

# Challenges of the Immigrant Parent

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**CORNERS**

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OUTREACH

# How Immigrant Challenges Impact Parenting

## Immigrant Challenges – Immigrant Parent Perspective

There are people in all parts of the world who desperately wish to leave their homelands for a new life in the United States. Many of them leave to escape war, persecution, famine & poverty, believing they will find relief on U.S. soil. Unfortunately, immigrants encounter numerous challenges upon arrival they never fully anticipated. Immigrant parents are not immune and often are even further impacted. Some of the biggest challenges include difficulty in speaking and learning English, rearing children and helping them succeed in their new environments, securing adequate work and housing, accessing services and transportation and overcoming cultural barriers.

### Speaking & Learning English

The United States, not known for being multilingual, can be a challenging place to get a job, make friends, build trust, buy food or fill out forms if English is not your first language.

### Rearing Children and Helping Them Succeed

One of the largest challenges to immigrant parents is raising their children in a new and unfamiliar culture. Children often learn the language and culture faster than their parents. This can impact the parent-child dynamic and can complicate interaction and stress parental authority.

### Securing Work and Housing

Finding work for immigrant parents can be extremely difficult. Undocumented status and inability to speak the language can make it difficult to find a job and even after obtaining a job, it can be near impossible to advance and thrive in their role.

Safe and affordable housing is expensive. With the wages immigrant parents often secure, families may be forced to live together. This can lead to stressful, noisy living situations that make it difficult for parent or child to prioritize learning or meet academic demands.

## Teens at Camp

In 2019, five of our *Teen Night* (Homework Club Alumni) participants were awarded scholarships to attend “Adventure Camp” at Camp Rockmont.

Camp Rockmont for Boys is an American Camp Assoc., accredited Christian residential boys’ summer camp in North Carolina. While Rockmont offers a range of different activities for campers to take part in, it also puts a focus on Christian ideals. Since it’s founding in 1956, this camp has been a place where boys have found space & opportunity to grow into the men God is calling them to be.

Through the relationships built by Corners Outreach Directors, our students and sons of immigrant parents were able to experience a Christian environment in the society of which they are a part. The hope we share with their parents is to see them grow physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, and ultimately take their place as productive members of society.

## Accessing Services

Immigrants can find it challenging to access services that many of us take for granted. Being undocumented can cause many immigrants to avoid health or legal services that are badly needed. And even after securing those services, the experience can be less than positive due to language barriers, financial exploitation and lack of empathy by the service provider, which further discourages them those services again.

## Transportation and Cultural Barriers

Transportation issues and understanding can affect every aspect of life for the immigrant parent. Obtaining a drivers license can be challenging to some and nearly impossible to others for a number of reasons, including language barriers, undocumented status, etc.. Public transportation, although available in some areas, can be a navigational and scheduling challenge for immigrant parents.

Cultural barriers have a way of affecting all aspects of immigrant parent life. Misunderstanding local events and traditions can cause mistrust and escalate to unintended conflict.

## How Corners is working to positively impact immigrant parents

- 1. Parent Workshops.** Corners facilitates eight parent workshops per calendar year focused on topics of interest and need, all of which are facilitated in their local community.
- 2. Building Relationships with the families.** By working in the community where our students live, we can connect and build relationships with the parents in more meaningful and productive ways.
- 3. Partnerships.** Each Corners Academy partners with a title 1 school within miles of where our students live. We provide specialized, dual language tutoring. We also partner with churches and organizations in the community to help with volunteering and short-term relief.
- 4. Corners Industries.** We employ the parents of students enrolled in Corners Academy. We provide better wages and work hours which allow parents to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

## What can you do?

There are 3 paths of investment:

- 1. Volunteer-** We need tutors, mentors and parent workshop volunteers. [Sign up today.](#)
- 2. Become a client** – Landscaping covers normal yard maintenance plus projects like new shrubs, flowers, pine straw, sod, sprinklers, retaining walls, drainage, etc. [Request a quote here.](#)
- 3. Become an investor** - Join our [931 Club of recurring donors](#). Commit to donating one penny for each student we tutored last year (or more if you're willing). Can't donate monthly? [Make a one-time donation.](#)

Together we have the power to change the world, community by community. Please join us!