



LALDEF

The **Latin American Legal Defense and**

**Education Fund**

**(LALDEF)** is a non-profit organization classified as a tax-exempt public charity under IRS section 501(c) (3), and registered with the New Jersey Directory of Charities (#CH2720800).

# GET TO KNOW US!



## MISSION

*To defend and promote civil rights and increase access to education for Latin Americans, and advance cross-cultural understanding in our region.*

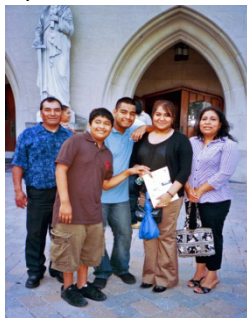
Complementing the existing network of social service organizations we provide immigrants with civic, cultural and financial education, and show them how to find resources and navigate the system. We are entirely funded by private donors.



## WHO DO WE SERVE?

The number of immigrants in Mercer County has grown by 40 percent in the last decade — far more than the four percent increase in the county’s overall population. Close to 40% of these immigrants (26,000) are of Latin American origin. This population is concentrated in Trenton where more than half live.

Helping immigrants build better futures for themselves and their children is consistent with American values, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. Serving immigrants means serving the community at large by creating cross-cultural understanding between native and foreign-born, accepting and appreciating our differences, while recognizing our common humanity and mutual interest in contributing to a thriving, fair, diverse community



## PROGRAMS

Through drop-in **office consultations**, and a toll-free **HelpLine (877-452-5333)**, we provide individual assistance to immigrant families affected by confusing immigration laws and processes or who are denied services, or are victims of crime, wage theft, or domestic violence.

We offer **Citizenship workshops**, and **legal clinics**, referrals to ESL classes, help completing applications and translating documents. Our Princeton **Tax Clinic**, in cooperation with the AARP, provides bilingual tax return preparation for over 200 households in the area, every year.



We organize and participate in **community events, and educational programs**, and publish **information materials** to educate the public at large.

An **Adult Education Center** in Trenton to provide ESL, computer literacy, financial and civic education, is planned for fall 2011.

The **FUTURO** pilot mentoring program works with Trenton high school students, from working immigrant families. We are guiding and nurturing these students through their senior year and as they transition to a post-secondary institution.

**The Mercer County Area Community ID Card** has attracted much national attention as a model for immigrant integration and civic engagement, in sharp contrast to the hard-line approaches implemented in other parts of the country. The Card makes no



distinction between immigrant and native born. It provides recognition to people vulnerable and invisible, and opens doors to basic community resources and the social mainstream. It reinforces public safety by

facilitating the work of law enforcement and emergency responders when encountering victims of accident, medical emergency, natural disaster, or crime.

The **Trenton Community Health Fair**, held on an annual basis, provides child immunizations, health education and preventive screenings to over 600 city residents, mostly uninsured.

**For more information, to donate or volunteer:**

[www.LALDEF.org](http://www.LALDEF.org)  
**609.688.0881**  
[info@LALDEF.org](mailto:info@LALDEF.org)

**Mailing address: PO Box 80, Princeton NJ 08542**

**Or stop by one of our offices:**

In Princeton – at Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau St  
In Trenton – at Episcopal Church, 331 Hamilton Avenue