



Amigos de Guadalupe

Center for Justice & Empowerment

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
2012 – 2022

Fall Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Events:

Cesar Chavez Community Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 12th ~ 10AM - 2PM
ACE Empower Academy, [625 Sunset Ave, San Jose 95116](#)

St Nick Scholarship Fundraising Event
Friday, Dec. 9th ~ 6PM - 9PM
Contact sjayne@amigosdeguadalupe.org for more details

Community Posada
Thursday, Dec. 15th ~ 6PM
Renaissance Academy at Mathson Middle School
[2050 Kammerer Ave, San Jose 95116](#)

The Community Vision for the Cesar Chavez Family Home



Now that Amigos de Guadalupe is the official owner and community steward of the Cesar Chavez Family Home, we are also deeply committed to making sure that the local community is a driving force in the planning process. So, on November 12th, local East San Jose residents and community members will join together to start creating a community vision for how best to honor, celebrate, and activate the Cesar Chavez Family Home. We hope to hear ideas from long-time activists who worked directly with Cesar, as well as powerful youth voices and community members. In that way, together we can design a way for the sacred space to best serve the legacy of Cesar Chavez and the Chavez Family. If you would like to contribute to this discussion, please join us on Saturday, November 12 from 10 AM -2 PM at ACE Empower Academy ([625 S Sunset](#)) to share your ideas!

*Our 10th Anniversary Celebration was a Success,
Thank You!*



On September 8, 2022, the Amigos de Guadalupe Family enjoyed an evening together filled with love, inspiration, and friendship as we celebrated the 10 Year Anniversary of the Amigos organization. We heard from Executive Director Maritza Maldonado as she told the story of the Amigos' 10 year journey of servant leadership. In honor of Monsignor John Sandersfeld, Amigos Board members awarded Eloise Torres the inaugural Spark of Light Award because she has been a true luminary in East San Jose for more than 50 years. Congratulations Eloise!

As guests enjoyed a delicious homemade Mexican dinner (and churros!), they were also touched by the inspiring and visionary words of community leader Antonia Sandoval, scholarship recipient Jennifer Sepulveda, and our own Director of Unhoused Programs, Laura Delgado. Inspired by these resilient community members, the Amigos community raised over \$150,000 to help continue the Amigos' mission of serving East San Jose. THANK YOU to everyone who believes in our mission and supports our work. We simply cannot do it without you. Please enjoy this short [Amigos 10th Anniversary video](#) to give you a small flavor of the joy and inspiration of the evening.

Congrats to our Amigos' Community Graduates



Our community wants to see big change happen in East San Jose. They have the vision, the passion, and the persistence to make their dreams for their community come true. However, due to the complex systems that make it difficult for the immigrant community to make large scale changes, they need more tools and skills to make these dreams a reality. So, with the help of Amigos and our Rapid Response Network partners, 31 community members attended class every Saturday for 6 weeks to learn about local, state and federal government structures as part of our Educacion Politica Cohort (Political Education). As they discussed topics such as political history and immigration law, the knowledge, power, and confidence of these 31 community members continued to grow. At the end of their 6-week political education course, all 31 men and women proudly wore graduation caps and gowns and graduated from their political education course. Proud of their accomplishment, this course was an important step for our community leaders to feel more confident and prepared to reach out to local, state and federal government officials and push for the change they want to see in their community. Congratulations to these community members - we believe in you and we will support you in making the change you want to see!

Opening of Hampton Inn for Family Housing



Amigos de Guadalupe celebrated the opening of our newest family housing program at the Hampton Inn Hotel on July 15, 2022. Families who might otherwise be living on the street are able to receive temporary housing, all while receiving intensive support to help them move into permanent housing. Since July, Hampton Inn has become home to 39 families and has already helped move 24 families into permanent housing. Families receive food and meals, medical services through a mobile clinic, and children are able to enjoy a large play area where they can ride bikes and play tag or catch. Our Amigos' staff at Hampton Inn also create activities for families to come together and build community, such as a recent Hotel Transylvania movie night that our families greatly enjoyed! Implementing one of our most important core values, Radical Hospitality, Amigos hopes to create family support groups at our hotels, in which families can come together to offer an open ear in the safe space they currently call home.

Spotlight on the Amigos' Family

Community Member:
Patricia Castillo



Patricia Castillo and her 9 year old son, Isaiah, have both been active leaders within our Organizing Committee, Grupo de Justicia Migratoria (Immigration Justice Group) since 2021. Patricia has been a powerful community leader in many ways, including helping to lead our local Voz Derecho y Voto (Voice, Rights and Vote) and Papeles Para Todos Campaigns (Papers for All). She also traveled to the State Capitol in Sacramento to demand that Governor Newsom pass AB2183 which is a bill aimed at making sure farmworkers can feel safe while voting. Patricia also traveled to Mesa Verde and Golden State Annex Detention centers to demand fair work pay for those detained there. Patricia was also part of our first graduating class of “Educacion Politica,” our Political Education Cohort. Despite becoming unhoused two months ago, Patricia continues to fight for her community every single day. Patricia not only sets an example for her community, but for her 9 year old son as well. Patricia symbolizes what it means to never give up, and is a prime example of the saying, “solo el pueblo salva el pueblo,” which means “only the people save the people.” Amigos is very grateful that Patricia is one of “our people.”

Staff Members: *Our Growing Education Team*



Ruby Castillo



Cinthia Leyba



Claudia Fabian Garcia



Gabriela Guzman

This fall, Amigos puts its spotlight on the growth of our education team! Amigos has welcomed 4 new educators to our community, each one of them being placed at different sites. Get to know our new team! Gabriela Guzman, our Education Manager is the eldest daughter of 3, a first generation college graduate, and enjoys empowering children of her community. Claudia Fabian Garcia, our Education Coordinator for our Middle School Reader Leaders Program says that learning Spanish as a first language made her educational journey challenging, however, she also says it taught her perseverance and the importance of instilling that value onto future generations. Cinthia Leyba, our Education Coordinator at Hampton Inn, says working with children reminds her how exciting the world can be. She leads with the quote “Go the extra mile, it's never crowded.” Last but not least, Ruby Castillo, our Education Coordinator for Quality Inn, has been working with youth for

10 years now and also has a passion for folklorico, in which she has danced professionally for 13 years.

Supporters:
Sorci Family Foundation



Sorci Family Foundation

The Sorci Family Foundation has been loyal supporters and donors to Amigos for 9 years, starting first with the generosity of John Sorci and then expanding to include his sisters Margaret Bummer and Roselee Dague. The Sorci Family was a sponsor of our 10th Anniversary event, has offered their home to hold events, has been deeply involved with our Scholarship program, and has always stepped up to help when we needed it. Thank you, Margaret, Roger, and Roselee and the whole Sorci Family - we are grateful for your brother John building a connection with us and that you are a part of our Amigos Family.

*"When no one else did, Amigos believed in me."
-Community member, 2022*

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