

# SEEDS OF CHANGE:

---

# CULTIVATING POWER THROUGH COMMUNITY

2024 Impact Report



## Dear Friend,

To say that 2024 was a difficult and surprising year would be an understatement. We are no strangers to harmful political rhetoric, policy setbacks, and attacks on our communities, but that doesn't make the fight any less painful. Still, as Dolores reminds us, the greatest progress often follows the darkest of times.

**Thanks to you, our supporters, friends, community partners, Vecinos Unidos, and youth leaders, change happened.** Your generosity fueled organizing in neighborhoods where resources are scarce but hope runs deep. Your belief in justice empowered young leaders and amplified immigrant voices.

Because of you, families had the tools to fight voter suppression. Students and parents had a voice in demanding educational equity. Communities came together to protect democracy not just at the ballot box, but at school board meetings, in city halls, and on the streets.

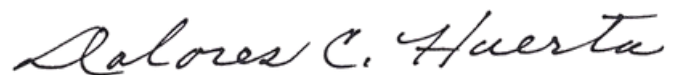
This is the power of your support. As we continue this important work in 2025, we do so with deep gratitude and a shared commitment to building a future rooted in dignity, equity, and collective power.

With strength and solidarity,



**Camila Chavez**

Executive Director



**Dolores Huerta**

President & Co-Founder



# Our Mission & Vision

The Dolores Huerta Foundation empowers marginalized communities across California's Central Valley to pursue social justice through grassroots organizing, education, and civic engagement. We inspire and mobilize volunteers from Latinx, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and LGBTQIA+ communities to advocate for progressive legislation and inclusive public services, fostering a more equitable society for all.

The **house meeting model** is at the core of the Dolores Huerta Foundation's organizing strategy. This approach brings small groups of neighbors together to share their experiences, identify community issues, and build trust. From these intimate conversations, DHF helps develop grassroots leaders and form **Vecinos Unidos** chapters that grow into powerful, community-led networks. It's a model rooted in the legacy of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez, who used house meetings to spark some of the most influential social justice movements in our country's history.

**EVERY MOMENT IS AN  
ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITY,  
EVERY PERSON A POTENTIAL  
ACTIVIST, EVERY MINUTE A  
CHANCE TO CHANGE THE  
WORLD.**

—DOLORES HUERTA





# Our Programs

---



## **Civic Engagement**

Empowering communities to vote, advocate, and shape public policy through grassroots campaigns and leadership development.

## **Education Equity**

Organizing parents and students to fight for inclusive, high-quality public education in underserved school districts.

## **Grassroots Organizing**

Building local power through Vecinos Unidos® chapters that lead campaigns for justice in their own communities.

## **Youth Leadership**

Developing young activists through political education, organizing training, and opportunities to lead social justice initiatives.

## **Resource Center**

Connecting community members to vital services and essential local resources through culturally responsive outreach.



# Board of Directors

Dolores Huerta, President

Angela Cabrera

James Garrison, Treasurer

Barbara Carrasco

Jamila Guerrero-Cantor, EdD.,

Dr. Fidel Huerta

Secretary

Cruz Phillips

Alicia Arong

Martin Sheen

**LASTING CHANGE DOESN'T COME  
FROM THE TOP DOWN. IT STARTS  
WITH PEOPLE, ORGANIZING IN THEIR  
OWN NEIGHBORHOODS, RAISING  
THEIR VOICES, AND FIGHTING FOR  
WHAT THEY DESERVE.**

—JAMILA GUERRERO-CANTOR



# Key Impacts & Accomplishments

## Civic Engagement & Advocacy

18,200

Voters were reached, and **925** new voters were registered through **31** canvassing events and **10** voter registration drives.

6,000

Community members in attendance for Vota Palooza.



¡VAMOS A VOTAR PORQUE  
SÍ SE PUEDE!

—CARLOS, WASCO VECINO

Carlos took the stage at Vota Palooza—a vibrant civic engagement festival co-sponsored by DHF that combines music, culture, and community power—to share his personal story of voting for the first time and to inspire others to make their voices heard at the ballot box.



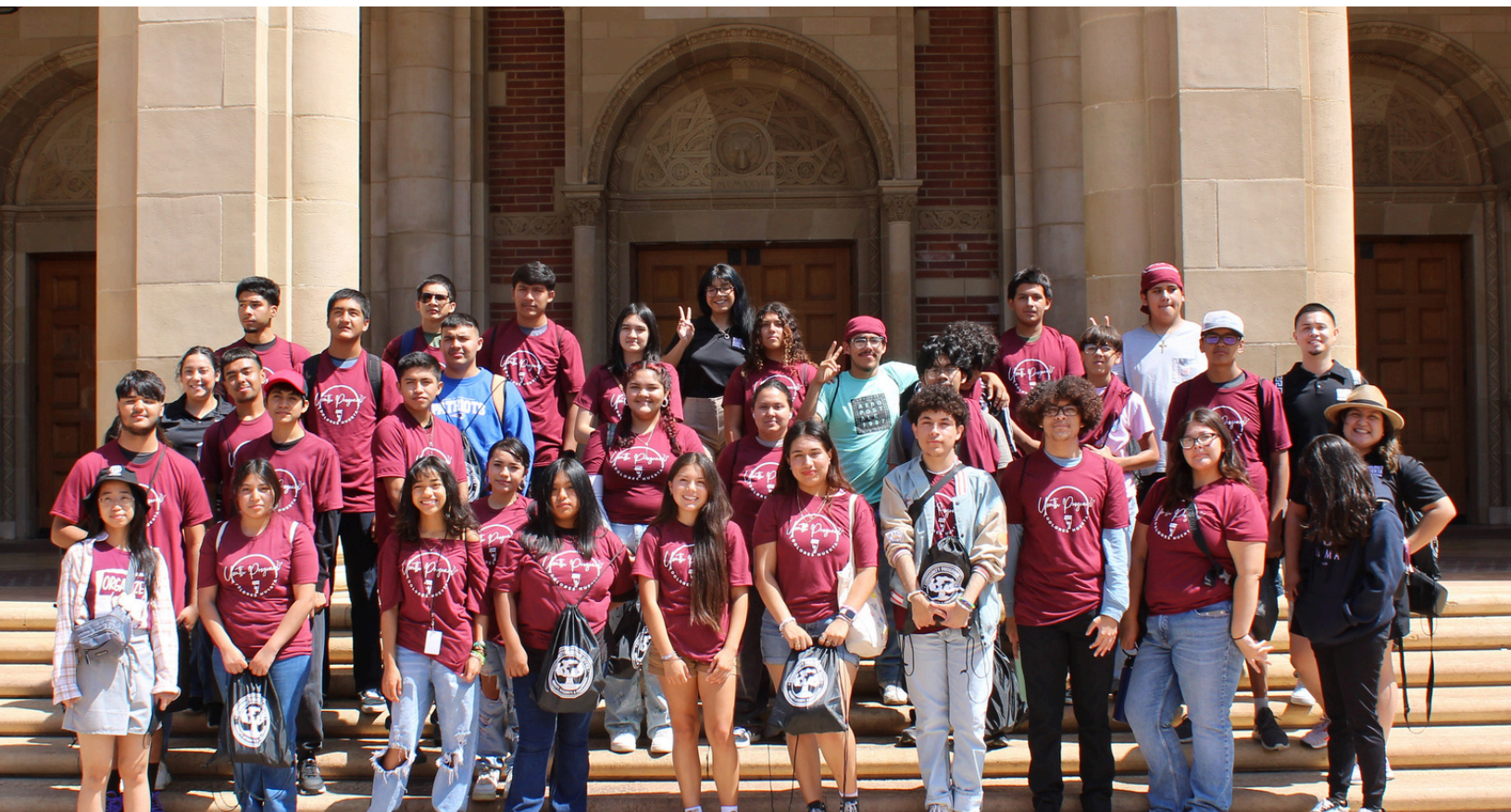
## Education and Youth Programs

50

Youth and Vecinos participated in **6** DHF led workshops focused on school district accountability.

847

Students participated in **119** events focused on higher education and career readiness.



*DHF's Youth Leadership program brought students to visit USC, where they explored the campus and learned about academic pathways and college opportunities—expanding their vision for what's possible.*

# Health & Economic Justice

1,260

People were assisted with Medi-Cal enrollment, and eye clinics were hosted for farmworkers in partnership with UCLA.

4,000

Residents across Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings counties participated in a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment survey.



*Cecilia received free eye care through a mobile clinic for farmworkers.*

# Grassroots Organizing & Policy Impact

398

Community members were empowered through house meetings, new leadership structures, and revitalized Vecino Chapters.

5

New Vecinos Unidos Chapters were launched, including in Wasco, tackling issues like school safety and neighborhood infrastructure.



# Youth Leading Change

At the Dolores Huerta Foundation, youth are not just preparing for the future; they're transforming the present. Since 2008, our Youth Leadership Program has empowered young people to organize, advocate, and lead with the support of their communities. Lester and Diana are two powerful examples.

Lester helped lead a campaign to improve school meals across California, meeting with legislators and speaking out at Equity on the Mall. His advocacy contributed to a major policy win: all public school students in his school district now receive two free, nutritious meals a day.

Diana's journey began through her mom, a former DHF canvasser. From designing billboards to encouraging Bakersfield residents to vote, Diana found her voice through civic action and is using it to inspire others.

**With your support, DHF youth are building a more just California—one campaign, one conversation, and one future leader at a time.**

**I'D LIKE TO LEAVE A LEGACY  
WHERE PEOPLE FEEL  
EMPOWERED TO EXPRESS  
THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY  
WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING.  
—DIANA, DHF YOUTH LEADER**







*Our Executive Director, Camila Chavez, welcomed Julian Castro, CEO of the Latino Community Foundation, during his visit to our headquarters in Bakersfield, CA.*



# Financial Overview

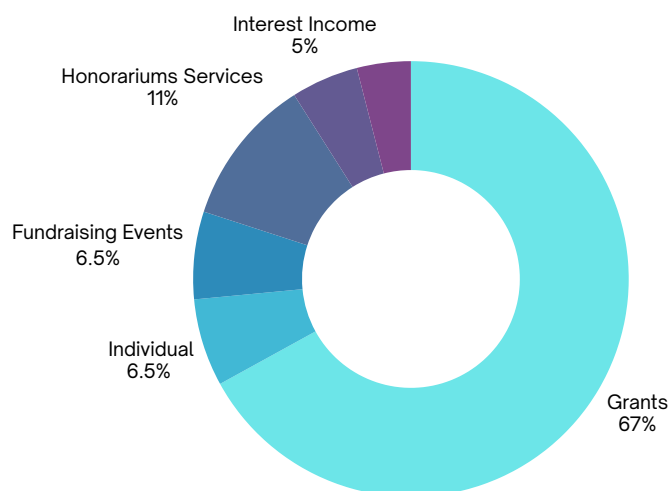
## Revenue Sources (Total: \$6.43 M)

- Grants – (67%)
- Individual – (6.5%)
- Corporate Contributions – (4%)
- Fundraising Events – (6.5%)
- Honorariums, Services, Merchandise, Other – (11%)
- Interest Income – (5%)

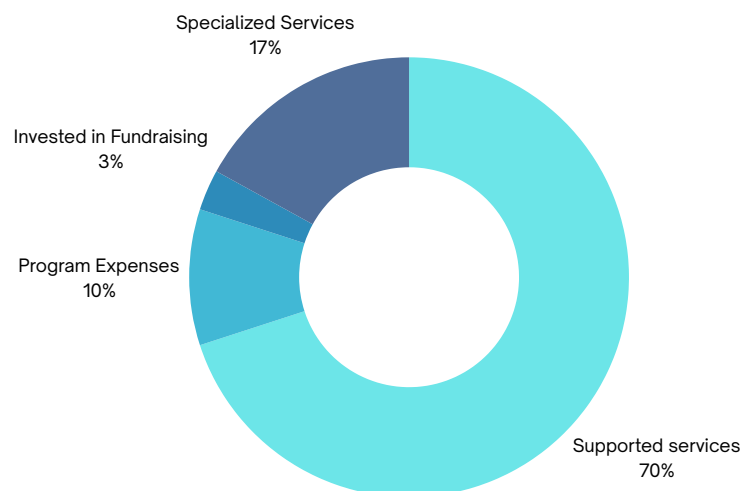
## Expenses by Category (Total: \$6.61 M)

- **70%** Directly supported community organizing, education, and advocacy
- **10%** Covered rent, utilities, and admin support
- **3%** Invested in fundraising to grow our base of support
- **17%** Funded partnerships and specialized services (e.g., coalition building, media strategy)

### Revenue Source



### Expenses by Category



*The financial audit for 2024 has not yet been completed, but is currently in process.*

# Financial Statement

2024 was a year of major investment for the Dolores Huerta Foundation. We expanded programs, launched new initiatives, and laid the foundation for our future Peace and Justice Cultural Center. Like many nonprofits, we also faced a drop in federal COVID-related funding and closed the year with a deficit. This was a strategic choice; we prioritized serving our communities and building long-term impact. As we move forward, we're focused on sustainable growth, stronger fundraising, and continuing the work our communities count on.





# Major Donors

Alexander Gaguine

Edith Allen

Melinda Burns

Steven Burton

Jennifer Braun

Connor Chase

Michelle Diaz-Laboy

Robert Deutsch

Francis Fernandez

James & Rachel Garrison

Ken & Christina Hect

Gerald Kay

Monica Lozano

Colleen Lutolf

Elizabeth Dee Martin

Gregory Nava & Barbara

Martinez Jitner

Carol Mukhopadhyay

Jan Merriman Coraza

Brooke Oliver and Elba Rivera

J. Daniel Robertson

Jessica Sarowitz



*DHF Youth and Organizers hit the streets to mobilize voters and build community power.*

# Foundations and Organizations

Achieving America Family Foundation  
CA Dept. of Social Services  
CA Equitable Recovery Initiative (SHF)  
Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation  
California Calls  
California Wellness Foundation  
Central Valley Matters  
Community Catalyst  
COCA–VEAP  
Elevated Youth California  
Environmental Working Group  
Equis Institute

Fabian Núñez for State Treasurer 2026  
Gates Foundation  
Institute for College Access and Success  
Jean Nordstrom August Fund  
Kern Community College District  
Kern Health Systems  
Labor Community Services  
Latino Community Services  
Latino Community Foundation  
Latinpoint Brands, LLC  
Million Voter Narrative Infrastructure Project

Million Voters Project  
Muriel Pollia Foundation  
National Council on Aging  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Office of Community Partnership & Strategic Communications  
Russell Family Foundation  
SEIU 2015  
The Tides Foundation  
The California Endowment  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
The Center at Sierra Health Foundation



*Your support helps young leaders find their voice.*



# Community Partnerships & Collaborations

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Building Healthy Communities Kern  
California Association of African  
American Superintendents and  
Administrators (CAAASA)  
California Calls  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Central Valley Movement Building  
Dignity in Schools Campaign –  
California & National  
Fix School Discipline Policy Institute  
Fresno City College –Social Justice  
Department

Kern Education Justice Collaborative  
Rapid Response Network Kern  
Stanford Medicine, UC Nutrition  
Policy Institute, and Cultiva la Salud  
San Joaquin Valley Health Fund  
Policy Coalition  
SCOPE  
UC Merced Community and Labor  
Center  
We Are California  
Women's Foundation –Solis Policy  
Institute

## ¡Sí Se Puede!





# THANK YOU!

Deepest gratitude to the board, staff, vecinos, volunteers, community partners, donors, and everyone who continues to champion the Dolores Huerta Foundation. We are incredibly humbled and grateful for your support. It is during these trying times that the strength of the community becomes truly known.

To learn more and to get involved visit [\*\*DOLORESHUERTA.ORG\*\*](https://doloreshuerta.org)

Got questions?

Email [\*\*sisepuede@doloreshuerta.org\*\*](mailto:sisepuede@doloreshuerta.org)



**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**