About the Organization

An introduction to Juntos
Mission Statement

“Juntos is a community-led, Latinx immigrant organization in South Philadelphia fighting for our human rights as workers, parents, youth, and immigrants. We believe that every human being has the right to a quality education and the freedom to live with dignity regardless of immigration status.

Juntos combines leadership development, community organizing, and focused collaborations with other community-based and advocacy organizations to build the power of our community members so they may be active agents of change and work against their own oppression.”

–Juntos website (linked here)
Juntos’ work

Juntos has three main focuses of education, direct aid to the South Philly community, and political campaigns centered around social justice. Examples of each are included in the Venn diagram.

Education
Youth programs (Fuerza, Poderosos), Arts and culture events, helpful info for the general public

Direct Aid & Cases
Support with cases, Food banks/drives in response to COVID-19

Campaigns
Sanctuary Schools, Shut Down Devereux, Free Them All

These focuses tend to overlap and interact with each other - for example, many of the youth involved in their Fuerzas program are also active participants in Juntos’ Sanctuary schools campaign.

More information about their programs can be found here.
Juntos is currently running a campaign for the **improvement of schools in Philadelphia**, which includes advocating for the decriminalization of schools. More info about the **Sanctuary schools campaign** can be found [here](#) and an outline of their goals for schools can be found [here](#).
My work at Juntos

An overview of what I’ve done this past semester
Overview

As an intern for Juntos this past semester, I’ve spent the bulk of my fieldwork working on their York campaign. This includes:

➔ Researching contextual information around migrant detention
➔ Digitizing & analyzing interviews from Juntos’ visit to York County Prison in April 2019
➔ Creating a fact sheet and social media posts based on the interviews
➔ Being involved in the hiring process for an artist to create an animated video about York
About York County Prison

- In addition to being a county prison, York is one of the largest ICE detention centers in the country¹
  - 800 beds set aside for ICE, with an average daily population (ADP) of 706 detainees¹
  - York has a combined population, meaning there is no separation between detained migrants and general population at York

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Juntos’ 2019 Visit to York

- Toured facility led by ICE officers with Advancement Project, Casa San Jose, Asian Americans United, VietLead
- Allowed to interview detainees (total of 13)
  - Later revealed in an interview that the sign-up sheet was posted the day before the visit by officers with no announcement to the detainees
Research post-visit

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of interviews

A few key findings:

- Detention length of interviewees ranged between 28 and 481 days
  - 2019 York average was 7 weeks\(^1\), national average was 33 days\(^2\)
  - 77% of interviewees had been detained for longer than both averages (York and national), the remaining 23% had been detained just shy of the 2019 national average

- Out of the initials concerns raised from the tour, only one was addressed by the facility by October 2019 meeting b/t Juntos and York
  - Facility installed privacy barriers in bathrooms - previously had none whatsoever

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2. Emily Kassi, "Detained", The Marshall Project, 2019
After Praxis

I will be continuing my work at Juntos this summer, where I'll remain working on the York campaign, specifically collaborating with an artist to create a video about migrant detention (using the data from York).

Given current events around migration and detention in the United States, I will also likely do work surrounding the U.S. government’s detention of migrant children under the Biden administration.
Helpful links for learning about Juntos

➔ **vamosjuntos.org** (website)
  ◆ **vamosjuntos.org/getinvolved** (volunteer opportunities)
➔ @VamosJuntosPhilly on Facebook | @vamos_juntos_ on Instagram

References


3. All image credits go to Juntos, with the exception of “Figure 3”, credited to “Interlocking Systems” by Amy Chin-Arroyo and Solena Laigle.

For any form of feedback, feel free to contact me via email — jabrown@brynmawr.edu
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