

SNL ORGANIZATION - LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Fifty-four SNL leaders from Ann Arbor to Port Huron to Traverse City and everywhere in between gathered virtually on January 8th. Almost half were Spanish speaking. **Their purpose was to analyze the positive and negative aspects of our organization as well as the opportunities for us in the future.**

One of our immigrant members later described the experience as a milagro (miracle)!

The meeting began with a reflection on the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Daris Bartolon bravely shared her experience traveling from Guatemala to the U.S. with her two daughters always in danger, never sure of what would happen to them next. She spoke of being kidnapped at one point by a gang in Mexico. We saw many parallels in Daris's story with what happened to the Holy Family many centuries ago and is continuing to happen today all over the world.

After that moving beginning, the group moved on to the agenda. First came a review of the Appreciative Inquiry activity that was conducted with Circles of Support by Amy Ketner and Sr. Martha de la Torre during December. The activity allowed individual members to express the positive impact that SNL has had on their lives—both immigrant and non-immigrant members.

Next they broke into small groups to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that were seen in the entire organization. The activity allowed individual members to get to know each other and produced several interesting ideas. The results will be consolidated and analyzed by the SNL planning team to determine next steps.