**Character profiles The Unafraid**

**Alejandro (aka Cheesecake)**

Cheesecake is a high school senior when we meet him, and working two jobs to help support his family. He wants to go to college and study psychology and art, but after graduating from high school, Cheesecake has no affordable options for going to college in Georgia and spends the next year working full-time and applying to out-of-state schools that accept undocumented or DACA-mented students and give scholarships, including Berea College in Kentucky, which offers a full ride. His life changes dramatically in January 2015, when he gets accepted to Berea. In August 2015, conflicted about leaving his DACA friends and activist community behind, Cheesecake leaves the trailer park he grew up in, and begins his first year of college. At school he struggles to redefine himself by finding a balance between his activist persona and academic life. This begins to take a toll on Cheesecake until he eventually finds a group of fellow student activists on campus. His newly defined activist role is challenged the day after Trump is elected, when Cheesecake is despondent and scared for his family and community.  But he manages to channel that fear, and vows to keep fighting.

**Silvia (Lili)**

 Silvia, 18, lives with her parents and extended family when we meet her, helping to take care of her younger sisters, and working at a fast food restaurant. She also makes time to be a leader in the undocumented student movement. She wants more than anything to stay in Georgia for college, and begins exploring how much it would cost to attend a nearby community college paying the international tuition DACA students have to pay in Georgia. Finding out how expensive it is, and that she would not qualify for any financial aid or tuition assistance, she throws herself into the fight for in-state tuition for DACA students in Georgia, testifying at state Senate hearings and leading rallies at the Board of Regents. She even begins to explore attending school in another state where an Aunt lives, hoping she will qualify for in-state tuition after living there for a year.  But it turns out to not be the case for DACA students -- she would have had to graduate from a high school there. Losing hope, and still working at the fast food joint, Silvia gets pregnant with her boyfriend and moves in with him, creating conflict with her family and postponing indefinitely her dreams of college. Silvia gives birth to a baby boy in February 2016. As a new mother, her dream of attending college is on hold for now, but with a new president who has said he will rescind DACA, she pledges to get back into activism again.

**Aldo**

Aldo, 18, grew up with Cheesecake in the same predominantly undocumented Latino trailer park outside of Athens. He came to the U.S. from Mexico with his parents when he was 4, and is an only child adored by his parents and his activist uncles. Eager to attend college after graduating high school, Aldo decides to attend community college, but can only afford to take took one class due to the international tuition he has to pay in Georgia.  This is more than three times the in-state tuition other Georgia students are charged. After a year of classes, he had to quit to work full-time to save money to try it again. Aldo works several jobs, including helping at his dad and uncle’s auto repair shop. Unlike Cheesecake, Aldo is not accepted at Berea. He continues to work and eventually saves enough money to take two classes at University of North Georgia (UNG). As Cheese struggles at Berea, Aldo flourishes at UNG, doing well in class and making friends. As he starts his second year of school, his father suddenly becomes ill, and is diagnosed with kidney failure. Left with no other choice, Aldo has to drop out of school to work full-time to support the family. He also now has the additional responsibility of finding dialysis treatments for his Dad in Georgia, a state that does not have any health programs for undocumented immigrants. His activism starts to focus on health care rights for undocumented immigrants, and as always, he’s not giving up.