



Amigos de Guadalupe

Center for Justice & Empowerment

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
2012 – 2022

Summer Newsletter 2022

Upcoming Events:

10th Anniversary Celebration

September 8th at 5 pm

Mexican Heritage Plaza

PLEASE JOIN US!

"Dear Kitty... Querida Ana"

A play about friendship, immigration, and uplifting youth voices

September 17th at 7 PM

A portion of ticket sales will be donated to Amigos on Sept 17th.

Learn more on the [More Más Marami Arts website](#).

Cesar Chavez Family Home - Community Design Process

Fall/Winter 2022

Amigos' Community Thanksgiving Celebrations

November 2022

Protecting the Legacy of the Cesar Chavez Family Home



On May 1, 2022, the family home of the renowned social justice activist, Cesar Chavez, was listed For Sale. As soon as we realized that this important cultural landmark could be purchased and potentially converted into a four-plex, Amigos de Guadalupe leaped into action. Our mission: raise funds quickly so that Amigos could get this important landmark off the private real estate market to protect it on behalf of our community. With the financial leadership and support of multiple funding partners, Amigos made an offer to purchase the home on behalf of the community.

After several nerve-wracking days, we learned that our offer was successful and Amigos de Guadalupe would become the stewards of this sacred space for generations to come. In the words of Paola Mondragon, an Amigos staff member and lifelong resident of Mayfair, “for our community and for me, it means keeping our pride alive. It means reclaiming our power, continuing Cesar Chavez's legacy, and reigniting the fire within ourselves.”

Starting in the Fall, Amigos will begin a design process to collect input from our local community on how best to honor, celebrate, and activate this sacred space. Stay tuned for this exciting development, as we will also need to raise additional resources to support the restoration of the Cesar Chavez Family Home.

*Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of
Amigos on September 8th!*



Please join Amigos de Guadalupe to celebrate a Decade of Dedication and Service on September 8th at 5 pm at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. Tickets are going fast - reserve yours today!

Amigos prides itself on “Radical Hospitality” in how we provide services, and our 10th Anniversary event will be imbued with that core value as well. The celebration begins when you and your guests are greeted with a welcoming smile upon arrival and a refreshing beverage of agua fresca or wine. As you walk into the fiesta, you’ll hear traditional Mexican music and mingle with likeminded people beneath the colorful papel picado in a setting unlike no other, The Mexican Heritage Plaza!

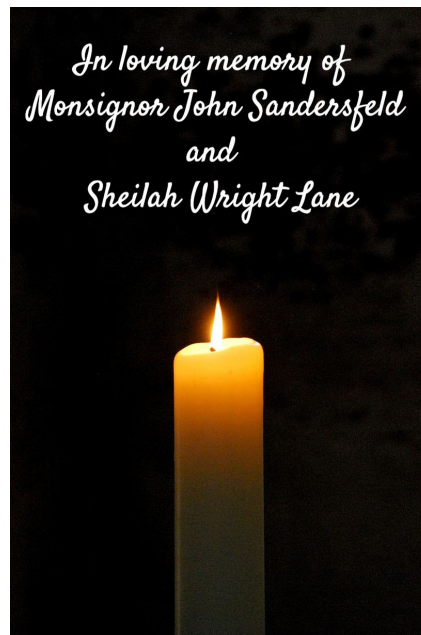
Enjoy a delicious Mexican dinner, complete with fresh tortillas made right before your eyes, and homemade, sweet, churros. Plus, community stories that will touch your soul.

You’ll also hear from Maritza Maldonado, Amigos de Guadalupe’s Executive Director, and other inspiring speakers about the impact your participation makes on the lives of community members and our East San Jose neighbors more and more each year.

Whether you have been part of the Amigos' Family for 10 years or are new to our community, we look forward to celebrating with you! Please join us.

If you are not able to attend, please feel free to [make a contribution](#) in celebration/honor of the Amigos' 10th Anniversary.

Gratitude & Loss



As an organization, Amigos stands on the shoulders of many, including two Founding Board members, Monsignor John Sandersfeld and Sheilah Wright Lane, who passed away in August within days of each other. Together with their families, we mourn their loss, and we are committed to honoring them through our work. In the words of an Amigos staff member, "We have two more stars in the sky to light our path toward justice."

On August 3rd, 2022, our founding Board President and a person intimately involved in the creation of Amigos de Guadalupe, Monsignor John Sandersfeld, passed away quietly and comfortably with his family surrounding him. Monsignor was a lifelong advocate for workers and social justice issues. He was not shy about making his call for social justice reform known to all the world. He was a brilliant man and an amazing priest, served in churches from San Francisco to San Jose, and he was involved in marches going back to the time of Cesar Chavez. Deeply involved with Amigos from the very beginning, he invented the

name of the Amigos' summer program for children, Summer Under the Sun. He will always be remembered as the heart of Amigos de Guadalupe from the very beginning.

On August 5, we also lost founding and current Amigos' board member, Sheilah Wright Lane. Sheilah was a beloved educator all her professional life, including as a teacher and principal in the Alum Rock and Franklin-McKinley School Districts and was also a proud and spirited member of the Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She was wildly funny and had an infectious laugh, and was deeply committed to her friends and family. She has been a vital part of the Amigos' Family and has helped make Amigos what it is today. It is with great sadness that we mourn her unexpected passing, and we commit to honoring her through the organization that she helped found, build, and serve.

Amigos Awards 27 Scholarships!



On June 17th, Amigos celebrated its 10th Scholarship Mass at St. Francis of Assisi to honor and bless the 27 students who received educational scholarships from Amigos de Guadalupe. This talented group of first-generation college students whose educational paths range from agriculture to law school, are the future of our community and Amigos is honored to support their dreams.

Along with educational scholarships, students are also connected with mentors who can provide additional support on their personal journey. A huge thank you to the hard-working

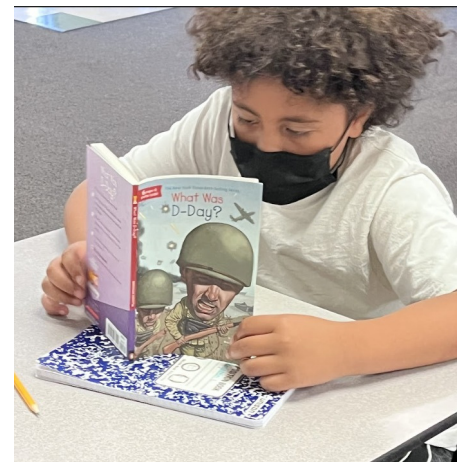
and dedicated students, their family members who have supported them, and all the donors and mentors who have made the Amigos' scholarship program possible.

Another Successful Summer Under the Sun Program!



From June 27- July 22, Amigos held its Summer Under the Sun program for children in K-8th grades. Each day, 94 children arrived at the summer program site with energy and eagerness to see what fun and excitement the day held for them. They were greeted with smiles and welcoming words from the teachers and staff and started their day with a healthy breakfast.

This year's theme was "Bridge Builders for Justice," and throughout the day, children participated in community building activities, guided reading, exciting math games, creative play, and outside recreation connected to the theme. The summer students also went on 2 field trips - San Francisco and San Jose State University. In San Francisco, they were able to walk across the Golden Gate



Bridge and for most of the children, it was their first time to go to San Francisco. At SJSU, they explored the campus and the The César E. Chávez Monument: Arch of Dignity, Equality and Justice.

The end of the summer program culminated in a bridge-building contest, using science skills, critical thinking, uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows - a few marshmallows *may have been* eaten as part of the scientific process.

At the summer program graduation and throughout the program, we heard the following comments from the students:

“I met new friends and had lots of fun! I’m going to miss Miss Katherine, Miss Alejandra, and Miss Adriana. They are the best teachers.”

“I would have been bored at home if my mom wouldn’t have sent me to summer school. I love that I went to the Golden Gate and learned about its history. I also enjoyed the time I spent with my friends eating pizza while looking at the red bridge.”



Spotlight on the Amigos' Family



Community Member:

Dora Luz

Dora Luz is a 45 year old single mom from Guatemala with an adorable 2 year old



Staff Member:

Cesar Bautista



Supporters:

Sponsors of our 10th Anniversary Celebration

Destination: Home

daughter. She is a survivor of extortion and sexual assault and applied for asylum in December 2021. Certain details of her case made it seem “unwinnable,” but Amigos took on the case anyway to try to give Dora and her daughter some hope for a better future. After months and months of hard work and legal analysis, hours and hours of interviews, and 200+ pages of legal documentation, the Immigration Court date was set for July 25.

At Dora’s asylum hearing, the Immigration Judge granted her asylum and Dora’s immigration nightmare was over! When she heard the news in the courtroom, she immediately began to cry as years of stress and fear began to evaporate. You could see the relief in her eyes. Dora couldn’t stop repeating “Gracias, gracias” and she and her daughter are now on the road to becoming Permanent Legal Residents and no longer live with the fear of deportation. Dora’s story shows the power of the legal services offered by Amigos, as the only non-profit in East San Jose with an immigration attorney on staff.

Cesar Bautista is the Lead Immigration Attorney at Amigos De Guadalupe. Cesar is originally from Peru and came to the US at age 7. Cesar is a first generation college and law school graduate and a DACA recipient. Cesar's personal history navigating the complex US immigration system inspired him to become an immigration attorney to make the process less complicated for members of his community. He also argued and won his first asylum case last month. Congratulations, Cesar! In his free time, Cesar likes to watch Action and Horror movies.

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