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Holistic Resources for Undocumented Persons with Intersectional Identities

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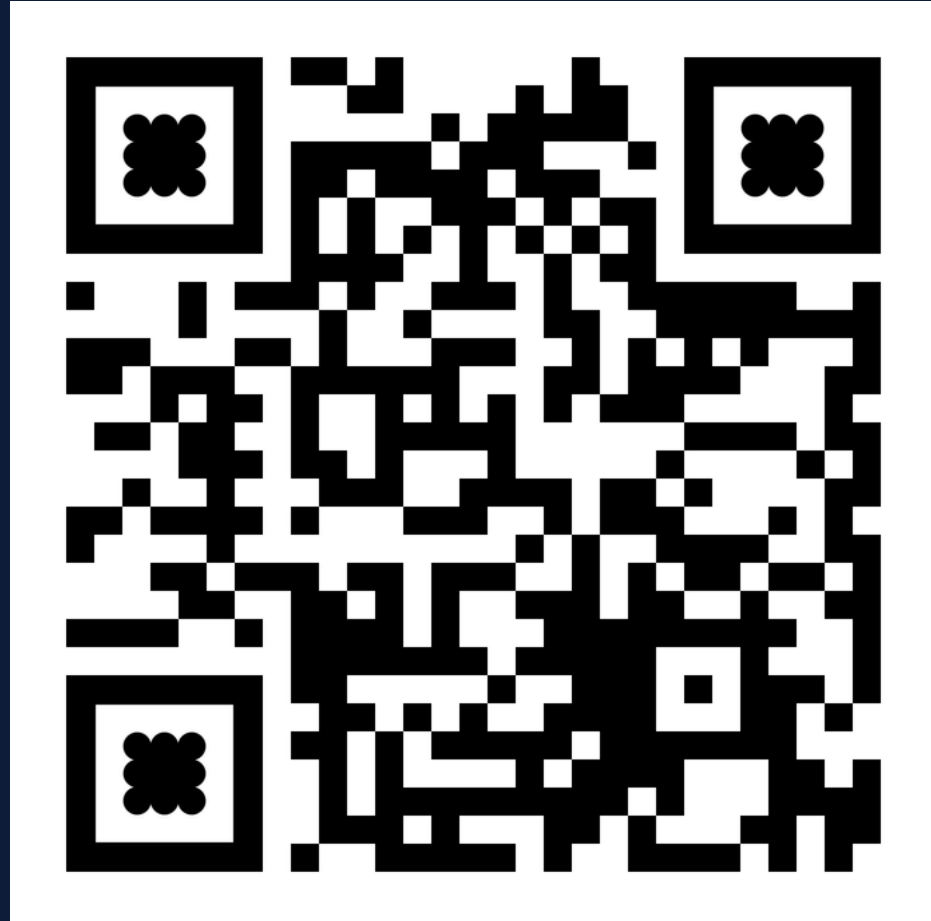
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Think of your daily struggles, now imagine being Undocumented

Tiana Sharpe '2023, Community Learning Research Fellow
With Constanza Segovia, Hartford Deportation Defense Fund (Community Partner) & Faculty Sponsor Prof. Aidali Aponte-Avilés
Fall 2022, Trinity College, Hartford CT



Scan here for website!



Hartford Deportation Defense

We are an immigrant organization in Hartford, CT, working alongside our neighbors to build a just and dignified future for our families and community.

Introduction

According to the American Immigration Council, Connecticut has a "sizable community of immigrants" as about **15% of Connecticut residents were born in another country** and **16% of residents** are native United States citizens but **have at least one parent born in another country**. 23% of that population, or 120,000, are undocumented individuals in Connecticut. While Connecticut is more progressive than other states, without federal support, many undocumented people are left out of welfare systems that support their basic needs.

Organizational Values

- Respect
- Self-confidence
- Commitment
- Self-determination
- Solidarity
- Collaboration
- Community-Care

Central Research Questions

- What are the resources and networks available for undocumented persons in Hartford?
- How do undocumented persons navigate other intersectional identities? What resources support immigrants with complex situations?
- How can we strengthen these networks and make them more accessible?

Methodology

- Source Hartford-based resources by **briefly** interviewing established Immigrants, cold calling non-profit organizations, and online research.
- Email organization with a template that details my project for further connections
- Organizing data with an excel sheet that will project directly to the website as the resource guide
- Reviewing the information with local immigrants and advocates to verify welcoming and helpful experiences.
- Building all relationships with community partners and members on mutual trust and boundary setting.

Principal Categories

- Youth Services and Programming
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Homelessness Support
- Food Security
- Mental Health Resources
- Legal Aid
- Health Resources
- Addiction Recovery
- LBGTAIQ+ Resources
- Special Education Resources
- Persons with Disabilities

Conclusion

I'm grateful to highlight the robust resources available for undocumented persons and be a part of local dialogues regarding the impact of undocumented status on other intersecting identities. While a key aspect of this project was investigating the established Hartford network of support, I also wanted to attempt a model of community learning that centered on creating a useful project with future applications outside of my personal resume or grade.

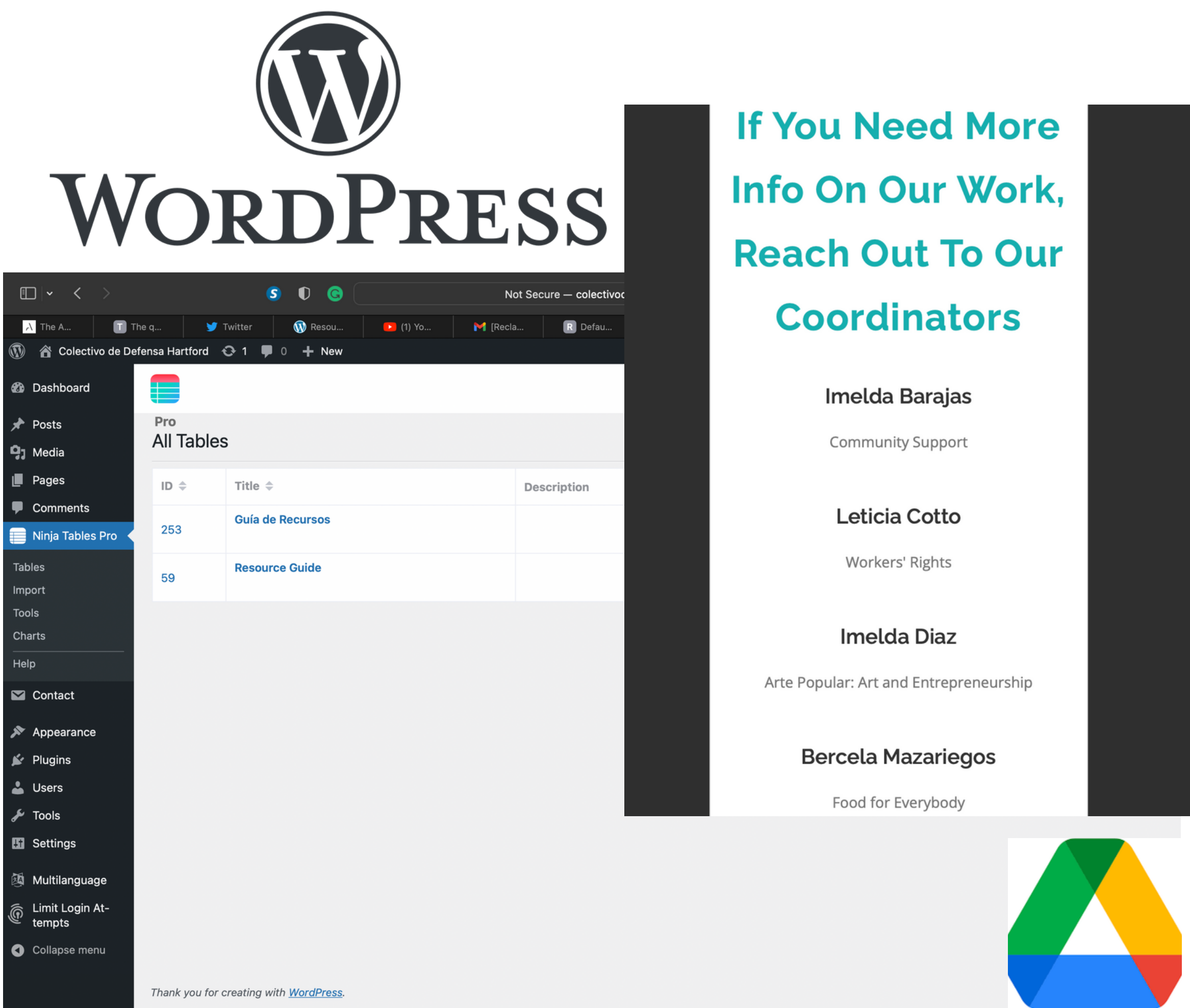
Related literature
<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-connecticut>

Road Blocks

- Everyone is super busy, especially with community work. Cold-calling people can be a tough process, but as you learn the language, it becomes easier to explain the project.
- Undocumented folx and advocates need a **level of confidentiality**, especially since undocu work is not completely legal.

Website Construction

- Central Goals for the website
 - Be **accessible** to English and Spanish audiences
 - Be easily navigable through phone or desktop device
 - Most importantly, **live independently from Trinity College efforts indefinitely**
- The Hartford Deportation Defense website was constructed through WordPress at Trinity domains to maximize the \$250 for the maintenance of the website after this class. Research Librarians, Mary Mahoney and Joelle Thomas helped me set up the website and taught me the basics of website construction.



Analysis

As Regina Dyton brilliantly says during a community meeting, "our work is aiming to bring visibility to the invisible," and it is certain that other Community Organizers are working in a similar sentiment. My research shows there is no shortage of constantly evolving human rights advocacy for immigrants by immigrants and allies. Due to our system disconnecting state funding from undocu work, the supportive resources for Undocumented persons also mean access to based necessities for all low-income persons in Hartford. **Rather the glaring limitation of Hartford organizers and resources is mitigating the languages, translators, and accompaniments for persons who do not speak Spanish, Portuguese, or English.**

English (Canada)		
Organization	Telephone and Location	Description
ADA Paratransit	Telephone: (860) 724-5340	The Greater Hartford Transit District provides transportation service unable to travel on the fixed route public transit service operated by Divisions). The paratransit service is designed to provide those pers transportation. Please make appointments 5 days in advance
African Caribbean Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)	Location: 49 Woodland Street // Telephone: 860-548-9959	AFCAMP educates, empowers, and engages with parents and the community to improve the quality of life for children with special needs and others at risk of education inequity or system involvement.
Behaviour Health Department of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford	Location: 45 Wadsworth Street // Telephone: (860) 527-1124	Offers substance abuse support, onsite pharmacy, youth and familial services. Also offers adult counseling after crime. Services are available in English and Spanish.
Center for Latino Progress	Location: 95-97 Park Street // Telephone: (860)	The Center for Latino Progress has formalized its youth programming. Our youth programs combine curriculums, services, STEM (bike mechanics), and activities that provide youth with a well-rounded foundation and view of what it means to be prepared to enter the workforce, as well as focus and embark on a college experience. It includes cultural

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