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2013 IMPACT AWARDS

FELIPA MENA



Felipa's life changed dramatically in 2009 when her twenty-year old son, Angel, was killed by street violence. While Felipa had been organizing to make life better for low-income families and low-wage working women for years, as a day-labor activist and POWER-PAC leader, this heartbreaking event impassioned Felipa to dedicate herself to stemming community violence.

Working with Community Organizing and Family Issues and other activist mothers, Felipa created the Wells High "Peace Center", where Angel had attended. For three years, twice each week, she works with young women in peace circles, providing a safe place to talk about what's happening in their lives, receive mentorship from women leaders, increase their self-esteem, and learn peacemaking-skills. Participants credit Felipa's efforts with keeping them in school and helping them navigate relationships, including unhealthy power dynamics.

Additionally, as POWER-PAC's Co-Chair, Felipa mentors immigrant, Spanish-speaking mothers to become policy change leaders in Chicago. She is a key leader in both the Elementary Justice and Early Learning Campaigns. She is also a Head Start Ambassador, going door-to-door each summer to help connect low-income and immigrant families with early learning resources.

Felipa believes that this work is all interconnected and that it is all helping to stop the cycle of poverty and violence that disproportionately affects women of color and immigrant women and their families.

MAKE A DONATION ON BEHALF OF FELIPA'S RELENTLESS COMMITMENT TO ENDING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE THROUGH HER WORK WITH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AND LOW-INCOME MOTHERS.



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