

JULY 2026

baatexas.org

BONDING AGAINST
ADVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

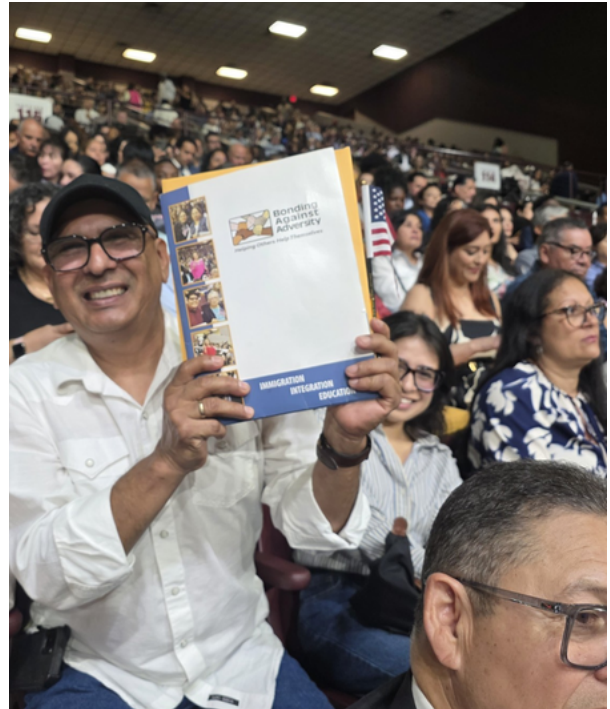
A Day to Remember

On May 6, 2026, members of the Bonding Against Adversity team had the privilege of attending a naturalization ceremony to celebrate several individuals we assisted on their journey to becoming United States citizens.

It was a joy to witness this important milestone and see their hard work, perseverance, and dedication come to fruition. We wish them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter.

Jorge Espinoza (*pictured top right*) is one of many Bonding Against Adversity students/clients that was in attendance at this ceremony.

In Jorge's words, "I am an immigrant like many who came to this country to reach the American dream. Since the start of my Citizenship classes, it was an incredible experience...I had the privilege of having 3 teachers with different unique teaching styles. I am also grateful for having Thomas Burdette represent me at my interview. Thank you for helping me become a US citizen, Bonding Against Adversity."



Oath Ceremony



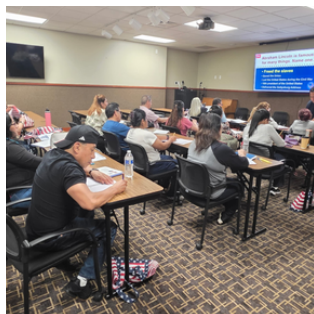
Congratulations to all new citizens!



Canvassing in the Community

In collaboration with other nonprofits and Houston in Action, we have begun in-person canvassing in the East Aldine area. Our goal is to encourage community members to vote in the upcoming election and listen to their concerns and issues they care about that is affecting their community. By the end of the summer, we hope to reach over 1,000 people. We will soon begin other efforts to increase voter engagement like phone banking and text messages.

Citizenship Classes



At the end of June, we completed our classes for the first part of the year. Across 26 classes held at eleven of our partner sites, we had over 750 students that are now more prepared to continue with the naturalization process. Thank you teachers! Here's what one participant said about the impact of the classes:

"I am forever thankful! This program is amazing! I am looking forward to becoming a volunteer."



Upcoming Dates

Saturday, July 18 | 10:30am-3:00pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church

Saturday, August 1 | 11:30am-2:30pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

Sunday, August 2 | 10:00am-1:00pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at Prince of Peace Catholic Church

Wednesday, August 5 | 5:00pm-7:00pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at Lone Star College Kingwood

Saturday, August 8 | 9:00am-12:00pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at St. Leo Catholic Church

Saturday, August 8 | 10:00am-1:00pm

- Citizenship Class Registration at Northwoods Presbyterian Church

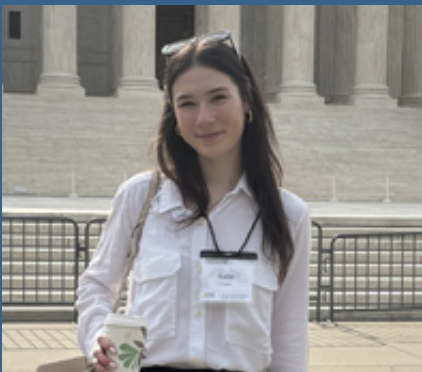
Celebrating East Aldine!

This year marks an important milestone as the East Aldine Management District celebrates its 25th anniversary! We extend our heartfelt congratulations on 25 years of dedicated service and meaningful impact in the community. We are also deeply grateful for their valued partnership over the years and look forward to continuing our work together to serve and strengthen the East Aldine community for many years to come.



Civic Engagement Roundtable

Volunteer Spotlight!



Katie Fraser

Katie Fraser is an 8th-grade U.S. History teacher at Plummer Middle School in Aldine ISD. She is passionate about civic education and empowering students to recognize themselves as active participants in their communities. Katie is incredibly excited to help contribute to the amazing work that Bonding Against Adversity is doing throughout the Houston area!



Leading up to the May primary, we hosted two civic engagement roundtable events to give participants information on the voting process and how they can register to vote. We partnered with the *League of Women Voters* who encouraged participants to make a plan to vote. We also hosted a panel with guests such as University of Houston-Downtown Professor Edgar Colón who discussed Texas voter trends.

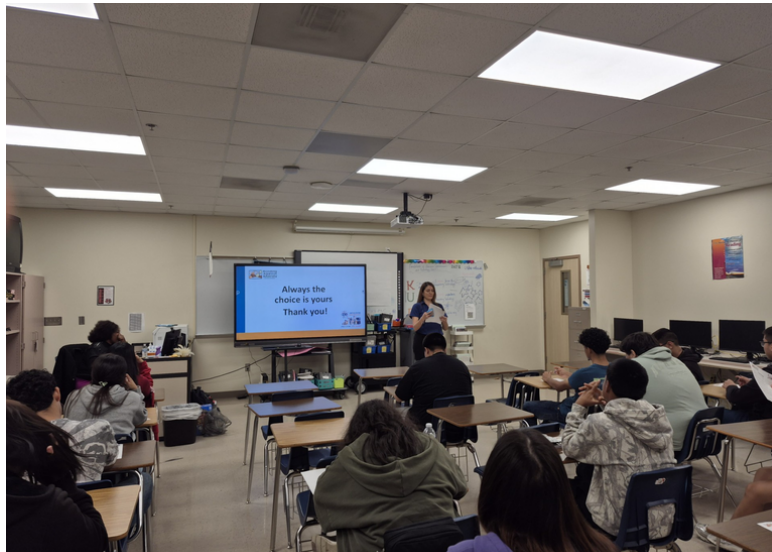
Volunteers Needed

Join our door-to-door canvassing efforts in Aldine! We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us connect with residents across Aldine. Whether you're passionate about community engagement, looking to earn volunteer hours, or simply want to make a positive impact, we'd love to have you join our team!

For more information about volunteering, please contact Elena Zelaya at elenaz@baatexas.org



Increasing Civic Participation



Our Multi-Generational Project is focused on reaching all ages about the importance of civic engagement. It can be as simple as getting involved in a school club, running for class president, volunteering at your local food pantry, or talking to family and friends about upcoming elections.

For more information about this project or collaboration, please contact Crystal Gonzalez at crystalg@baatexas.org

Volunteer Spotlight!



Emmie Quiroz

Emmie Quiroz is an international student from Belize, Central America, currently studying Political Science with a concentration in International Education at Lone Star College. Emmie has been volunteering for almost a year in citizenship classes, citizenship workshops, and now office operations. Special interests include diplomacy, public policy, civic engagement, and foreign affairs.

Welcome Amira! Summer Student Intern



Amira Hutcherson is from Redding, California and is a rising junior at Stanford University. She is majoring in Political Science and minoring in Education with an interest in fostering civic engagement in youth. On campus, she is involved in a range of initiatives from helping students become involved in efforts to strengthen democracy through her executive manager role for Stanford's Democracy Hub, to direct service efforts supporting immigrant youth in the classroom at a Bay Area high school. In her free time, Amira enjoys reading, collecting antiques, and attending local community events.

As the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants who came to California, Amira is interested in gaining a new perspective by learning more about Texas' relationship to immigration and the immigrant community in Houston. She chose Bonding Against Adversity to do her internship for Bonding's strong commitment to providing accessible resources to achieve citizenship and value of civic participation. With her extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, fostering civic engagement, Amira plans to aid with civic engagement project management, analyze program efficiency, and support with volunteer recruitment and leadership training efforts. She will be leading a project that combines art and group discourse to foster civic identity in individuals, which she will later present at Stanford's Undergraduate Research & Service Symposium.

Additional Resources and Events



*Study
Resources*



Workshops



Classes



**From Bonding Against
Adversity, we wish you a great
summer!**