



Amigos de Guadalupe

Center for Justice & Empowerment

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
2012 – 2022

Winter Newsletter 2023

Upcoming Events:

Cesar Chavez Birthday
Friday, March 31st

Amigos' [Scholarship Application Process](#) is Open
And we are still looking for [Scholarship Donations!](#)
February 1st - April 7th

VITA Free Tax Preparation at Amigos
Saturdays, 9am-1pm
March 4 - May 6

30th Memorial Anniversary of Cesar Chavez
Sunday, April 23rd
Event Details TBD

Amigos' Night at SJ Giants

Friday, May 5th ~ 7 PM

We receive a donation for each ticket purchased with this [link](#) AND there will be fireworks!

Offer Code: AMIGOS

Section F is the Amigos' section

Finding our Way Home

At our annual Posada event that traditionally focuses on seeking shelter, a wonderful group of 200 East San Jose community members gathered together for pan dulce, hot chocolate, Santa and gifts for hundreds of children.

During this impactful event, several community members shared their stories. If you weren't able to attend our Community Posada, here are their powerful stories of gratitude and resilience that they wanted to share with the Amigos' community.

Community Member:
Amber



Amber: I am a mother of three children and a former guest of the Hampton Inn with Amigos de Guadalupe's interim housing program. I've been on my own since the age of 15 and became a mother for the first time when I was 18. My young family and I experienced some challenging times, and we bounced around a couple of interim housing programs in San Jose.

Community Member:
Stacie



Stacie: I am a mother of 6 and was born and raised in East San Jose. We are current residents of Casitas de Esperanza. Life before coming to Casitas was a struggle with a lot of ups and downs. Due to the high cost of living in San Jose, me and my family found ourselves bouncing around from house to house, and it was a constant struggle to stay afloat. I would shower at

Earlier this year, my kids and I landed at the Hampton Inn with Amigos de Guadalupe, and this was a pivotal moment in our lives.

The Amigos staff were very friendly and nice. They helped me meet all of my family's needs. Nick, the manager at Hampton Inn was very nice and had some great conversations with me to help me with my future. After a few months, we got placed into a transitional housing program, where we are today. In my current program, my kids each have their own room, and we have furniture and a kitchen where I can cook them breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I can take my children to their childcare, and I can go to work and not have to worry and stress about where we're going to live next.

I've been working as a supervisor for a security company, and am in the process of buying a new car. I can tell my kids are much happier. I can't tell you how important it is to have a stable place to live so I can plan out my next moves for my family.

March 2023 update: Amber and her family are still going strong and are in a place of their own, and she shared that her boss recently told her that she is up for a promotion and her oldest daughter will be starting school in the Fall.

work because I had no other place to shower.

Then I came to Casitas, and our lives changed. The Amigos de Guadalupe team makes us feel so warm and welcome, and they really want to help you. Words can't describe how helpful they really are. The Casitas housing program gives me and my family stability, and I can go to work and not have to stress about where we're going to sleep at night. The best part about Casitas is meeting other families and learning about their stories. We connect in a strong community way.

We need to continue to advocate for more resources for our families, and help our families get housed. Housing is a human right, and we need to ensure that everyone has access to affordable housing. We need to challenge existing systems, and to shift power back to the hands of community residents.

Free Tax Preparation at Amigos Has Begun!

On Saturday March 4, Amigos launched its 2023 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which will provide free tax preparation services for any eligible households (annual income less than \$60K) on a first come, first served basis. VITA sessions will take place at the main Amigos' office ([1897 Alum Rock Ave](#)) every Saturday from March 4 to May 6, 9 AM -1 PM.

Last year the Amigos VITA program resulted in more than \$170,000 going back to our community, and this is a program that Amigos has operated for the last 10 years - which means up to \$1.7 million in additional financial resources in our community.

We are looking for more volunteer tax preparers, so if you're interested in volunteering on Saturday mornings, please contact Aurora Olivares at aolivares@amigosdeguadalupe.org

Spotlight on the Amigos' Family

Community Project: Cesar Chavez Family Home



The Cesar Chavez Family Home: We are in the middle of collecting community input from individuals, neighbors, and community partners to help build a vision for the future of the Cesar Chavez Family Home. Lots of brilliant ideas are coming forth, and our architect will be integrating those ideas into an initial design and plan. We are also working on connecting with funders and partners who are interested in supporting this monumental and exciting project. If you can help us in this way, please contact Stephanie at sjayne@amigosdeguadalupe.org. Stay tuned for more information!

Our Supporters:
IBEW Local 332-Electrical Workers Minority Caucus



Huge THANK YOU to Dave Polanco, Anthony Hernandez, Rolo Malabanon, and Chris Olague (not pictured) of IBEW Local 332-Electrical Workers Minority Caucus for volunteering many hours and offering their electrician expertise to the Cesar Chavez Family Home. This team, together with the support of Cupertino Electric, Inc, have been a joy to work with and their commitment to honoring the legacy of Cesar Chavez and his family is inspiring - and deeply appreciated. Thank you, guys!

Our Amigos' Team



With the support of The Tipping Point Community, the Amigos' Team spent 3 days in authentic connection with one another, as part of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion retreat that was focused on deep listening, individual healing, and collective transformational change. As we talked about our own family stories and our experiences with oppression, many tears were shed and hugs were shared. For many of us, there was an emotional release that resulted in a start to true healing. Because our collective work is filled with

trauma, this was an important experience for all of us. Some comments from our team that may offer a flavor of the impact of this important time together:

"Right now I am still processing all the different stories/personal anecdotes that have been shared and I am feeling very connected to the people that I work with. We are all here for the right reasons and that gives me hope for the future."

- "My experience with this has been eye opening, and I didn't even know my eyes were closed. I also feel empowered and ready to keep going."

"I feel that an old dusty mirror was cleaned off and placed in front of my face. I appreciate the opportunity to self reflect."

"We live in a system of oppression that has affected us in so many ways. It is a raging storm that threatens all of us. But in the middle of that storm, we have a bubble, a support system among all of us here at Amigos. We have a place for self care, where we can gather our strengths to go back out and fight the systems that keep us down. We can fight for our liberation and those of others. We are the ones we have been waiting for."

- "These past 3 days have been nurturing. I feel like my soul got fed a tall glass of water and I am now thirsty for more. Love and appreciation and hope for all Amigos staff."

Three full days together was a big commitment on the part of the Amigos' organization and all of our individual team members, but as these comments show, it was deeply valuable and needed to continue the important work of seeking justice with our community.

*Thank you for believing in us
and for your continued support!*

Donate to Support Amigos' Work



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*Valentine's Day crafts with the children living at the Quality Inn,
lead by our Education Coordinator, Ruby!*

If you have any questions, please contact sjayne@amigosdeguadalupe.org

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