



**CENTER for
COMMUNITY CHANGE**



For Immediate Release:
Thursday, June 30, 2005

Contact:

In a Last Minute Effort to Keep Marie and Her Family in the USA, the Mayor, Bishop, State Representatives, Supporters of the Family, and Their Entire Community Rally to Stop Imminent Deportation
Rally Provides Missourians an Opportunity to Support the Family

WHEN: *Thursday, June 30, 2005*
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: *Missouri State Capitol Rotunda*

WHO: **John Landwehr**, Mayor of Jefferson City
Honorable Bill Deeken, State Representative
Honorable Mark Bruns, State Representative
Most Reverend John R. Gaydos, Bishop of Jefferson City
Marie, Marvin and Marina Gonzalez
Tim Wichmer, Immigration Attorney
Gary Wisch, The Gonzalez Group

WHAT: (Jefferson City, MO) In a last minute effort to keep the Gonzalez family in the USA from their voluntary deportation on July 5th, the Mayor and Bishop of Jefferson City, State representatives, members of the Gonzalez family, and their entire community plan to rally in front of the Sate Capitol to stop their deportation to their native Costa Rica.

After more than 14 years of contributing and being upstanding citizens in their community, the Gonzalez family—Marvin, Marina, and Marie (age 19) — will have to depart the U.S. leaving behind the support of their entire community.

“I love this country. I was raised and schooled in this country. This is the only country that I know. To me America is my home,” said Marie.

Marie was an honor student who graduated from Helias High School last May. She was a member of the National Honors Society and tennis and track teams. Marie even found time to volunteer for the VITAE Society and the youth group at her church. She had hoped to continue her education here in America and become a lawyer.

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The Center for Community Change is a nonprofit, nonpartisan low income advocacy group that promotes the development of community organizing as a national force for social and economic justice. FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement) is a coalition of grassroots community organizations nationwide, working on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform and immigrant rights.