Education Justice
In a historic civil rights victory for the Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF), Latino and Black students, their parents, and the community, Kern High School District (KHSD), the largest high school district in California, agreed to settle a lawsuit in which KHSD was charged with disproportionately suspending and expelling students of color due to implicit bias. The settlement requires that the district implement positive discipline practices to address disparate discipline outcomes and to make recommendations to help schools improve services for the neediest students: low income, English Language Learners and Foster Youth.
DHF collaborated with other organizations, through the Kern Education Justice Collaborative, to host free workshops for the general public. Attendees learned about school budgets, the LCAP process, how to provide valuable input and hold school officials accountable. They identified priorities and made recommendations at LCAP public hearings. They will continue to meet to ensure districts implement the adopted recommendations.

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“Important to work with parents, students and KHSD to ensure that what has been agreed to in the settlement will be adhered to. This is a strong message for the rest of the Central Valley. What we see here in Kern County is happening throughout the Central Valley... Read full article online at tinyurl.com/WMNL2017Education

Hi Tech Civic Engagement
In an effort to build upon the voter engagement success in 2016 General Elections, DHF’s newly hired GIS Coordinator, Sophia Garcia, is leading efforts to complete a statewide voter analysis. The information will be used to target neighborhoods with large numbers of eligible yet unregistered voters throughout the Central Valley. This data has been integrated with GIS technologies, such as Amigo Cloud and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Through these partnerships DHF is on the vanguard of incorporating GIS tools to enhance civic engagement and advocacy efforts.
In July 2017, DHF sponsored a GIS training for Bay Area and Washington state youth from the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center during their hands on civic engagement pilgrimage to Fresno and Kern counties. Dr. Sheila Steinberg, Brandman University, taught “GIS for Social Change: Strategies for Community Engagement.”
Grassroots Organizing

On August 10, ninety community members gathered at the Sanger Community Center to form the newest chapter of the Vecinos Unidos (Neighbors United.) The community meeting in Sanger was the result of a campaign of 20 house meetings. DHF Organizer Stephanie Canales met with small groups of community residents to discuss issues of concern in their communities.

Executive Director, Camila Chavez and President Dolores Huerta, gave a presentation demonstrating how through these local groups DHF has been able to mobilize community members in low-income neighborhoods to transform their communities by victories in the areas of infrastructure, education, healthcare and civic engagement. Among the improvements that the group plans to work on are creating more social and cultural activities, expanding employment opportunities, and increasing services such as drug rehab and mental health services.

Long -time community activist Willie Lopez attended the event and seemed hopeful. He commented, “The meeting was very successful. Now we need to move quickly to take action on the issues that we have identified.” The newly formed education and civic engagement committees are already actively engaging the...

Read the full article online at tinyurl.com/WMNL2017Organize

Health and Safety

Cultiva la Salud Health Policy Organizers, Yesenia Ocampo and Elizabeth Martinez, worked with the DHF Vecinos Unidos (United Neighbors) and the Arvin City Council to draft language for The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Resolution which ensures Arvin’s General Plan will embrace policies that facilitate activities to promote healthier lifestyles and communities, including healthy diet and nutrition and adoption of city design and planning principles that enable citizens of all ages and abilities to undertake exercise.

Camila Chavez, DHF Executive Director, and James Guzman co-captain of Unidad en Pies y Ruedas (Unity in Feet and Wheels) Vecinos Committee, spoke in support of the resolution at the Arvin City Council Meeting and the board voted unanimously to approve it.

As 42% of youth between the ages of 5 and 19 years of age and almost 31% of adults in Kern County are considered overweight and 30% of children and 22% of adults are physically inactive due to limited access to parks, open space and other opportunities for physical activity. Read the full language of the HEAL Resolution online at tinyurl.com/WMNL2017HEAL

Volunteering & Service Award

On May 2, 2017, California presented the 2017 Governor’s Volunteering and Service Awards to the Dolores Huerta Foundation and eight other honorees that exemplify what it means to go above and beyond in the world of service and volunteerism. DHF received the prestigious “California’s Foundation of the Year” award.
Health Advocacy

Teresa Coria received the “Champion Cultivator” Community Resident Leader Award for Kern County at the Cultiva La Salud 10 Year Celebration in Fresno. She took initiative to start a Zumba dance group in Arvin and has continued to give classes, free of charge, for the past seven years. With the support of DHF, she was able to establish a joint-use agreement with the Arvin Union School District, securing a long-term, safe space where residents can meet for physical activity on a weekly basis.

She said she was proud to work with DHF and grateful for all the support she received to accomplish the important goal of making fitness more available to the community. She mentioned that without the Cultiva La Salud committees none of this would have ever happened in Arvin. She said, “Before Dolores Huerta Foundation’s program Cultiva La Salud came to Arvin the community was not allowed to use school facilities to exercise. Now we feel welcomed and we are allowed to use the new gymnasium at the Haven Drive School.”

Free Our Dreams

In May of 2017 Equality Organizers Dean Welliver and Moises Duran accompanied five teen leaders from Kern County to Sacramento for the “Free Our Dreams Statewide Day of Action.” The Free Our Dreams convening took place May 6 – 8th in Sacramento and provided workshops on movement building and legislative advocacy. Youth learned how to tell their stories to elected officials to advocate for legislation that help create welcoming and safe communities for marginalized youth.

DHF Teens 4 Equality Leader, Emily Nuñez, worked on the youth planning committee for the convening and helped draft the model “Safe and Welcoming Schools for All” Platform that was launched at the Fall 2017 Free Our Dreams youth organizing convening in early September. The “Safe and Welcoming Schools for All” platform is a model policy that provides specific policy recommendations school districts can implement to ensure a safe and welcoming school climate for LGBT students, students of color, immigrant students... Read the full article online at tinyurl.com/WMNL2017Youth

Promoting Physical Activity

DHF is training youth to advocate for increased access to safe enjoyable opportunities for physical activity and removing the barriers to health equity. Vecinos Unidos have successfully advocated for policy and infrastructure improvements to support these efforts. DHF Health Program is collaborating with Bike Arvin to host ongoing bike repair workshops at local schools. Youth and community members learn bike mechanical and safety skills. They earn a bicycle of their own, help repair bikes for other community members and enjoy the health benefits of staying active.

The award presented to Teresa Coria is a yarn handmade artwork by a Huichol artist.

Omar Murillo and other community members learned bike repair skills and earned a bike to keep.
Stand Up, Speak Out LGBTQ PRIDE March
On the morning of June 11th, DHF and Bakersfield LGBTQ hosted Bakersfield’s first ever LGBT Pride March, the “Stand Up, Speak Out March!” - one of hundreds of marches that took place across the nation in solidarity with the National Equality March that took place on the same day in Washington D.C. held to memorialize the 49 victims of the June 12th, 2016 massacre at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, the largest hate crime directed at the LGBTQ community in the United States. Over 100 community members marched with DHF. Gathering at the First Congregational Church, speakers addressed each of the march’s demands and called people to action to support health care for all, embrace trans people, fight bi-erasure, validate non-binary people, end stigma of HIV. Further, attendees were asked to sign post cards in support of legislation such as SB 179, the Gender Recognition Act.
Read the full article online at tinyurl.com/WMNL2017Pride

Youth Summit
On March 4, 2017 DHF, and other agencies working for LGBTQ youth, hosted the 2nd Annual LGBTQ Youth Summit held at California State University Bakersfield. DHF Teens 4 Equality leaders participated in the planning of the youth summit by outlining the topics that they would like to learn more about and that would benefit their peers. Over Sixty middle and high school students attended workshops including, Educational Rights for LGBTQ Students, Family Acceptance... Read the full article online at tinyurl.com/wMNL2017LGBTQ

A Note from the President
I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to share some of our 2017 accomplishments and to express my gratitude to our generous donors, committed supporters and our treasured volunteers. Thanks to you our team is growing, as is our capacity to amplify the important movement building work in the Central Valley to end the school-to-prison pipeline and replace it with the school-to-social justice leadership pipeline. We are educating and engaging voters year round with a strong focus on immigrants, youth, and infrequent voters. Our LGBT Equality Team developed youth leaders. They are active in creating supportive communities and safer school climates. Our Healthy Environments team has achieved policy changes through strategic partnerships with government entities, local schools and active community members. They are promoting healthy eating and active living with the long-term goal of reducing chronic illness.

I am grateful to everyone who came out to support DOLORES the Movie, the feature documentary about my work and family, produced by Carlos Santana and directed by Peter Bratt. It has been well received by critics and audiences around the country. I find it is a powerful tool for teaching the power of grassroots community organizing and for moving people to direct action. I look forward to the release of the film on PBS Independent Lens in the Spring of 2018. Please spread the word. Help us support independent film and promote the stories of women, people of color and the countless individuals who have dedicated their lives to advancing civil rights! You can find more information at DolorestheMovie.com.

Thank you for your support in our movement to empower individuals to achieve social justice and equity in our communities.

¡Sí Se Puede!

Dolores Huerta