

THE NEW AMERICANS



VIDEO MODULES

Get to know your newest neighbors

The New Americans is a seven-hour PBS/ITVS miniseries premiering March 29-31, 2004 that captures the search for the "American Dream" through the eyes of today's immigrants and refugees. The series follows families from Nigeria, India, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Israeli-occupied West Bank as they leave their homelands and follows their first few years in America.

With diverse cultures intermingling in many U.S. communities, the need for greater understanding and bridge building becomes more urgent. It is important to look at who is coming to the United States, why they are leaving their homelands and how we can support and encourage their integration into civic life.

The New Americans Video Modules

For workplaces, schools and community organizations that would like to use stories from *The New Americans* to increase understanding of recent immigrants, Active Voice and Kartemquin Films present three themed video modules. Each module includes a DVD or VHS cassette with two or three family stories - each about twenty minutes long - and a companion discussion guide designed to spur focused and productive dialogue. The guide offers a workshop curriculum, immigration statistics to provide national and local context, and resource lists.

Modules sell for \$39.95 and are available for purchase directly from www.activevoice.net.

Supporting Families

Helping Teachers and Other Professionals Meet the Needs of Immigrant Families

Supporting Families is a 58-minute video module that tells the stories of three families from Mexico and Nigeria, and through them, illustrates the common hopes and particular challenges of immigrant families and their children. It can be used wherever a more humane and complex picture of immigrants will help professionals to understand newcomers and meet their needs.

Designed for:

- Teacher credential courses
- In-service professional development sessions for educators, public administrators and staff of family service organizations
- Workshops, presentations or conversations on diversity
- Activities that help immigrant parents participate in their children's education



This video added great value [for educators without] any experience with recent immigrants. It opened up a new world to them.

Liz Wolfe

County Office of Education, San Mateo, California

Finding Community

The Road Toward Immigrant Civic Participation

Finding Community is a 60-minute video module that highlights the complex emotions and sociopolitical forces propelling three families to leave their homelands in Mexico, Nigeria, and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and put down roots in rural and urban America. It chronicles the process of assimilation and integration and identifies key obstacles to and opportunities for engaging newcomers in public life.



Designed for:

- Cultural competency/professional development sessions for service providers
- Policy forums
- Workshops or conversations on immigrant civic engagement

I use this video and the materials in my work with immigrants to show how families need to learn to navigate the U.S. system, assimilate into a new culture, [and learn] a new language without losing their cultural roots so they can succeed in their adoptive country.

Rosa Pascual

Central American Resource Center, San Francisco, California

Building Bridges

Deepening Understanding Between Long-Term Residents and New Immigrants

Building Bridges is a 49-minute video module that follows new Americans from the Dominican Republic and Nigeria as they join churches, adjust to cultural differences and stereotypes, and build relationships across language and cultural barriers.



Designed for:

- Workshops that inspire bridge-building between long-term residents & newcomers
- Faith-based or community dialog on inter-group relations
- Cultural competency/professional development sessions

I use this video to help educate those who only see what comes across in media coverage of immigrant issues...to move beyond stereotypical images of the 'alien' among us.

Sister Marie Francis

Catholic Charities, Fresno, California

For more information and to order DVD or VHS copies of *The New Americans Video Modules*, go to www.activevoice.net or call Active Voice at (415) 553-2841.