

Tuesday, Aug 19th

MARTES

Hola de Cuernavaca!

Today was an emotionally challenging day. We started out our morning dialoguing about immigration. We talked about what it really means to be an immigrant in the United States and what it means to leave your family, language, and culture behind. For many of us, we came to the realization that the information we are given in the United States about immigration can be very bias and that it is up to us to educate ourselves about what is happening around the world.

Then we heard the story of one of the staff members here. She was born and raised in Cuernavaca but lived in the United States for about 12 years. She shared details about how her life had changed significantly since living in the US. She told us each time a Mexican attempts to escape this corrupted society by crossing into the United States, they are risking their life. She once had to fit her body into the tiny space of a spare tire during one of her crossings. She left behind her family, including her son, in order to make a few dollars as a nanny.

We also heard the story of an Indigenous Artisan from Tlamacazapa. He showed pictures of his house which was as big as a small living room. He showed us the art of weaving palm leaves into baskets. He sells these baskets in order to provide a living for his family of nine. One large basket can take more than a day to make and he only sells it for about 200 pesos, which is about \$20.0usd.

As individuals, we each took something personal away from the deep dialogue about immigration. We spent some time reflecting individually as well as a group. As a Fond du Lac County Community, we need to remember that we are all immigrants. Because of the dialogue today, we are now able to see the cultural, economical, political, environmental, and social impact of immigration through a different perspective. We will each be making an action plan to bring back to Fond du Lac County and look forward to community involvement in order to carry out our plan.