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Agencia ALPHA launches new campaign "Immigrants Make America Strong" to build public support and political momentum for just, humane immigration policies

On Friday, November 10, the Community Organizing Committee of Agencia ALPHA brought together business, faith and community leaders to launch a media and legislative campaign, "Immigrants Make America Strong." The press conference included testimony from a person with DACA, a business owner, a faith leader, and was moderated by Damaris Velasquez, director of programs at Agencia ALPHA.

The goal of the campaign is to advance federal immigration reforms that support people with TPS, DACA, and other law-abiding undocumented individuals, as well as state-level legislation such as the Safe Communities Act.

The first stage of the campaign is aimed at countering anti-immigrant rhetoric and change perceptions of immigrants in the United States. To do this, Agencia ALPHA has launched a video challenge asking immigrants and allies to say why they believe immigrants make America strong.

Patricia Sobalvarro, Executive Director of Agencia ALPHA, said, "We are hopeful that by highlighting the many ways immigrants invest in this nation, we will be able to debunk some of the old negative myths about our immigrant community."

Damaris Velasquez added, "I believe that the reason why we don't have a just and humane immigration reform is because our environment has been intoxicated with lies and hate towards our community. This campaign seeks to fight back that toxic rhetoric by presenting the reality of our community and what we bring to this nation. It is time for us to take control of the social media and present our contributions to this society."

Another member of Agencia ALPHA's organizing committee said, "I am involved in this campaign not only for me. It is a question of human dignity, and respect for all life and human rights."

Agencia ALPHA is an immigrant-led, grassroots social ministry that works in three areas: legal services, citizenship classes, and community organizing. We integrate immigrants into the social, political, and economic fabric of society, improving our quality of life in the United States by overcoming challenges and providing resources. Agencia ALPHA is social ministry of the Congregation Lion of Judah.