MEET THE MEMBERS OF CHC’S COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS
Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health advocacy, policy and educational organization headquartered in South Los Angeles. For more than a decade, CHC has been at the forefront of advocacy to eliminate health disparities by expanding healthcare coverage, increasing access to quality healthcare and improving the environment for under-resourced communities. CHC engages, supports, and gives voice to marginalized, low-income and under-served populations through coalition building and community mobilization. Our dynamic network of coalitions is composed of neighborhood leaders, consumer advocates, healthcare, social services, educational and faith-based organizations serving communities in Los Angeles, across California and the US.

WHAT WE DO
CHC utilizes data coupled with the knowledge, experiences and expertise of consumers, stakeholders and community organizations to shape and develop policy and systems changes. CHC’s policy and advocacy is grounded by the coalitions and the community-developed initiatives that form the foundation of our work, and provide a vehicle for identifying issues, assessing community needs and formulating policy recommendations to transform the conditions in which people live.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAG AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
The idea to create a Community Advisory Group (CAG) is based on the recognition that community residents should have a say in decisions that affect where they live, work and play. The role of the group is to learn about and provide recommendations to CHC and its network of coalitions on policy issues that help to create healthier communities, and communicate with CHC about the needs, opinions and desires of themselves and their neighbors about the social issues that most concern them.

WHO ARE THE CAG MEMBERS?
There are currently 19 South LA area residents who are actively serving on the CAG. They are an ethnically, aged and geographically diverse group of people, from all walks of life. Though they come from different backgrounds and experiences, they are all united by their love of the South LA community, and their desire to help create a better place for their families, neighbors and friends to live and thrive.
Ms. Lidia Aguilar

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Community engagement and civic participation

Lidia is a Sunday school teacher and resident of South Central Los Angeles; she shares her home with a family friend and their three daughters.

Lidia is a natural organizer who gained knowledge about the health issues facing her community through her work. She’s active in many community-based organizations such as IDEPSCA (So Cal Institute for Popular Education) where she helps to organize health fairs and conducts community outreach. She also volunteers with the Quality of Life Neighborhood Council of Mac Arthur Park, where she organizes neighborhood clean-ups and community outreach. Lidia is part of the Healthy Community outreach at her church, a monthly medical drop-in clinic that offers the local community free medical services such as cholesterol, diabetes and blood pressure testing, pap smears, mammograms, and nutrition workshops.

Lidia’s concerns about the health of her community led her to encourage more civic participation from local residents. She regularly speaks to neighbors about getting involved in local initiatives and invites people to participate in her activities, like meetings advocating for the San Gabriel Mountains to be turned into national recreational areas, or petitioning alongside Los Angeles Community Action Network to advocate for the construction of a soccer stadium for local youth on Figueroa and Pico Blvd. As a member of the CAG, Lidia is always engaged and ready to assist the group with any community issue. She believes if people are informed and involved, their collective action can help to reduce the alarming issues that impact community members’ lives. Lidia hears that people want good jobs that pay a living wage and provide a sense of dignity to the workers. She knows that if people can come together to get behind this issue, it can help turn the tide for whole communities, because “… pride in work brings pride into the community, and hopefully an end to unhealthy epidemics like street prostitution. With creation of good jobs we could have access to quality healthcare and educational services for everyone.”

Lidia encourages youth to stay in school and prepare themselves and not to settle for anything less; she knows and tells them that “education is the key to success.” She knows that when people work together as a community, they can do amazing things.

Ms. Denise Brown-Harvey

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Increasing health education opportunities for African Americans

Single mom Denise Brown-Harvey and her 3 boys live in Inglewood. Her interest in the CAG developed out of her own frustrations in trying to obtain health insurance. Although she has a stable job working for a charter school, there is no health insurance option for her position. Recurring State budget cuts have caused chronic fluctuations and an overall reduction in her take-home pay over the past few years. She recently went to a DPSS office to apply for public insurance, but after the worker reviewed her paycheck stubs, she determined that Denise’s gross monthly income was too much. “In my search for health insurance for myself and my sons, I have learned the State has lowered the qualifying income brackets.”

A native of the Bay Area, Denise notices that the air quality here in Southern California is poorer than up north. She and two of her boys suffer from asthma, and all of them have allergies. She feels that people living in her community are at higher risk for most deadly illnesses, but also knows there is “Not enough access to benefits that are within our reach” and that not enough people are educated about the health issues they face. Denise would like to see more outreach strategies that include follow-up, greater access to programs and services, and better quality stores that sell affordable healthy foods to help combat these problems.

Denise is inspired by her sons and other children around her. She knows it is her responsibility as an adult to advocate on their behalf. Her sons are doing well academically, and she’d like to help them continue that path by doing her part to increase healthy lifestyle options for them. She wants to be a part of the CAG because she would “…like to see more opportunities for African-American families on health education, and more cost effective and/or free programs geared towards this group, as they have the highest risk ratio for almost all deadly diseases.”

One bit of advice Denise likes to give people in her neighborhood is to “Do your best to stay informed about what is going on in the community where you live and pay taxes.”
Ms. Julia Callo

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Increasing access to healthcare services and healthy food options

Ms. Julia Callo lives in South LA with her son. She grew up in Peru and most of her family is still there. That has propelled Julia to be as active in her community as possible, helping her neighbors as if they were her own family. She regularly volunteers in local churches where she organizes events and teaches classes for the local community. And, she recently completed training to be a Promotora with Esperanza Community Housing Corp. Once a week, Julia plays Bingo for entertainment at her community center.

Julia feels there are many problems in her community and that one of the biggest is how filthy the neighborhoods are. She says that discarded furniture, auto parts, and trash are always around. She's tried calling the City before to have them come and pick it up. But when she does get through to someone, they tell her that they only do solid waste removal for residents (trash that belongs to them), not general clean-up, unless it's street sweeping. She feels that this takes a toll on the mental health of the residents, and they don't want to do anything.

Julia joined the CAG so that in addition to helping residents gain more access to healthcare services that can help them manage their diabetes and more access to healthy food, she wants to do something to show people they can make a difference if they come together.

Mrs. Maria Camberos

Neighborhood:
South LA, near 54th and Figueroa

Most passionate about:
Skills building for immigrants

Maria Camberos, a native of Juchitlan, in the Jalisco Province of Mexico, lives in South LA with her husband and her three children, ages 20, 17 and 9. She wanted to be a part of the CAG so she could learn and share her knowledge with her family and community. She is active in her children's schools, regularly volunteering in the Parent Center at Manual Arts High School and helping to supervise children at 52nd Street Elementary School. Maria also participates in CHC's Accessing Benefits for Children (ABC) Parent Advisory Group, where she and other parents of children using public insurance programs help CHC's policy teams understand the challenges they face in navigating the program and develop solutions around their use.

Recently, Maria's community lost a hard fought battle against the construction of a 7-Eleven store in their neighborhood. Residents were concerned about an increase in crime and felt that the addition of the 24-hour store would bring more foot traffic to the area. Maria worries that with the opening of this "convenience" store (which often carry alcohol, cigarettes and paraphernalia used to smoke marijuana) "Our neighborhood is surrounded by liquor stores, so now my children are exposed to the criminal activity that's created by these stores on our block."

Another issue that concerns Maria is the lack of park space in her neighborhood, and the fact that the parks that do exist are too far away. Maria is learning to become an advocate!

Still, she sees living in the US as an opportunity. "The life here is much different than how I grew up. Here, there's a lot more help." Maria's advice to the people who live in her community is to "Be more united and not be scared, share information." The skills she'll develop as a member of the CAG will allow her to help her community do just that.
Ms. Maribel Campos

Neighborhood:
South LA/Watts

Most passionate about:
The lack of affordable housing and slum housing conditions in many low-income neighborhoods

Maribel Campos lives in the Watts section of South Los Angeles with her father. Though Maribel has been trained and is currently working as a Community Health Educator, because of where she lives she faces the same challenges making healthy choices as the people she serves.

Maribel is originally from Mexico and feels that eating healthily was easier there; they were able to pick fruit straight from trees that were available to anyone. She also feels that Mexico was safer for her family. The housing project she lives in is plagued by gang violence and not a single day goes by where she doesn’t hear gunshots and sirens, shouts from neighbors experiencing violence, or feel the vibrations of low-flying police helicopters. Neither Maribel’s family nor her neighbors can afford to move; rents in safer sections of the city are too high. To make matters worse, the housing project she lives in isn’t well maintained. She fears it may be the cause of many of the health conditions her neighbors suffer from. Maribel knows that people in other South LA neighborhoods are going through the same things so she commits her time to organizing work with groups like CHIRLA and is an active member of Board of Directors for Trust South LA. Her hope is that one day, no one will have to live like she and her neighbors do.

Maribel is inspired to pursue her dream of ensuring that all people have access to the things that help them live a healthy life by her college professor. He encouraged to keep striving and to commit to community involvement. She passes that same message of encouragement to people in her neighborhood and tells them to never give up.

Mrs. Maria Contreras

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Youth education

Maria Contreras lives in South Central Los Angeles with her six children and mother. She is an active advocate for children’s health and education.

Currently Maria serves as President of Information at San Pedro Elementary Tree People, helps organize parent events at Padres Unidos en Acción, and helps to facilitate a women’s group at All People’s Christian Center in South LA. Being a mother of six, Maria’s concern is that her children have a good education and stable jobs in the future. Her advice to youth is for them to continue their education so that they can be successful in life.

She enjoys taking walks and doing meditation, but has noticed the lack of parks and recreational areas in South LA. Maria says, “The parks that are available are not as safe due to gang violence.” Maria joined the CAG so that she could learn how to speak up about and work on issues in her community, like widespread concern about affordable housing. One major issue frustrating her neighbors is the amount of trash always on the sidewalks and in their streets. Residents want a cleaner community, one that they can take pride in.

Maria says that “Being a member of the CAG has helped me a lot: I’m able to express myself now to other people about issues in my community and not feel shy like before. Now I feel more confident.”
Mrs. Teresa Garcia

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Nieghborhood crime & safety

South Los Angeles resident Mrs. Teresa García lives with her husband and two children ages 17 and 23. Teresa is originally from Coatzingo Puebla, Mexico, but she has found home here in the US. She works hard within her community to make it a nice place to live and volunteers with LA Promise School’s beautification team. Mrs. García is a mono-lingual Spanish speaker. She is currently taking English classes to strengthen her communication skills in hopes of finding a better job to help provide for her family.

However, Mrs. García is frustrated with the rise of crimes like prostitution, street graffiti and the lack of police presence that allows this to continue in her neighborhood. She feels that some of the problems with staying healthy have to do with the residents’ fear of going outside. Teresa became interested in the CAG so that she could work on these issues. She believes that communication within a community is the key platform to initiate and address the issues affecting their lack of options for healthy living.

Teresa tries to encourage community youth to stay in school and go to college, so that they can eventually have a community of educators, doctors and engineers, highlighting that “… with an education we can achieve what we want.”

Ms. Sara Guadiana

Neighborhood:
South LA, near 54th and Figueroa

Most passionate about:
Increasing the number of local programs and activities for families and uniting residents to work towards common goals

Sara Guadiana lives in South LA with her two adult children, ages 25 and 20. She grew up in Guanajuato, Mexico, and feels that things are very different here than where she grew up. She feels that in Mexico, people had more freedom, and there was less racism because everyone was from the same culture. Though it is probably difficult for some girls to grow up without their father around, Sara was always determined to reach her goals, something she brought with her to this country and has translated into activism on behalf of her community.

Sara wishes there were more programs for parents and kids in her community, allowing them to interact more frequently, so that they can learn to be more aware of their children and what they are involved in. She feels that the resources that do exists cost a lot and aren’t accessible to everyone. She feels that, if more of these types of programs were available, the community would be freer of drugs and gangs.

Sara is hoping she can continue working with the CAG long term, to teach residents to fight for their rights and to try to change their community for the better. She wants to be a part of helping the individuals in her neighborhood work together and grow into a thriving community.
Ms. Carmen Gutierrez

**Neighborhood:**
South LA

**Most passionate about:**
Advocating for the health needs of those in her community

Carmen Gutierrez lives in South Los Angeles, with her husband and Children of ages 16, 12 and 6. She lives near Expo Park, near Vermont Ave. and Martin Luther King Blvd.

Being a mother of three school-aged children, Carmen made a commitment to being an involved parent in her community. Carmen says, “In this country everything is different from my country. Here, adults are engaged in the opportunities of education in community and professional development to better themselves and families, unlike where I grew up.” For this reason, Carmen has done her best to become as actively involved in advocacy activities as possible. She’s helped organize community support for affordable housing options with Esperanza Community Housing Corporation and for Strategic Actions for a Just Economy. She wants her community to be informed so that they can take steps to improve the lack of basic necessities that communities need to thrive; living wage jobs, healthy choice grocery stores and safe recreational parks in the community, and access to quality dental and health care.

Carmen’s own experiences trying to get medical and dental care have prompted her to aid the efforts of St. John’s Well Child & Family Center to maintain and increase local access to healthcare services. She says that “...when I go, they can only do one thing for me because they have too many patients and only two doctors! I want to ask for more resources, like more dentists and clinics for low-resource communities that have no health insurance. I also ask for more health clinics that address residents’ diseases. There needs to be more!”

Carmen’s advice to the youth is for students to take advantage of opportunities and seek the help of counselors and teachers so that they can make the best of their time to become successful, prepared young adults. She says she appreciates CHC for giving her the opportunity to be part of the CAG, because she’s learning ways to address the needs of people in her community and the importance of being involved to improve where she lives. She says, “I realize the benefits of learning from the meetings we have and appreciate the presenters for keeping us informed and the encouragement they give us. I have also learned from other members’ sharing information and experiences.”

Mr. Eric Harris

**Neighborhood:**
South LA/Downtown LA

**Most passionate about:**
The lack of employment opportunities and affordable housing options

Eric Harris is a relative newcomer to South Los Angeles, a transplant from Nebraska. He immediately noticed a difference in the quality of life of lower-income people here in South LA versus where he was before, especially how close together everything is and the lack of park space and trees. He says things look gloomier here than they did back home.

Eric is currently unemployed, and is having a difficult time looking for work. Most of the job openings that match his skills are outside South LA, a problem for someone who relies on public transportation. His other issue is that he recently became homeless and has had to move into a shelter temporarily. The shelter requires residents to adhere to certain hours and participate in certain activities, which limits not only where he can apply for jobs, but also how he is able to conduct his job search.

Both of these issues have caused Eric to look on life here in LA in a new light, and realize that, for someone in his position, living wage jobs and affordable housing options are the primary concerns. Due to his recent experiences, he can sympathize with people who are trying desperately to achieve independence from “government assistance.” From his perspective, “…it seems that homelessness is big business in Los Angeles.”

Despite these setbacks, Eric’s resolve hasn’t been shaken. In fact, he’s become determined to be part of the solution to homelessness in this city, and is currently working on a business plan to address the issue. Eric is a part of the CAG because he wants to make a difference in the lives of people who don’t get a fair shot.
Mr. Manuel Medina

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Developing more diverse physical activity options in South LA

Manuel Medina, a criminal justice student at Everest College in West LA, lives in South LA with his father, mother and sister, all of whom are undocumented. He also has younger twin brothers. He loves sports, and is passionate about martial arts, and has even begun taking classes to improve his skills. Manual is an avid reader and feels at home at the Downtown Central Library, where he does everything from discovering new novels to improving his foreign language skills with audio lessons.

He knows first-hand the challenges that can come with being an undocumented person in Los Angeles. While Manual is eligible for and has public insurance through California’s Medi-Cal program, some of his family members have no insurance.

This has prompted Manual to become active in organizing and education efforts in his community. Although his academic program is challenging and commands much of his time, Manual is very active in the civic and social justice engagement of his community, and volunteers with the Los Angeles Sheriff County Department. He is regularly involved with community-based organizing and advocacy agency Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) helping to educate and organize community residents around the issue of land use planning and its effects on affordable housing and neighborhood gentrification. He’s also an active participant in Community Development Technology Center’s (CD Tech) Tech Core program and is in both of its Digital Connectors and Youth Speak-Up programs.

Manual loves that he is seeing healthier lifestyle options open up in his community, but is concerned about the seemingly one-sided focus on the needs of women and girls. He feels Zumba studios are popping up all over the place, but there aren’t many options for the things he likes to do, like martial arts. He feels that having a center with more diverse class offerings would attract more guys to participate, and would offer residents the opportunity to learn vital self-defense techniques so that they can protect themselves against crime and bullying.

Mrs. Carmelle Neal

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Increasing access to healthcare services in her community

Mrs. Carmelle Neal lives with her husband and three children, ages 21, 4 and 2. She is very concerned about the environment in which her young children live and play. At one point in her life, Mrs. Neal was working three jobs in order to afford to rent a home in Orange County, just so that her daughter could live in a safe, clean neighborhood and go to a good school. Of where she lives now, she says, “When you compare our neighborhood with how other neighborhoods look, it makes you reconsider where you’ve chosen to live with your kids.”

Carmelle has a desire to be a voice for the voiceless and unnoticed and to bring to the table the issues that residents are facing, but that no one is addressing. On her own, she’s made efforts to better understand her community’s needs, such as talking with women on local buses, and asking them where they go for prenatal care. She says “I want to find out what people need and help them connect the dots.” Her medical home is with [FQHC] T.H.E Clinic. Her love and respect for the clinic staff, and what they do for the community prompted her to become more involved. She became patient representative board member of T.H.E. in 2009, where she’s had the opportunity to act in an advocacy capacity on behalf of other patients, and her community as a whole.

Carmelle’s experience and activist spirit are a valuable asset to the CAG and help motivate other members to use their voice for the people.
Ms. Maria Perales

Neighborhood:
South LA, near Imperial and Hoover

Most passionate about:
Neighborhood crime and safety for the children in her community

Ms. Maria Perales is a single mother of two school-aged children, ages 12 and 14, living in South LA. Her favorite pastime is going to the park with her family and playing basketball. Maria and her children love exploring Los Angeles, and frequently visit the local museums in Expo Park to learn new creative things, or to check out the latest documentaries at California Science Center’s IMAX theater. As a single parent, Maria knows that being healthy and fit are extremely important, so she and her family attend the local neighborhood Zumba and theater classes offered by Trust South LA.

Like all parents, Maria would like to see safer neighborhoods that are free of gangs; recent alleyway robberies have caused the residents in her community to live in constant fear for their safety. Whenever she has the opportunity to talk to children in her neighborhood, she tells them “...not to play in the street and to look both ways before crossing because cars often speed through, and stay away from the gangs!”

Maria wants the best for her family and community, so she is furthering her education and is currently taking English as a Second Language classes. She is also taking steps to get training to be an advocate for a healthier community. She amassed a wide range of community organizing and advocacy experience as a member of the Board of Directors at Trust South LA for nearly five years. Maria is also a community researcher with CHC and works on voter education and outreach campaigns with CHIRLA. Maria is leading the children of her community through example, and our CAG is very lucky to have her as a member!

Ms. Ana Perez

Neighborhood:
South LA, near Imperial and Hoover

Most passionate about:
Creating more pathways to secondary education and employment opportunities for undocumented students

Ana Perez lives in South LA with her mother, father, two sisters ages 15 and 1, and a 3 year old brother. She is a graduate of Orthopedic Medical Magnet High School, just outside of Downtown LA. Like most of us, Ana was a very optimistic teenager and thought that when she was done with high school, there’d be a world of opportunities available to her. But Ana is an AB 540 student (undocumented) and has come to realize that the kind of changes that are necessary for doors to open for her and future generations have yet to come.

Ana was very enthusiastic about the prospect of participating on this group. The limitations she faces have propelled her to seek out more overall advocacy opportunities so that other young people have options to pursue their desires.

She wants more for her community, and is concerned because it seems as if many people do not care about the important issues, even with it affecting their lives. She feels strongly that “...many people, especially those who are low-income minorities, are afraid to speak up and stand up for what is rightfully theirs.” Much of her volunteer efforts are driven by her need to learn and be more knowledgeable in order to offer her community information that they can use, and to help people become more unified. Ana’s hope for other young people is that they learn that “by creating change, their lives will be as beautiful as they’ve pictured it all along.”
Ms. Leora Riley

Neighborhood:
Leimert Park

Most passionate about:
Educational achievement for all community members

Leora Riley lives in the Leimert Park area of South LA. An active leader in her community, Leora is not only the Outreach Chair for Park Mesa Height’s Community Council, but also serves as the President of Friends of Angeles Mesa Public Library. She believes that education is essential, should be ongoing, and that we all need to do more as a society to invest in quality education for all children.

Leora keeps herself up-to-date on community concerns and happenings by networking with people she meets via her work as an activist and her professional development pursuits. She enjoys passing on the knowledge that comes her way.

Leora is trying to overcome the hurdle of a nearly two-year stint of unemployment and the other issues that come along with it such as obtaining quality healthcare. However, she remains upbeat and determined to continue working towards the life she always dreamed of. Leora is currently on the road to opening up a resource facility that will help the community address issues such as the lack of quality education and healthier living. Her goal is to use her business to help improve the lives of those around her.

In the meantime Leora is happy to be involved with the CAG, because it provides a stage for her to voice her concerns and issues about her community and put them into action. Leora cares about the quality of life for all people in this society, and is showing people in her community, through action, that they can be part of the solution.

Ms. Karen Sanchez

Neighborhood:
South LA

Most passionate about:
Education and employment opportunities for undocumented students

Karen lives in South Central LA with her parents and younger brother and sister. She loves riding her bike (she’s an avid “fixie” rider) with her friends through the city streets and going to the Central Library in downtown. She loves the library because “...the librarians are very friendly, they have many events and there are teens like me who like to read.”

Karen is taking steps to further her education and develop the skills that will lead to stable employment and a better future for her and her family. She completed a Promorota training program this past summer, is currently attending classes at a community college where she majors in psychology, and will soon transfer to a university. She is trying her best to make her dreams come true, despite her immigration status.

Karen plans to combine what she is learning about health promotion and psychology to help the people in her community and has strong feelings about what she’d like to do to improve the lives of people in her neighborhood. She wants to see more publicly accessible exercise equipment at local parks, to get people motivated to live more active lifestyles. She wants to encourage people to eat more healthfully, because she believes these are the keys to a happy and healthy life full of enjoyment. Her vision for her community in 20 years is to see more parks around the neighborhood, parents more involved with their children, and more family-friendly workshops to help families play and learn together.
Ms. Paula Swearingen

Neighborhood: Compton

Most passionate about: Increasing access to healthy food and physical activity options

Paula Swearingen is a resident of Compton, where she lives with her husband, daughter and stepson, ages 20 and 12. Paula leads an active lifestyle: she practices yoga, loves hiking, going to movies, the theater, and concerts, and spends time traveling with her family. Her favorite place in Los Angeles is the beach because it is so relaxing and peaceful.

In addition to her active lifestyle, Paula tries to eat healthily, but finds it’s difficult to do so in her own community because of a lack of restaurants and grocery stores selling healthy options. She’s already taken advocacy steps on her own by writing to the headquarters of Trader Joe’s and Sprouts to find out why they won’t locate in her Compton neighborhood.

Paula and many other members of her community have had issues accessing healthcare services and coverage. Though currently uninsured, she is on a waiting list for public health insurance through California’s Medi-Cal program. During a recent CAG meeting, where the group was deciding what community concern they’d like to focus on, Paula offered an insight that prompted them to adopt this issue as their focal point: many problems people face stem from a lack of good jobs! Most people obtain health insurance through employment, and it is hard for families to think about physical activity or healthy eating when they are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. This is why Paula is a member of the CAG; she’s here because she knows her community deserves better, and can get better, if they become involved.

Mrs. Emilia de la Torre

Neighborhood: Los Angeles

Most passionate about: Educational opportunities for her children

Emilia, a resident of South Central, lives with her husband and three children, ages 15, 20 and 32. For Emilia, everything centers around her family, especially the education and success of her children. In her native Mexico, Emilia’s education ended in the 6th grade. So, she does everything she can to help push her children further, including being very active in her their schools. Emilia has been involved in organizing events and meetings for San Pedro Elementary school and Synergy Charter School.

Being family oriented, Emilia feels blessed for having a lovely family. She would like to learn to improve communication with her children and find information on how to be a more involved parent. Education is essential for her youngest son to be successful; her two older sons are struggling as adults, since they did poorly in school and did not prepare themselves. Emilia’s youngest son wants to go to college, and she is doing what she can to make that happen.