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A Small Business Owner Said “Yes” to the Household Assessment, then Got Health and Dental Care

By Lauren Walters

Eight months ago, Mr. Pablo Hernandez came to Los Angeles from Oaxaca, Mexico, in pursuit of the American dream and to support his family who are all still in Mexico. He currently resides in the Florence-Firestone neighborhood. Crossing the vast deserts of Central Mexico on foot without water or food for seven days, he considers his journey to the United States one of his greatest achievements.

Mr. Hernandez loves his home here in Los Angeles because, unlike in Oaxaca, there are an abundance of opportunities available. Before coming to Los Angeles, he was a skilled clothing tailor who specialized in creating women’s clothing. While he still loves fashion design and would like to work in the fashion industry here someday, he finds his current work as the owner and cook of his own taco business in Florence-Firestone fulfilling. As a small business owner, he prides himself on providing healthy and affordable meals for his community.

Because of his work, Mr. Hernandez was able to get acquainted with the neighborhood quickly. He loves the area, especially its proximity to local grocery stores and laundromats. On the other hand, he’s very concerned about the overall lack of safety and barriers for people without health and dental insurance. He was also unsure of how to access health and dental care because he didn’t have health insurance.

When Mr. Hernandez met Promotores from South Central Heals, they asked if he would like a household assessment. He gladly accepted and soon after, started receiving comprehensive health and dental care at St. John’s Community Health. He credits the Promotores for referring him to care and is thankful that they go door-to-door because, like him, many of his neighbors don’t know what resources are available and how to access them. Most of all, he appreciated the information about Medi-Cal benefits which are now available regardless of a person’s immigration status.

With the assistance from South Central Heals, Mr. Hernandez enrolled in Medi-Cal and smiles more brightly today. He shares this valuable resource with his customers, neighbors, and friends in the area, “I am just so happy that South Central Heals supported me with getting connected to Medi-Cal services and I am happy with how quickly I was able to be seen by doctors. It really was a Godsend.” South Central Heals is proud to provide Mr. Hernandez with the support he needs and is committed to providing their services to additional residents within the South Los Angeles community.



Mr. Pablo Hernandez is a proud business owner, providing healthy and affordable meals in the Florence-Firestone area in South LA.

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