

**"EL VIAJE MAS CARO" / "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY" presents:**

# IT'S WORTH IT



*Gregorio's Story*  
*Art by Kevin Kite*

# **Sobre “EL VIAJE MÁS CARO”**

## **About “THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY”**



Aproximadamente 1,000-1,200  
**TRABAJADORES MIGRANTES**  
originarios de Latino América ayudan  
a sostener la industria láctea en Vermont.

Approximately 1,000-1,200 **MIGRANT  
LABORERS** from Latin America help to  
sustain the dairy industry in Vermont.



**Este proyecto representa una COLABORACIÓN CREATIVA entre:**

*This project represents a CREATIVE COLLABORATION between:*

**NARRADORES**  
de la comunidad migrante

*STORYTELLERS from the  
migrant community*



**CARICATURISTAS locales**  
de New England

*New England  
CARTOONISTS*

resultando en una serie de  
**RECURSOS HISTORIETAS** enfocada  
en los distintos aspectos de la  
**EXPERIENCIA MIGRANTE...**

*resulting in a series of COMICS  
RESOURCES focusing on  
distinct aspects of the  
MIGRANT EXPERIENCE...*



**PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN e HISTORIETAS, VISITA:**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & COMICS, VISIT:**

**[www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro)**

**[www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro](https://www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro)**

Arte por / Art by: Marek Bennett ©2016 [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)

## **It's Worth It: Gregorio's Story**

### **Edition 1 / January 2017**

Historia © por / Story © by: “Gregorio”

Arte © por / Art © by: Kevin Kite [ [www.inkfallstudios.com](http://www.inkfallstudios.com) ]

Recogida por / Collected by: Julia Doucet + Marie Vasitis

Transcrita por / Transcribed by: Marie Vasitis

Traducida por / Translated by: Marie Vasitis

Librito por / Booklet by: Marek Bennett [ [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com) ]

# IT'S WORTH IT: GREGORIO'S STORY

STORY BY GREGORIO • ART BY KEVIN KITE

I SACRIFICED MY YOUTH  
COMING TO VERMONT.



ON THE FARM, I WORK ELEVEN HOURS A DAY,  
SIX DAYS A WEEK.

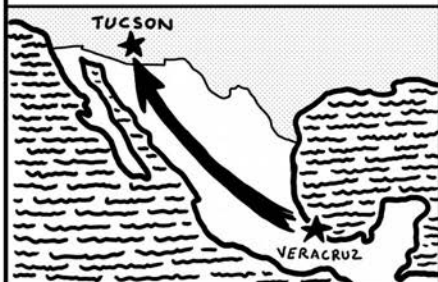


OFF THE FARM, PEOPLE DON'T  
UNDERSTAND ME BECAUSE I DON'T  
SPEAK ENGLISH WELL.

I'M SORRY.  
WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?



I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE MEXICO,  
BUT I WAS SEARCHING FOR BETTER  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MY FAMILY.



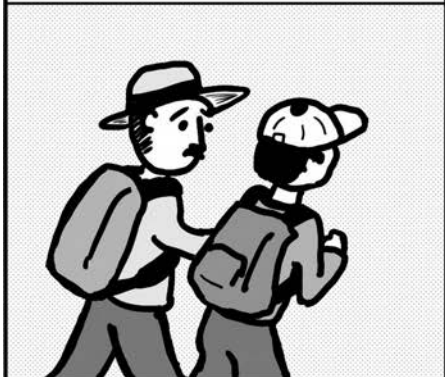
MY FATHER WAS WORKING IN A RESTAURANT IN TENNESSEE.  
WE TALKED ABOUT MY COMING.



LIFE IS HARD HERE, BUT THE  
MONEY'S GOOD. YOUR UNCLE'S  
COMING. YOU COULD COME  
WITH HIM. IT'S UP TO YOU.

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR MY FAMILY.

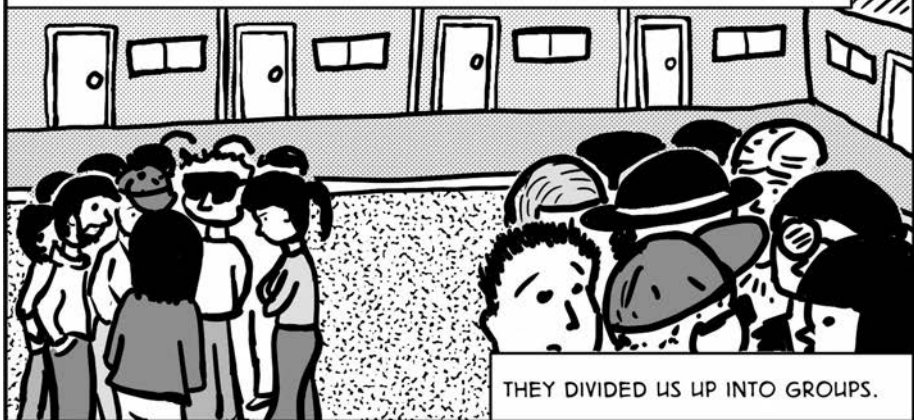
MY UNCLE FRANCISCO AND I SET OUT FROM OUR HOUSE TOGETHER.



ON THE WAY, WE MET UP WITH OTHERS WHO WERE ALSO GOING.



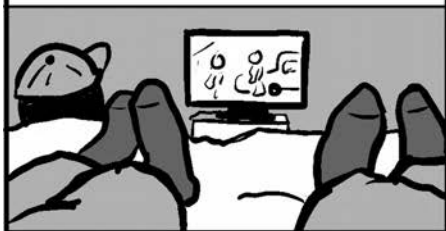
BY THE TIME WE GOT NEAR THE SONORA BORDER, WE WERE MANY.



EIGHT PEOPLE WERE IN MY GROUP: FRANCISCO AND ME, TWO COUPLES, A GUY WHO HAD WORKED IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN VERACRUZ, AND A GUY FROM HIDALGO. WE WAITED FOR OUR COYOTE TO JOIN US. HE WOULD MAKE US NINE.



WE WAITED AT THE BORDER FOR A WEEK, WAITING FOR OUR COYOTE TO GUIDE US ACROSS.



ONE DAY, AS NIGHT FELL, WE STARTED WALKING, OUT INTO THE DESERT.



WE ALWAYS WALKED AT NIGHT. THERE WERE DANGERS AT NIGHT...



BUT THERE WERE GREATER DANGERS DURING THE DAY.



WE'D WALK A LITTLE...



AND REST A LITTLE.



DURING THE FIRST NIGHT, THE TWO WOMEN GOT BLISTERS ON THEIR FEET.



THE TWO COUPLES DECIDED TO TURN BACK.



SO DID OUR GUIDE.



YOU JUST HEAD TOWARDS THAT MOUNTAIN AND KEEP RIGHT OF IT.



WE KEPT WALKING, DODGING THE BORDER PATROL...



AND THE SNAKES.



THE MAN FROM VERACRUZ WASN'T USED TO WALKING MUCH.

PLEASE,  
A LITTLE SLOWER.

BUT WE HAD TO KEEP MOVING.

EVENTUALLY, HE TOLD US TO GO ON  
AHEAD. SO WE LEFT HIM ALONE. IN  
THE DESERT.

WE WERE RELIEVED TO LEARN LATER  
HE MADE IT TO TUCSON ALL RIGHT.

FINALLY, WE GOT NEAR TUCSON. WE CALLED OUR CONTACT, BUT WE MISSED HIM ON THE HIGHWAY.



WE SPENT THE NIGHT UNDER THE FREEWAY. THERE WERE CARDBOARD BOXES TO SLEEP IN.



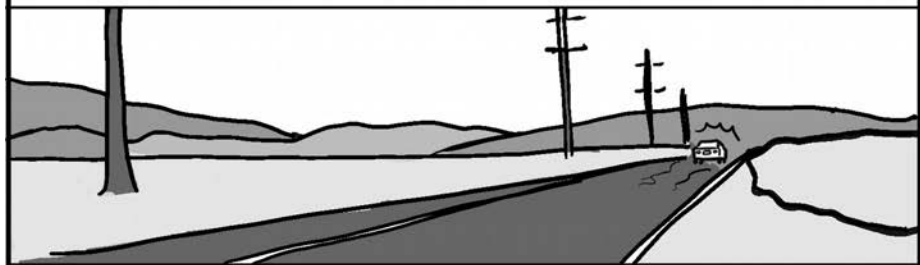
I LEFT MY EMPTY WATER BOTTLE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, TO SHOW OUR CONTACT WHERE WE WERE.



HE FOUND US IN THE MORNING.



HE TOOK US TO TUCSON. AFTER A WEEK IN THE DESERT, WE HAD A CHANCE TO BATHE AND EAT A LITTLE. HE BROUGHT US CLEAN CLOTHES.





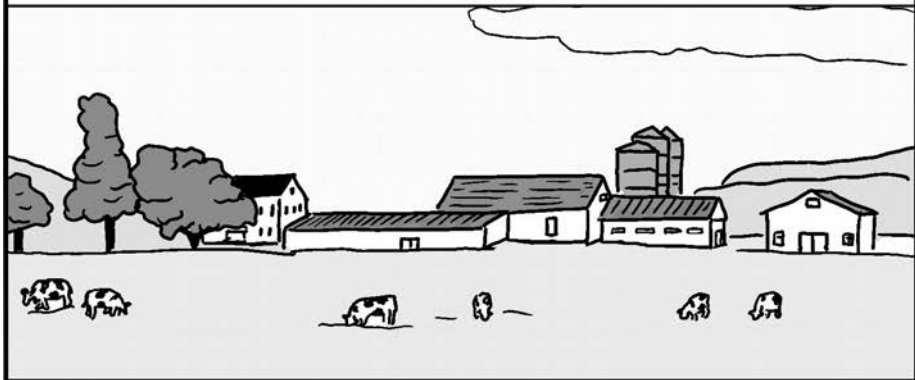
HE CONNECTED US WITH TRANSPORT TO NEW YORK. WE RODE IN A VAN FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT. WE HAD TO LIE ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER DURING THE JOURNEY.



WHEN WE GOT TO NEW YORK, THERE WEREN'T ANY JOBS.



THEN I LEARNED THERE WAS WORK IN VERMONT. I'D NEVER HEARD OF VERMONT BEFORE. BUT I CAME HERE.



AND NOW IT'S GOOD. THE WORK IS HARD, BUT I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH HERE.



I'VE LEARNED TO BE RESPONSIBLE, WORKING HERE. I MAKE GOOD MONEY, AND I SEND IT HOME TO MY FAMILY.



I DON'T GO OUT MUCH. IF I DON'T WORK, I DON'T MAKE MONEY, AND THE FARM MIGHT THINK I'M NOT COMMITTED. I'M NOT HERE FOR ME. I'M HERE TO EARN MONEY FOR MY FAMILY.



IT'S BEEN ENOUGH TO HELP MY FAMILY BUY LAND FOR A COFFEE FARM AND BUILD A HOUSE. I COULD NEVER EARN ENOUGH MONEY TO DO THAT IN MEXICO.



IN TWO YEARS, GOD WILLING, I WILL GO BACK HOME.



IT WILL ALL BE DIFFERENT. MY BROTHERS AND SISTER WILL HAVE GROWN. MY CHILDHOOD WILL BE GONE. BUT IT'S OK. I AM HERE BECAUSE, IF I HAVE A FAMILY, I WILL ALWAYS BE WORKING FOR THEM, IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN.



**BARRERAS a la SALUD de los TRABAJADORES MIGRANTES: X BARRIERS to HEALTH CARE for MIGRANT WORKERS:**

*ESTATUS ADMINISTRATIVO  
y miedo de la deportación*



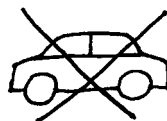
**DOCUMENTATION STATUS  
and fear of deportation**

*La PROXIMIDAD a la  
FRONTERA CANADIENSE*



**PROXIMITY to the  
CANADIAN BORDER**

*FALTA de TRANSPORTE*



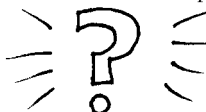
**LACK of  
TRANSPORTATION**

*ACCESO INCONSISTENTE  
a la  
interpretación  
y a la  
atención con  
sensibilidad  
cultural*



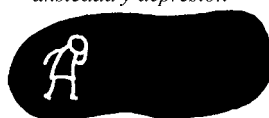
**INCONSISTENT ACCESS  
to language interpretation  
& culturally sensitive care**

*DESAFÍOS de NAVEGACIÓN  
de un sistema de salud complejo*



**CHALLENGES NAVIGATING a  
complicated health care system**

*AISLAMIENTO más trauma,  
ansiedad y depresión*



**ISOLATION plus trauma,  
anxiety, & depression**

*RELUCTANCIA faltar al trabajo,  
o largas horas de trabajo*



**RELUCTANCE to miss work,  
or long working hours**

*COSTOS de la medicina  
e INELIGIBILIDAD para SEGUROS*



**COST of medical care and  
INELIGIBILITY for INSURANCE**

*FALTA de EDUCACIÓN FORMAL  
y bajo nivel de alfabetización*



**LACK of FORMAL EDUCATION  
and low literacy rates**

Fuente de información: / Source: **OPEN DOOR CLINIC** [www.opendoormidd.org](http://www.opendoormidd.org)

ARTE POR / ART BY: **Marek Bennett** ©2016 [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)

**For information and assistance in  
connecting with the health & welfare  
resources in your area, please contact:**

**The Open Door Clinic**  
(802) 388-0137  
[www.opendoormidd.org](http://www.opendoormidd.org)

**Bridges to Health**  
(802) 524-4480  
(When you hear the message, dial 467)

**The Migrant Education Program**  
(802) 476-2003  
(When you hear the message, dial 208)

# "EL VIAJE MÁS CARO"

Una colaboración entre narradores migrantes y caricaturistas Nuevainglaterra.



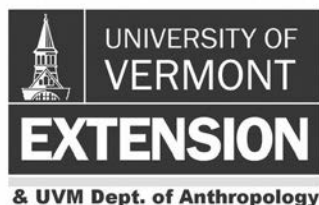
# "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY"

A collaboration between migrant storytellers & New England cartoonists.

Farm artwork from "A New Type of Work" by Delmar & Tillie Walden.

[www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro)  
[www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro](https://www.facebook.com/elviajemascaro)

## **SOCIOS DEL PROYECTO / PROJECT PARTNERS:**



**Agradecemos el apoyo de / We appreciate the support of:**  
VT Farm Health Task Force / VT Community Foundation's "Innovations and Collaborations" Grant / UVM Humanities Center