts a segment of these deaths with images of personal effects found with remains and stored at our facility as well as personal effects left behind in the desert. Photographs are powerful tools to capture 'moments in time', elicit emotion and , in this instance, visually illustrate the struggles individual face in this period of immigration history in the United States. Much political discussion has taken place concerning the best approach to 'fix' illegal immigration across the southern border over the past several years. It is my hope that these illustrations of places and 'left behind' belongings serve as a spur for further dialog on immigration reform. In this way the dead may once more help the living.

Gregory L. Hess, MD
Chief Medical Examiner
Pima County Forensic Science Center
Tucson, Arizona
March 2012

Internship Descriptions

These internship descriptions appear as originally published in the Summer 2021 call. These are subject to change due to having to adapt to working remotely due to COVID and the nature of Colibrí's work shifting in response to these changes.



FAMILY NETWORK INTERN- "LA HERMANDAD" REVISTA DESIGNER

The Family Network is a community of mutual support and solidarity between families and friends of disappeared migrants in the Americas. The Family Network is a national network made up of local groups (comités) in cities across the United States. To continue our ongoing support, we published a magazine written by and for families of missing migrants. This summer we are looking for an intern with strong and demonstrated design skills to help with the publication of our summer issue of "La Hermandad".

Responsibilities are contingent on applicant's experience and may include any of the following:

- Design and publication of the summer edition of our magazine, "La Hermandad"
- Work with a network of allied artists to compile and design each topic and theme.
- Coordination of the printing and shipping of each issue.

Qualifications:

- Experience with and working knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English and Spanish preferred.
- Commitment to social justice and (im)migrant rights. Experience working with immigrant or refugee communities a plus
- Experience working with immigrant and refugee communities, topics such as ambiguous loss, and emotional trauma preferred.
- Strong interpersonal skills and a capacity for connection with diverse groups of people while simultaneously being in tune with their emotional states.
- Humility, empathy, flexibility, a collaborative spirit, and the capacity to respond to the needs of families.
- Organized and detail oriented.



MISSING MIGRANT PROJECT INTERNSHIP

The Missing Migrant Project is Colibrí's flagship project, which employs forensic science to support families' right to truth. Missing Migrant Project Interns will work with staff to deliver key services to families of the missing. Colibrí is seeking a highly organized, detail-oriented team member to take missing persons reports from families of the disappeared and register eligible relatives for DNA appointments.

Responsibilities are contingent on applicant's experience and may include any of the following:

- Intake calls
 - Take detailed missing person reports from families of missing migrants.
 - Gain proficiency in Colibrí's database and appropriately manage sensitive data
 - Refer cases that cannot be accepted by Colibrí to appropriate partners
- DNA Program and communications
 - Vet families for DNA eligibility and register relatives of the missing for a DNA collection event
 - Manage office voicemail and Colibrí Facebook account for families reporting missing loved ones
 - Digitize and archive case files

Qualifications:

- Work with highly-sensitive and confidential data
- Advanced proficiency in both written and spoken English and Spanish
- Experience working with immigrant or refugee communities and/or individuals navigating emotional trauma and ambiguous loss strongly preferred
- Organized and attentive to details
- Commitment to social justice and (im)migrant rights
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to connect with diverse groups of people
- Capable researcher with strong writing skills and the ability to present information in a clear and easily understandable format
- Humility, empathy, a collaborative spirit, and responsiveness to families' needs
- Proficiency in Google Suite



COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNSHIP

The Social Media & Communications intern will work alongside Colibrí's Social Media and Communications team to maintain and grow our outreach efforts. The intern will help maintain Colibrí's social media pages and engage our followers on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. They will also help design new communications materials, from social media graphics to informational handouts, and other materials as needed.

Responsibilities are contingent on applicant's experience and may include any of the following:

- Communications
 - Create and design original content for Colibrí's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
 - Schedule bilingual posts on Facebook Business Manager and Tweet Deck
 - Review weekly analytics and find ways to improve and optimize content
 - Grow followers on each platform

- Help carry out social media fall campaign
 - Find creative ways to sell new fall merchandise to fundraise for our DNA program
 - Find creative ways to do giveaways
 - Educate and spread awareness of Colibrí's work and mission

Qualifications:

- Proficiency in both written and spoken English and Spanish preferred
- Skilled communicator with experience managing social media accounts
- Graphic design experience preferred (Canva, Photoshop, etc.)
- Commitment to social justice and (im)migrant rights. Experience working with immigrant or refugee communities a plus
- Organized and attentive to details
- Strong writing skills
- Humility, empathy, flexibility and a collaborative spirit
- Proficiency in Google Suite and video conferencing (Zoom or Skype)
-



SPECIAL PROJECT #1: HISTORIAS Y RECUERDOS AUDIO EDITING INTERNSHIP

Historias y Recuerdos is a story-sharing project and a platform for families to become part of a larger effort to raise awareness about the loss of life on the border by giving Colibri permission to share their recorded stories with the public during awareness and fundraising campaigns. Colibri invites interested families to sit down one-on-one with our team and have their stories recorded in a time and space dedicated solely to sharing and preserving memories about their loved ones.

Expectations

- Must be able to commit to at least 10-15 hours a week
- Must treat delicate raw footage with care and confidentiality
- Report to and meet weekly with supervisor, Family Network Director, Perla Torres

Responsibilities are contingent on applicant's experience and may include any of the following:

- Audio editing
 - Edit audio using Audacity or any other preferred audio editing software
 - Work with Family Network Director, Perla Torres, on crafting script
 - Record narrations
 - Mix multiple tracks to create engaging audio material for podcasts

Qualifications:

- Audio editing skills and experience (actively used within the last year)
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English and Spanish preferred
- Graphic design experience preferred (Canva, Photoshop, etc.)
- Commitment to social justice and (im)migrant rights. Experience working with immigrant or refugee communities a plus
- Organized and attentive to details
- Humility, empathy, flexibility and a collaborative spirit

-



SPECIAL PROJECT #2: COLIBRÍ CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIP

Colibri Center for Human Rights provides an excellent learning environment for socially engaged students interested in working with immigrant rights and justice non-profit organizations. Administrative interns gain experience to the complex operations of a non-profit organization, meanwhile getting exposure to a broad range of learning opportunities depending on the projects at hand, as well as the student's professional interests.

Expectations:

- Must be able to commit to at least 10 hours a week
- Confidentiality
- Report to and meet weekly with CEO Tony Banegas and Program and Data Associate Gia Del Pino

Responsibilities are contingent on applicant's experience and may include any of the following:

- Managing and analyzing data to inform program strategy
- Developing process flow maps of current processes and making recommendations around improving processes
- Evaluating prospective products or vendors for promotional material and/or upcoming events and campaigns
- Attending Colibri Colloquiums and other educational lectures
- Reviewing and completing financial analyses and statements
- Assessing and summarizing new business opportunities
- Participating in virtual border tours

Qualifications:

- Proficiency in both written and spoken English and Spanish preferred
- Commitment to social justice and (im)migrant rights. Experience working with immigrant or refugee communities a plus
- Organized and attentive to details Strong writing skills
- Humility, empathy, flexibility and a collaborative spirit
- Proficiency in Google Suite and video conferencing (Zoom or Skype)

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CARE

*DISCLAIMER: MUCH OF THIS LANGUAGE IS PULLED DIRECTLY FROM
COMPASSION FATIGUE'S ONLINE GUIDE

The work we do at Colibrí can be difficult and deeply emotional. Only you know if the work is negatively affecting you and when to step back and reach out for help. It is important to recognize the signs of emotional distress that can potential arise with the work. Influenced by research on Compassion Fatigue, here are few well-known symptoms to recognize whether you are struggling with emotional distress or chronic stress due to compassion fatigue.*

Compassion Fatigue symptoms are normal displays of stress resulting from the caregiving work you perform on a regular basis. While the symptoms are often disruptive, depressive, and irritating, an awareness of the symptoms and their negative effect on your life can lead to positive change, personal transformation, and a new resiliency. Reaching a point where you have control over your own life choices will take time and hard work. There is no magic involved. There is only a commitment to make your life the best it can be.



RECOGNIZING COMPASSION FATIGUE PT. 1

Normal symptoms present in an individual include:

- Excessive blaming
- Bottled up emotions
- Isolation from others
- Receives unusual amount of complaints from others
- Voices excessive complaints about administrative functions
- Substance abuse used to mask feelings
- Compulsive behaviors such as overspending, overeating, gambling, sexual addictions
- Poor self-care (i.e., hygiene, appearance)
- Legal problems, indebtedness
- Reoccurrence of nightmares and flashbacks to traumatic event
- Chronic physical ailments such as gastrointestinal problems and recurrent colds
- Apathy, sad, no longer finds activities pleasurable
- Difficulty concentrating
- Mentally and physically tired
- Preoccupied
- In denial about problems

Specific to Colibrí's work include:

- Experience nightmares
- Find it difficult to transition from work back into your everyday routine
- Experience anxiety and/or pressure before making calls to families
- Experience feelings of guilt of not being able to do enough for the families
- Find yourself working outside of set regular work hours or overworking
- Internalizing the pain of families for you work for
- You feel unable to contain your frustration and feelings of helplessness and it is negatively impacting your interactions with the families.
- You make personal or moral judgments against interviewees
- Lashing out or taking an angry tone with families or co-workers
- Feelings of paralysis
- The relationship with the work feels unhealthy
- Leaving work with overwhelming feelings of stress, sadness, and/or guilt



RECOGNIZING COMPASSION FATIGUE PT. 2

If you sense that you are suffering from compassion fatigue, chances are excellent that you are. Your path to wellness begins with one small step: awareness. A heightened awareness can lead to insights regarding past traumas and painful situations that are being relived over and over within the confines of your symptoms and behaviors. With the appropriate information and support, you can embark on a journey of discovery, healing past traumas and pain that currently serve as obstacles to a healthy, happier lifestyle. Many resources are available to help you recognize the causes and symptoms of compassion fatigue. Healing begins by employing such simple practices as regular exercise, healthy eating habits, enjoyable social activities, journaling, and restful sleep. Hopefully, the information on this website will be of use to you and help you jumpstart your process.

Accepting the presence of compassion fatigue in your life only serves to validate the fact that you are a deeply caring individual. Somewhere along your healing path, the truth will present itself: You don't have to make a choice. It is possible to practice healthy, ongoing self-care while successfully continuing to care for others.

THE PATH TO WELLNESS

Once you realize that you are a candidate for compassion fatigue, or are already suffering its effects, exploring this new awareness can lead to insights concerning past traumas, pain, and defeating behaviors. A common and understandable coping mechanism in care giving is to simply stuff overwhelming emotions that surface repeatedly into your work. How else can you keep going? Eventually, those emotions refuse to be ignored. All too often, psychological and physical crisis occurs.

With support, insightful information, and authentic self-care, you can begin to understand the complexity of the emotions you've been juggling and, most likely, suppressing. Most people never take the time to understand how their jobs affect them emotionally. Give yourself credit for moving forward and affecting change. Your hard work will pay off.

Authentic and Sustainable Self Care Begins With **You**:

- Be kind to yourself.
- Enhance your awareness with education.
- Accept where you are on your path at all times.
- Understand that those close to you may not be there when you need them most.
- Exchange information and feelings with people who can validate you.
- Listen to others who are suffering.
- Clarify your personal boundaries. What works for you; what doesn't.
- Express your needs verbally.
- Take positive action to change your environment.

YOUR CONTINUING JOURNEY

Healing the symptoms of compassion fatigue is an inside job. You've been loyal to your self-care plan, clarified personal boundaries in both your personal and professional life, and now understand your negative behaviors and their origins. As you continue to do the necessary internal work, you will reap the benefits. Your life will begin to change for the better.

In order to move forward on your path to wellness, you must continually commit to authentic self-care that includes:

- Health-building activities such as exercise, massage, yoga, meditation.
- Eating healthy foods
- Drinking plenty of water
- Use natural healing products to care for and heal your body
- Practicing the art of self-management. Just say no
- Developing a healthy support system: people who contribute to your self esteem, people who listen well, people who care
- Organizing your life so you become proactive as opposed to reactive
- Reserving your life energy for worthy causes. Choose your battles.
- Living a balanced life: Sing, dance, sit with silence

You can find more information on resources in our Reference and Resource section included in the Colibrí Welcome Packet.



The work of Colibrí Center involves topics that are not for people emotionally-laden and at times difficult to talk about, even for people who are not dealing with deep trauma and stress. We want to use words and phrases that minimize pain and maximize dignity, while still communicating with clarity. It might take some practice to speak in these ways, as we are quite used to coded generalities such as, “She passed on” or “I’m sorry for your loss.” Here are some guidelines.

Refrain from using terms such as “illegals” or “illegal aliens” when referring to undocumented individuals without U.S. citizenship status

Use the present tense when speaking about a missing person. Only use the past tense with families if they chose to refer to them in the past tense. Many families with whom we engage with live with the hope that their loved ones are still alive. We should engage with families from that position.

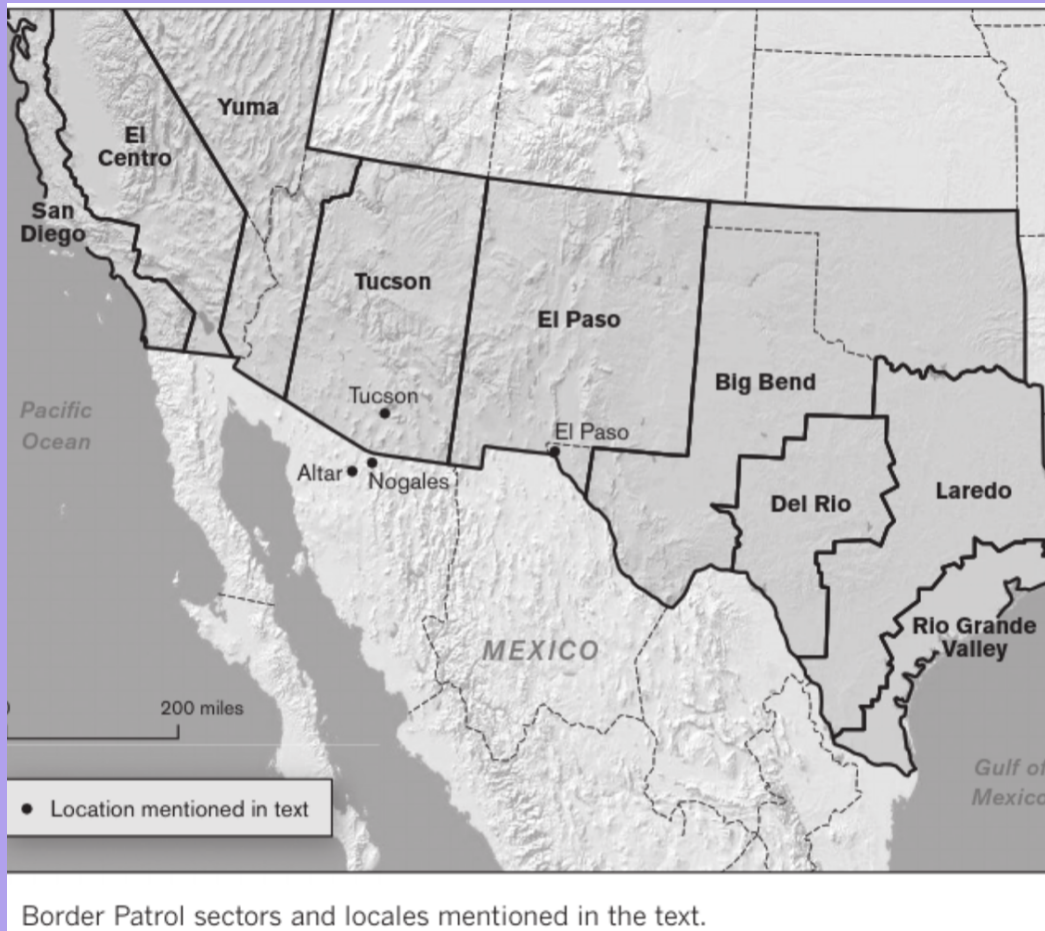
Refrain from using the word “body/cuerpo” as to reduce people to solely remains. Instead use “deceased/fallecido”.

In conversations with a family member of a missing person, we should gauge the emotional vulnerability of the person we are speaking with. If they are pushing the conversation to talk about their feelings, accommodate their request as professionally and respectfully as you can (remember that their emotional trauma is their own, and the best way we can support them is by being professional and strong).

Manage expectations/provide context: Many families ask when will their missing loved one be identified or if their loved one is dead or not. Never guess or provide a false answer that can leave families with false hope and potentially add to their grief and trauma. Only provide them with the information we have available at the moment. You can instead, if they are emotionally prepared, inform them with general context of the situation. Going over facts such as 7,000 people have died trying to cross the border, and that hundreds are still unidentified. Explaining that the desert regions where individuals are forced to cross are remote and that some people are found only many years after. Families often times feel very isolated throughout this experience and they have very little information about the border context. This information may be helpful for them to understand the reality and likelihood of finding their loved ones, but many times it is too hard to receive. If you sense that someone is unprepared to talk about the nature of death and remains of our work, simply remain professional and let them know that we will do our best to search for their loved one.

In regards to specific questions about forensics, simply say you are an intake specialist, therefore you do not see the remains. You just gather information that help forensic scientists to help them to best do their jobs. Families often times ask questions such as, “What would my loved one’s body look like in the desert after being exposed to the heat for so long?” and “Do animals eat the remains?”. Another example of a professional yet compassionate response to these difficult questions is, “Every case is different, but what I do know is that the medical examiners and forensic anthropologists that I work with treat every case with a lot of respect and care, as if it were a family member of their own.”

Excerpt from
The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail



Between 2000 and 2013, approximately 11.7 million people were apprehended while trying to make the illegal pilgrimage to the United States via Mexico. During this same period, 4,584,022 of these arrests occurred in the Border Patrol jurisdiction known as the Tucson Sector, a craggy, depopulated, and mountainous path of land that stretches westward from New Mexico to the Yuma County line in Arizona. If you include the neighboring Yuma Sector during this same period, the number of arrests in this state climbs to 5,304,345 people. This is equivalent to the population of Houston, Texas. It's no wonder Arizona hates immigrants; for close to two decades the federal government has been using that state's backyard as a gauntlet to test the endurance of millions of border crossers and has often left local communities holding the medical bill. Still, everyone knows that if you survive this death race, the backdoors of US stockyards, carpet factories, meat rendering plants, and sushi restaurants are wide open.

Much of what is described in this book took place in the strip of desert just south of Tucson between the Baboquivari and Tumacacori mountain ranges. This beautiful and challenging landscape has been home to the indigenous Tohono O’odham (“Desert People”) and their ancestors for millennia. Long before the arrival of colonial-era Spainards seeking gold and Christian converts, nineteenth-century American geological surveyors itching to draw new maps, and twentieth-century Border Patrol agents, the O’odham people were cultivating a set of cultural traditions and practices that has allowed them to thrive in an environment that to most outsiders appears too barren to sustain agriculture or human life. As ethnobotanist Gary Nathan writes: “The perspiring and panting in the middle of the saguaro forests- they are part of the raw intimacy the [O’odham] maintain with the desert. Somewhat ugly to the outside eye, this routine is an honest indicator of the strong bonds between the Desert People and their surroundings. Instead of running away from the desert during its driest, hottest time, some still run to the heart of it.” O’odham poet Jeanette Chico sums up this intimacy: “When I walk in the desert the animals stop and look at me as if they were saying ‘Welcome to our home.’”

Unlike the Desert People, the border crossers who pass through this region do not share in the cultural acumen that conceptualizes this landscape as inviting. Try to envision what it is like going from the lush tropical lowlands of Veracruz or the cool mountains of Oaxaca to the sparse and smoldering desert. Migrants will tell you, “I never imagined it would be like this.” How could they? They are fugitives traversing a deadly alien planet. The Border Patrol counts on this. This terrain is that federal agency’s not-so-secret weapon, and the migrant injuries and death toll provide evidence that it is a painfully effective one. What’s agonizing for the O’odham is that the American federal government has turned their sacred landscape into a killing field, a massive open grave. (León p.6-8)

LINKS TO ONBOARDING FORMS

[COLIBRI CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNSHIP
INFORMATION SHEET](#)

[COLIBRI CONFIDENTIALITY
AGREEMENT](#)

LINKS TO EVALUATION FORMS

For interns:

[MID-TERM EVALUATION](#)

[FINAL EVALUATION](#)

For supervisors:

[MID-TERM EVALUATION](#)

[FINAL EVALUATION](#)

sobre piedras con lagartijos (para
todos los mojaditos que han cruzado
para este lado)

by Gloria Anzaldúa

Pst!

ese ruido rumbo al Norte, muchachos,
párense, aquí nos separamos.

Tengo que descansar,
Ay que tierra tan dura como piedra.

Desde que me acuerdo
así ha sido mi cama,
mi vida. Maldito fue el día
que me atreví a cruzar:

Nada más quiero hacer unos cuantos centavos
y regresar a mi tierra.

Dicen que unos norteamericanos son puros hijos

Bueno, pues, yo puedo trabajar como un burro.

Lo único que me falta es el buir
porque hasta sus dientes tengo.

Uno tiene que hacer la lucha

¿Cómo la estará pasando mi vieja?

Aya la dejé con los seis chiquios.

Tuve que dejarlos,

dear ese pinche pedazo de tierra.

Ojalá que la Santísima virgen me tenga en sus manos.

Qué sol tan miserable!
y el nopal por todos rumbos.
Ni un árbol ni nada, ay madrecita,
los lagartijos y yo—tenemos el mismo cuero
pero yo ya no soy ligero.
Los trozos de leña que cargaba al mercado
los costales de maíz, empinado desde niño
tratando de sacarle algo verde
al caliche que era mi parcela.

a Vida me ha jorobado
ando como anciano
ladiando de un lado al otro
Ya casi ni veo.

La niña le estaré preguntando
¿Cuándo viene mi papi?
y los chiquillos chillando
sus manitas estirandole la falda
bocas de chupando sus chiches secas
pobre vieja. Al menos no tengo que ver
esa mirada en sus ojos
que me hace un nudo en mi pecho.

Que se que les paso a los otros.
Cuando oímos el ruido
de la camioneta
corrimos por todos rumbos.
Yo me hice bola y me meti
debajo de un chollo
alli estuve atorado en una cuevita
que algún animalito había hecho.
No pude aguantar los piquetes- madrotas.
Todavía las siento remolineandose debajo de mi piel
y ahorita que desperte
vi que una víbora me estaba velando.
Pues, allí estuve echo bola
en la panza de ese cacto dos o tres dias
la sed me quita la memoria,
mi boca seca de echar maldiciones, de miedo

Dicen que si llego a Ogaquinahua
aya me encontrare con unos paisanos
que me ayudaran a hallar chamba, a sacar papeles.
Pronto volvere a mi tierra
a recoger mi señora y mis hijos.

Mira como los lagartijos se alejan
aventando piedritas por todos lados
Oy, ¿Que es ese ruido que arrebat a mi corazón, que me para el
aliento y seca mas mi boca?
¿De quien son esas botas
lujisimas que andan
hacia mi cara?
(Anzaldúa et al. p. 143-145)



THE REPORTING AND DNA PROCESS

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH COLIBRÍ

Both while a family is still in the search and awaiting answers about a loved one as well as after they have received an identification, we offer opportunities to participate in other programs focused on creating mutual support and solidarity among families of the disappeared as well as advocating for effective changes in border policy.

REPATRIATION

If the medical examiner confirms a positive identification, the consulate of the country of origin of the family is the agency in charge of repatriating the remains of the loved one back to the family. Colibrí does everything we can to help make this process as quick as possible and to support the family as they wait. We continue to accompany and support families in the months and years after the repatriation is complete.

ANALYSIS OF THE DNA RESULTS

Between 3-6 months after we collect DNA from a family, Colibrí receives the comparison results from the lab. From there, our DNA experts analyze each case. If the lab found a possible match, we work to confirm that match with the medical examiner, because they are the ones with the legal authority to confirm a positive identification. Once the medical examiner confirms the identification, we notify the family of the news and send them a complete report of the results and the unidentified case their DNA matched with. If the DNA comparison did not result in any matches, we continue comparing the samples every 3-4 months with incoming cases.

THE INITIAL CONTACT

We receive the news that a person is missing, last seen crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Most times, it is the family who reports the case to Colibrí (by phone, Facebook, or through our website). We are also often referred cases by other entities such as foreign consulates and fellow NGOs.

THE REPORT

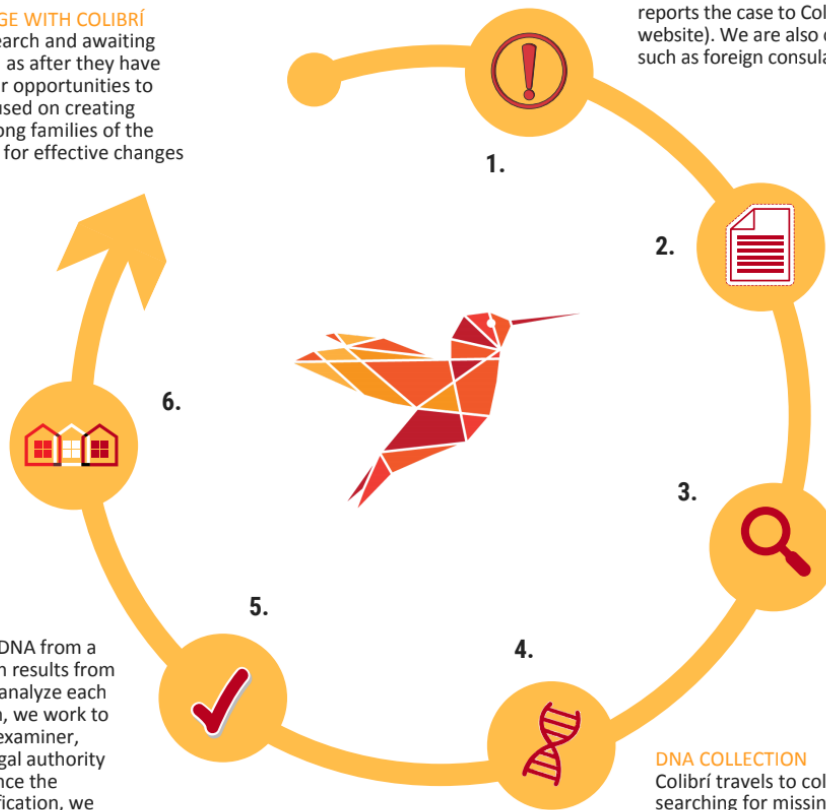
Once we receive the initial information, a Colibrí team member contacts the family to complete a missing persons report. Due to the fact that we receive dozens of calls a week from families trying to report their missing loved ones, it can take some time before we are able to return the first phone call from the family.

INITIAL COMPARISON

We compare the non-genetic information that families provide about the missing person (for example, belongings they carried with them or the area where they crossed) to the basic information that the medical examiner determines through forensic examination of those who have lost their lives. It is possible, and has happened, that Colibrí can facilitate a positive identification from non-genetic information, however it varies case by case.

DNA COLLECTION

Colibrí travels to collect DNA samples from relatives who are searching for missing loved ones on the border, specifically missing in Arizona. If we cannot travel to a U.S. city close to the family, we work to send them a DNA kit with instructions so the family can collect their own sample. We send these samples to a private DNA lab where they are compared against the DNA of the remains 1,000+ unidentified individuals recovered along the border.





MISSING MIGRANT & DNA

Colibrí collects anthropological data and DNA samples from family members to increase its abilities to help identify people who have lost their lives crossing the border. Data includes detailed physical descriptions plus information about what people were carrying or wearing and where they were last seen. When a positive match is made, a staff member informs families and offers support and resources

FAMILY NETWORK

A network of mutual support and solidarity among families and friends of missing migrants across the Americas. The Family Network includes in-person meetings in cities with particularly high numbers of families who have reported missing relatives (Tucson, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City), as well as hundreds of families connected online and through the quarterly *Hermanidad* zine created by and for families who've lost a loved one.

HISTORIAS Y RECUERDOS

The Colibrí Center collects oral histories from people whose loved ones disappeared while migrating to the United States. In collaboration with professors from the University of Arizona, Colibrí is developing curriculum for K-12 and higher education to utilize these stories as educational tools. This project is supported by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and the Mellow Foundation.

Family Stories: Irma Carrillo Nevares



colibrí
center
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Irma Carrillo Nevares has been searching for her daughter Yadira and her son Julio since 1999, when they disappeared while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border through Southern Arizona. Irma filed a case with Colibrí in 2016 and sampled her DNA in 2017. She is an active member of Colibrí's Family Network group in Phoenix, Arizona. She gave the following testimony while participating in a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in October 2018.



Irma sharing her testimony in the hearing, holding a drawing of her heart where Julio and Yadira once were.

I am grateful to be here to share my testimony. My name is Irma Carrillo, and I am from Mexico. Twenty years ago, I lost two of my children, a daughter and a son, 27 and 24 years old, as they crossed the border to this country. To this day, I still don't know what happened to them. Before my children disappeared, just three weeks before, I also had lost my husband. We're a smaller family now — my two living children and me, and my grandson [Yadira's son] who is 24.

I am here today because I have so many questions and so much anguish. I have been living in torture for nearly twenty years. I have searched everywhere for my children. I have been told that they were last seen on

land belonging to a military base near Yuma, Arizona. But they vanished, they disappeared. I have searched in so many places to find out what happened to them, but we've never found a trace, nothing.

I am very ill. The loss of my children has caused chronic health problems. I don't know how long I may live, but I am going to search for my children until my dying day. And I truly need an answer to be able to be at peace. Because this grief destroys your life. I have my grandson, because my daughter left him with me when he was five years old. He has been my motivation to stay alive. My greatest hope as a grandmother—what I wish more than anything that I can one day say to my grandson, is: "Here is your mother; I can die in peace, because she is here."



Julio Gálvez Carrillo, Irma's son, in the years before he disappeared



Yadira Gálvez Carrillo, Irma's daughter, with her son César

This is deeply painful for me and for all of those whose children have disappeared. It is worse than if they had died — there is no grave where we can go to lay flowers, or even to cry.

Sometimes I hear people say, “Well, they’re delinquents who broke a law. That’s why they died in the desert.” Some have even said that to my face. But my children were not delinquents. My son came to save money to finish law school, and my daughter, whose son is an American citizen, wanted to be able to be with him as he grew up, to raise him in a loving home. So maybe they broke a law. But what a cruel fate that they were punished with the death penalty.



Irma (3rd from left) and other members of the Family Network from across the U.S. gather before the hearing



Irma (5th from left) with other families in the Phoenix Family Network group searching for their disappeared loved ones

But I understand that you can offer a lot of help to us. At the time they went missing, those were the old days. Today, there is a lot of technology available that could help to find them. So I ask of you, and I appeal to your hearts as fathers and mothers, that you help us. Because I speak not only for myself. I am speaking for the thousands of women and the thousands of men who are fathers and mothers, who have lost their children, who could not sit before you today as I am now, expressing to you my grief.

We shouldn't be seen as news stories or statistics, as many people reduce us to. We are real people, and we are suffering. We need you to see us and our predicament with the seriousness and compassion it and we deserve. We know that you can help us. I came today in the hopes that I would be heard. But words cannot adequately express the pain of a mother whose children have disappeared. **So today, I ask you: remember my heart.**

Your support helps Colibrí reunite families like Irma's and build community, resilience, and healing among the thousands of families searching for loved ones who disappeared on the border.

TO MAKE A DONATION:



Colibrí Center for Human Rights
3849 E. Broadway Blvd, #206
Tucson, AZ 85716



www.colibricenter.org



Family Stories: Camerina Santa Cruz

Camerina Santa Cruz began searching for her son Marco Antonio in 2013, when he disappeared in southern Arizona. She filed a case with Colibrí in 2016 and participated in the DNA Program that same year. In 2018, her DNA matched positively with Marco Antonio's remains in the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office. She is an active member of Colibrí's Family Network group in Tucson, Arizona, and now works to support other families with disappeared loved ones and raise awareness about the issue.

My name is Camerina Santa Cruz. I was born in Mexico and now live in Tucson, Arizona. I'm the mother of five children, the oldest of whom is named Marco Antonio Ramírez Moreno. He was born on July 1, 1981 in Nogales, Sonora. He was married and had three children. The last time I saw him was in August 2013 in Nogales. He was going through a very difficult period in his life — his wife had left him for another man, and she wouldn't let him see his children. To support him, I went to see him often. The last thing I ever told him was that I loved him, that I would always be here for him. I remember smiling and saying to him, "Behave and take care of yourself, my sweet, beloved son."



Camerina, alongside a portrait of her son, sharing her story on a panel in November 2018

He disappeared later that month while crossing the desert of southern Arizona in search of a better life for himself and for his family. When I learned that he had disappeared, I looked everywhere. I knocked on so many



Camerina and three of her five children in 1994, including Marco Antonio (left)



One of Camerina's favorite photos of Marco Antonio

doors, but every one was closed to me. The first two years, I tried to get help from the Mexican Consulate. They made all kinds of promises and told me they would do everything possible to help me find my son, but they were all lies. They sampled my DNA but sent it to Mexico City without explaining why. They made a mockery of me, my suffering, and my anguish as a mother. I also went to the Sheriff's Office in Tucson in the hopes that they would help me search for my son. But they treated me, a Mexican woman, disrespectfully and shamefully. They were no help.

After two years of searching, someone told me about Colibrí. Once I got in touch with them, they immediately helped me with my case, taking a missing person report and sampling my DNA. In fact, I was the first woman to participate in their DNA program for families who've lost a loved one on the border. They always treated me with compassion and with dignity, and they gave me hope to one day reunite with my son. In addition to taking my DNA and helping me search for my son, they bring families together through the Family Network and our group meetings. I'm a member and leader of the Network, which has helped those of us searching for missing loved ones keep supporting each other and maintaining hope.

In November 2018, Colibrí gave us the news that would change our lives forever: they had found my son. Our family's DNA had matched positively with his remains in the Medical Examiner's Office. It was a devastating day. My hopes all those years of finding him alive were lost. Five long years of searching, five years of pain and frustration came to an end.



Camerina (left) on her wedding day, with her son Marco Antonio (center) and daughter Érica (right)



Camerina (left) with other families in the Tucson Family Network group searching for their disappeared loved ones

Today I'm working alongside Colibrí to raise awareness about the problem of disappearance and deaths on the border. I give interviews on TV and radio stations, I speak at rallies, protests, and panels, and I present to classes at the University of Arizona. I do this so that people realize that the human beings who disappear in the desert aren't animals, and they aren't just statistics. They are human beings. They have families who love them and miss them and who demand that the government bring them back to us.

I'm going to continue sharing my story and expressing what has been the greatest pain of my life — the loss of my dear son. I'm going to continue fighting and raising awareness about this government's unjust laws. I am deeply and eternally grateful to Colibrí for their humanitarian work.

Your support helps Colibrí reunite families like Camerina's and build community, resilience, and healing among the thousands of families searching for loved ones who disappeared on the border.

TO MAKE A DONATION:



Colibrí Center for Human Rights
3849 E. Broadway Blvd, #206
Tucson, AZ 85716



www.colibricenter.org



Hermanidad

[A newsletter by and for families of disappeared migrants]



Detail of Jess X. Snow's mural for A/P/A Institute at NYU

News from Colibrí

⇒ Ben Clark, Family Network Director



Dear family,
Welcome to the first edition of *Hermandad*!

This newsletter was born out of conversations among members of Colibrí’s Family Network. In the local chapters of the Family Network (in Phoenix, Tucson, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City), we have the privilege of coming together in person every few months to build community and solidarity. However, we know that there are thousands more families throughout the United States and Latin America looking for their loved ones who disappeared on the U.S.-Mexico border. Last year, we asked ourselves how we could expand our reach to stay connected with each other and include all those who live outside of Family Network cities.

Hermandad is one answer to those questions. A bilingual monthly newsletter written by and for families of disappeared migrants, *Hermandad* is your platform to where your voice can be heard. We hope that this newsletter becomes a resource for anyone who needs it and that it helps build community among the thousands of families in this struggle, keeping hope alive and supporting each other throughout our searches.

Why “*Hermandad*”? The name was the suggestion of Norma Pérez Romero, member of the San Francisco Family Network group. It is defined as “a relationship of affection and solidarity that exists between a group of people or peoples.” It captures the spirit of mutual support that stands as the foundation of our connections among all those searching for disappeared loved ones.

So what does *Hermandad* look like? Each month we will explore together a topic related to the disappearance of a loved one (for example, uncertainty or loneliness) and include stories and testimonies from families like yours. There will be four parts to each issue:

- 1 News from Colibrí
- 2 Information and advice about the emotional challenges connected to the disappearance of a loved one
- 3 Testimonies and stories from families who have lost a loved one on the border
- 4 Art, poetry, and memories about those who have disappeared

In this section, we’ll share news and updates about our work here at Colibrí: for example, how many people were identified in the last month, or where we held Family Network meetings. Since we are a small team (our staff is 4 people) we want you to feel included in and updated about our work. We hope this newsletter is a platform to accomplish that.

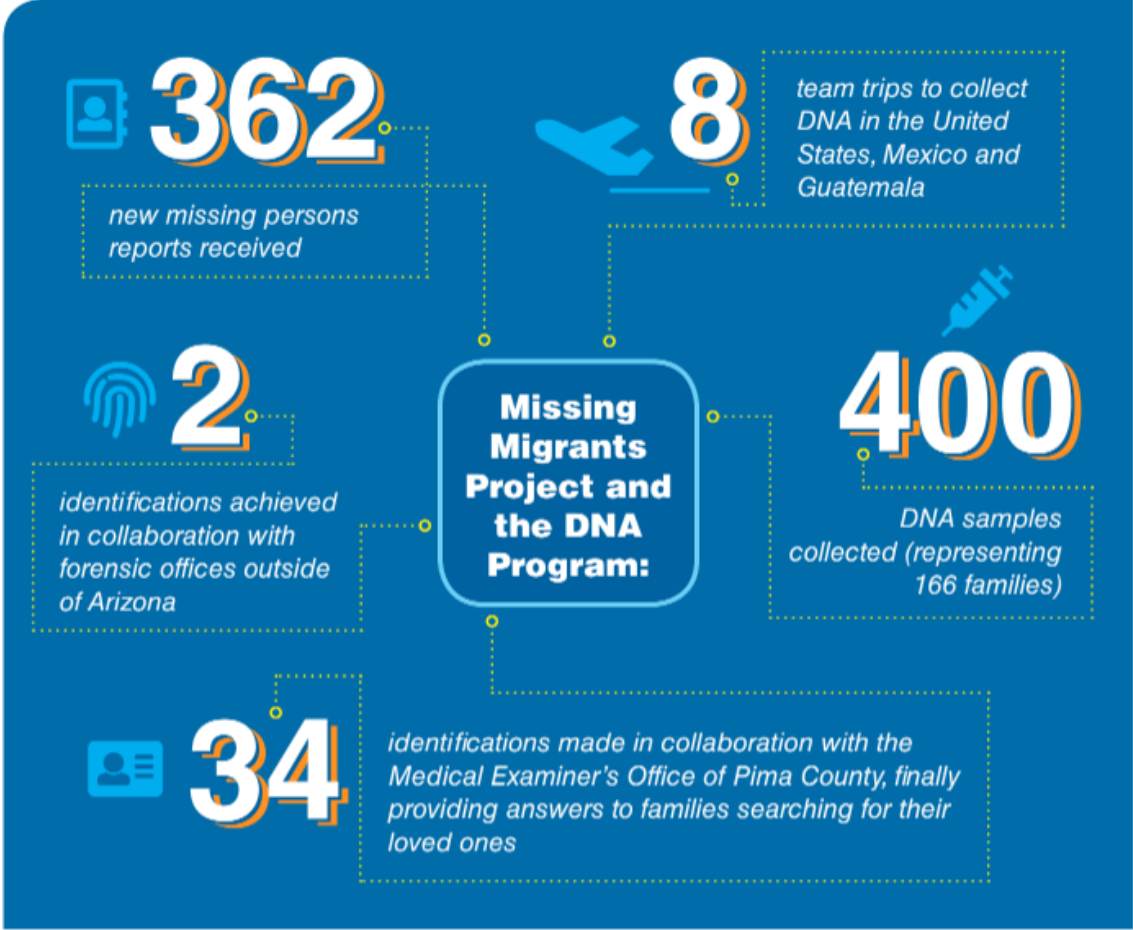
Finally, because this newsletter is made by and for all of you, **we invite you all to contribute to the newsletter!** The more of us that get involved, the better it will be. If you’d like to share a story, a picture, a poem — or anything else — please send us a message via **Facebook (Ben Colibrí)** or **email (ben@colibricenter.org)**.

I’m sending a big hug from the Colibrí team to all of you. We’re proud to stand by your side.



HERE ARE SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT COLIBRÍ'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

FORENSIC & MISSING PERSONS WORK



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING

10 meetings of the Family Network were held

207 members of the Family Network

4 U.S. cities with active Family Network groups (Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, and San Francisco)

3 public vigils (in Colorado, Arizona, and New York) to demand justice and honor the lives of disappeared migrants

36 press articles on the work of Colibrí, the majority including your voices as families

Family Testimonies: Jorge Alberto Laínez Hernández

⇒ by Andrés García and Maritza Cáceres de Lainez



Jorge Alberto Laínez Hernández is 44 years old. He was born April 27, 1974 in Sonzacate, in the state of Sonsonate, El Salvador.

Laínez Hernández attended 1st through 9th grade in the school in Mención. He continued his education from 1991 to 1993, and graduated with a Bachelors in Accounting in El Salvador.

In 1995 he met Maritza, whom he married. They have two children: Jorge, who is 19 years old, and Daniela, who is 15 years old. He is an excellent father: very loving, attentive, and nurturing. Above all else he made sure that the basic necessities were met in the house.



Unfortunately, In March of 2013 he made the decision that, although painful, we had to accept for our children. He left in search of the American dream because we found ourselves in a very difficult situation in El Salvador. There are no job opportunities, and he was always looking after the wellbeing of our family. The children were going to start school and we did not know how to cover those expenses with the income we were getting. Another strong factor was the level of crime that we were enduring.



Laínez made the journey to the United States without documentation, like most people. He arrived in Mexico and was there until June of that same year. I received a call from him before he crossed the border of Tucson, AZ. I remember it like it was yesterday. He said to me: "Take good care of the children. Once I get to the United States things will change. I will work a lot so that we can pull through and we won't lack anything." Those were the last words that I heard from him, from my husband. To this day, I haven't heard anything else from or about him.





The loss of my husband has greatly affected us. My son continues to wait for the day his father calls again so he can hear his voice and know that he will return home. Our daughter has been very hurt that her father still has not returned, and now she barely speaks. She lives shut off in her room waiting for some news, but still we know nothing about what happened to him, if he is alive and is in custody or if he is dead. We ask, as a family, that you help us find my husband.

Since the disappearance of Laínez the family has searched via different methods in the hopes of finding him, but there has been no sign of him.

The last information that we received was that he was in the desert when Border Patrol got him, but in their public databases there is no information about him.

Hoping to find an answer we went to hospitals, prisons, morgues, and searched all over the internet, but there is no information.

We have found support from a nonprofit dedicated to finding missing persons in the desert. They are called the Colibrí Center. We have felt their support, and they have given us a new hope that we will find him.

With this organization we have met with more families that are in this same situation that we are living with, but we have not given up the hope that we will find them.

It is painful to not have any information about him and sometimes I have wanted to give up and give in to my pain in suffering, to know that we will not be seeing him again. But by seeing my children suffer from not having their father, and wanting to see him again, I gather strength where there is none. There is a bible verse that says: "May God give strength to the weak when there is none." That is how I have been continuing my search for him. I have faith in God and in Colibrí. We will find him whether he is alive or dead.



Support & Wellness

Dr. Michelle Silva, PsyD

⇒ *Psychologist specializing in the wellbeing of immigrants in the U.S.*



Welcome to our first issue! The experience of losing your loved one is very personal and unique for each individual. There is no “correct” way to mourn the loss of your loved one, and each one of us is affected in a different way. Regardless of the circumstances, we understand that the families that have experienced the loss or disappearance of a loved one frequently have questions, doubts, and often they feel disoriented and alone.

At Colibrí we understand this, and that is why we are pleased to share with you our new newsletter, which will include information and resources to support all those of you grappling with the disappearance of a loved one. Many people have expressed a desire to better understand how to identify, express, and manage the emotions that result from the loss of a loved one. In response, our team has various objectives with this project:

- 1 Offer educational material to help better understand your reactions and those of your other loved ones
- 2 Give voice to the families and friends that have experienced the loss or disappearance of a loved one
- 3 Create a space to understand how to take care of ourselves, our loved ones, and better our emotional well-being.



Some of the topics we hope to discuss include the feeling of helplessness amongst the unexpected loss of a loved one; the uncertainty that results from not knowing exactly what happened; how to manage the feelings of loneliness and sadness, and much more. We also hope to direct you to resources available on the Internet that will provide you with more education on these topics.

To start, we have included a link to the article titled “The hurt: How to endure the death of a loved one.” This resource was created by the American Association of Psychology: <https://www.apa.org/centrodeapoyo/duelo>

Thank you for your interest and we hope this information will be useful and relevant.



OUR STORY

IN 2006,

Dr. Robin Reineke, then a graduate student in anthropology at the University of Arizona interned at the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner. She saw a great need to help identify the remains of migrants found in the Arizona desert, and created the Missing Migrant Project.

IN 2013,

co-founders; Robin Reineke, William Masson, Chelsea Halstead, and Reyna Araibi grew the Missing Migrant Project into the organization now known as the Colibrí Center for Human Rights; an expanded and more comprehensive effort to address the needs of families of the missing and to continue to work on the cases of missing and unidentified individuals, building on a legacy of humanitarian work in southern Arizona done by organizations such as Coalición de Derechos Humanos, No More Deaths, and Tucson Samaritans, all concerned with upholding human rights and human dignity throughout the borderland

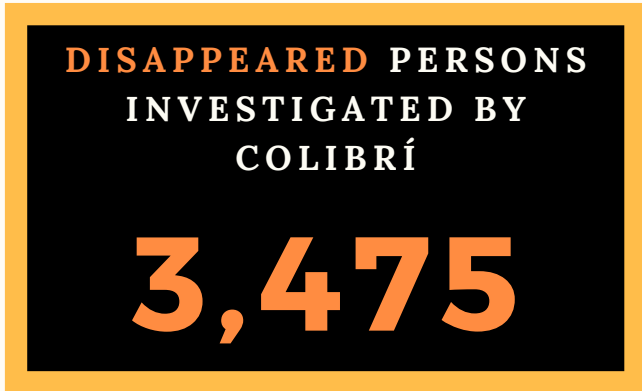
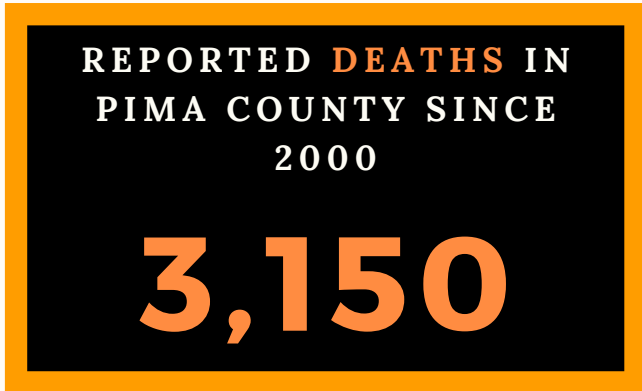
COVID-19 IMPACT

Colibrí's work has been impacted by COVID-19. The work has shifted to relying on DNA mail kits to continue the DNA collection efforts. The Family Network now hosts online meeting to support the families. Colibrí continues to receive missing persons reports each week and human remains are still being discovered along the border.



CONTEXT

Starting in the 1990's, the federal government implemented policies, such as Prevention through Deterrence, which sought to control the Southwest border by heightening the risks associated with unauthorized entry. To do so, the agency concentrated enforcement and infrastructure to reroute migration away from urban ports of entry and into the most hostile and desolate areas of the desert. US Border Patrol speculated that border crossers would now find themselves "in mortal danger" while attempting to cross. The increased danger was intended to deter other people from considering the journey, with the overall goal of preventing migration. Overtime, as conditions of poverty, inequality and violence have continued to worsen in countries in Central and Latin America, migrants continuing fleeing and risking their lives on a perilous journey.





KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2020
**LOGAN
FOUNDATION**

2019
**SOUTHERN
BORDERS
COMMUNITIES
COALITION**

2019
**ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION**

2016
**HOWARD G.
BUFFET
FOUNDATION**

2014
**LETELIER-
MOFITT HUMAN
RIGHTS AWARD**

IDENTIFICATIONS

176

176 identifications made in collaboration with the Pima, New York, and/or Maricopa Office of the Medical Examiners

FAMILY MEMBERS

200+

200+ family members have attended support group meetings, and hundreds of others have participated in a secure Facebook group.

DNA SAMPLES

1,266

1,266 DNA samples collected, representing 558 families (as of 2020)



MAP OF ACTORS



FORENSIC SCIENTISTS & MEDICAL EXAMINERS

These are the authorities charged with examining cases of individuals who died on the border. They are also the agencies who can confirm a positive identification. Medical examiners and forensic scientists are our closest partners. We work together each day to compare cases of missing people to cases of unidentified people.



PARTNERS SIMILAR TO COLIBRÍ

Other NGOs whose work is similar to that of Colibrí but in different contexts. EAAF focuses on cases of missing people within Mexico and the South Texas Human Rights Center works on cases in Texas. We share information between one another and work closely on these cases.



FAMILIES, FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS, AND OTHER INVESTIGATORS

We work closely with the families who report their missing loved ones to us via phone, website, Facebook or email. We also receive cases from family associations throughout Latin America, as well as collaborate with non-official investigators who provide information they have found online.



THE COLIBRÍ CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

We are a nonprofit, non-governmental organization dedicated to finding missing people and helping to identify those who have lost their lives on the border. We collect detailed missing persons reports from families searching for loved ones. We also collect DNA samples from these relatives to be able to compare their DNA against the DNA of unidentified individuals examined by forensic scientists. We also work to bear witness and offer spaces for families to facilitate community, share their stories, and raise consciousness around this human rights crisis.



CONSULATES

These are the authorities who process the repatriation of remains back to families living outside the U.S. They also send Colibrí reports of missing migrants who were reported to the consulate by family members.



HUMANITARIAN NGOS

Humanitarian NGOs are the leaders in the humanitarian efforts on the U.S.-Mexico border, particularly in Southern Arizona. They offer services like water stations in the desert, medical aid camps, shelters, and food for migrants. They also refer missing migrant cases to Colibrí.



Do Colibrí staff search for or collect remains?

Remains are usually discovered by ranchers, hikers, hunters, humanitarian aid workers, search and rescue groups, residents of tribal reservations, & Border Patrol. Colibrí does not recover remains. Colibrí's works with the families of missing loved ones to collect necessary information to help identify remains.

Who pays for migrant remains to be repatriated— consulates/embassies or families?

If an identification is made, after the family is notified, the family works with the consulate of their country to obtain a death certificate in order to begin the repatriation process. Consulates are responsible for repatriation of remains and covering the cost to do so. Depending on the consulate, the time it takes to repatriate remains varies.

Why don't families work directly with governmental agencies?

Families often tell Colibrí that they are the first organization that has listened to them. They tell of contacting law enforcement agencies to file missing persons reports and being turned away, of getting no response from embassies, of having no place to turn that will help share their burden.

How long does it take for a family to receive DNA results?

Colibrí collects DNA samples and sends them in batches. Due to pricing and timelines of the private lab that Colibrí uses, there has to be ~80 samples per batch in order to send to the lab, and time to gather full batch can vary. After that, it takes between 6-12 months for the results to come back. This sampling and analysis process constitutes most of Colibrí's DNA work and are called "blind matches."

What country are families involved with Colibrí from?

Families living in 14 countries and 43 states across the U.S. have reported disappeared relatives to Colibrí.



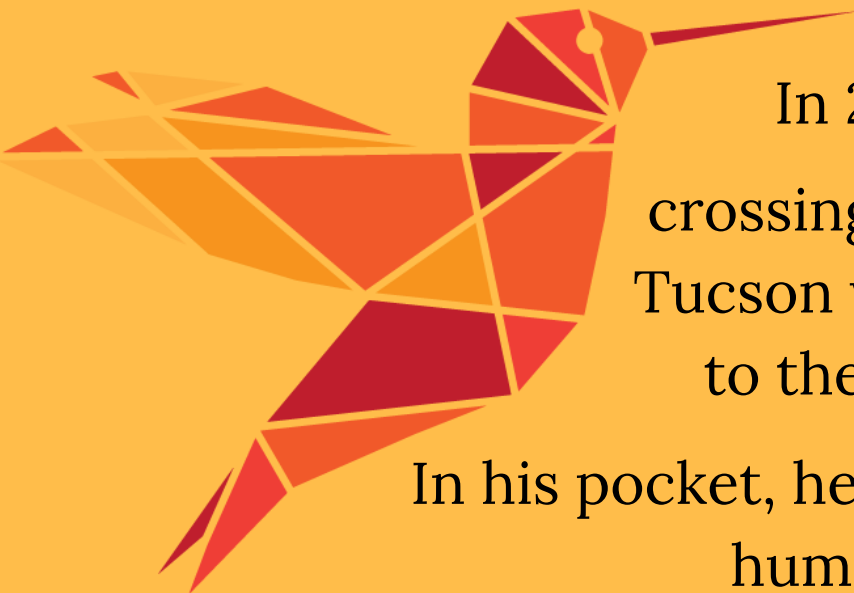
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2. "What Is Compassion Fatigue?" Compassion Fatigue Awareness Project, www.compassionfatigue.org/pages/compassionfatigue.html.
3. Hollingsworth, Jonathan. Left behind: Life and Death along the U.S. Border. Dewi Lewis Pub., 2012.
4. León Jason De. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. University of California Press, 2015.
5. Richard, Misrach, et al. Border Cantos. Aperture, 2016.

RECOMMENDED READINGS*

* as listed on our website

1. Disappeared: How US Border Enforcement Agencies are Fueling a Missing Persons Crisis, by No More Deaths
2. "Disappeared" on the U.S.-Mexico Border, by NACLA
3. Migrant Death Maps, by Humane Borders
4. 'No Olvidado': These Americans find and bury missing migrants, by CNN
5. Failing to Bring Back the Dead, by The Center for Public Integrity
6. Honoring those who have died: the art of Alvaro Enciso, by borderartists.com
7. Meet Alvaro Enciso, the Artist Placing Crosses in Sonoran Desert to Memorialize Migrant Deaths, by Democracy Now
8. Identifying dead migrants, examples from the United States–Mexico border, by Robin Reineke and Chelsea Halstead
9. Lost in the System: Unidentified Bodies on the Border, by Robin Reineke
10. From the Southern Border Communities Coalition: "It's time for a New Border Vision that expands public safety, protects human rights, and welcomes people at our borders in a manner consistent with our national values and global best practices."
11. Accompanying the Families of Missing Persons: A Practical Handbook, by the International Committee of the Red Cross
12. Ambiguous Loss, a body of work by Pauline Boss



In 2009, A man who died crossing the borderlands near Tucson was found and brought to the medical examiner.

In his pocket, he carried a small, dead hummingbird.

In Spanish, “colibrí” means hummingbird.

In some cultures in Latin America, the colibrí is a symbol of strength, hope, and migration.

The Colibrí Center for Human Rights was named after the hummingbird in the spirit of its symbolism and in remembrance of this man, the thousands more who have lost their lives on the border, and their families everywhere.