



Amigos de Guadalupe
Center for Justice & Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT

FY23-24

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024





Our Core Beliefs

We believe everyone deserves to live in a just and equitable society where every person is empowered to achieve their dreams.

Our Vision

Inspired by the power of our vibrant, determined community, our vision is to bring about transformational change in East San Jose.

Our Mission

At Amigos, we ensure that the basic needs of our community are met, deliver high-quality programs, and mobilize and organize for justice.

Our Services

We do this by providing housing and rental assistance, mental health services, legal immigration services, education programs, and community organizing programs that advocate for systems change.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of Amigos de Guadalupe,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the strength and unwavering determination of our community. Together, we have faced challenges and celebrated triumphs, all while remaining steadfast in our commitment to building an inclusive, just, and equitable society.

At Amigos de Guadalupe, we believe that every individual deserves to live in dignity, empowered to achieve their dreams. Our families exemplify this courage and hope every day as they navigate barriers to create a better future for themselves and their children.

In a time of heightened division, we reaffirm our values and our commitment to solidarity with our immigrant community. We will continue to uplift our community, ensuring that every person feels valued, supported, and protected. We will not waver in standing against policies that seek to divide us, nor will we falter in our advocacy and organizing for justice. This work would not be possible without the generosity of donors, partners, allies, and volunteers like you. Together, we will build a future where every child has the tools to dream, every family has a home, and every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

This report highlights the incredible work we have accomplished this past year, thanks to the collective efforts of our staff, board, partners, and the community. From our bold audacious vision to end poverty in Mayfair, to welcoming 1200+ newly arrived adults and children, to opening a new family shelter (making Amigos the largest family shelter in the County), we continue our forward march to a more just society for all. Every milestone is a testament to our shared vision of what is possible when we lead with courage, unity and love of our community. We celebrate our mutual wins together.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the words of Cesar Chavez: “Si se puede” — Yes, we can.

Together, we will continue to dream boldly, act courageously, and stand in solidarity for a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for walking with us on this journey. Your support makes all the difference.

With gratitude and hope,



Maritza Maldonado

Founder and Executive Director

Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment



Our Year at a Glance

July 2023

A bold vision starts by listening deeply. As a key part of our new FY24-27 strategic plan, we have knocked on 3,000+ doors and talked to almost 1,000 families to center community ideas as we advance the Si Se Puede Mayfair strategy to end poverty in Mayfair. We are on our way to building a powerful community movement!



August 2023

There were blisters, pure exhaustion, and pain- but mostly, there was community power and ganas /desire! More than 100 community members, along with Amigos de Guadalupe staff and leaders, walked 50 MILES from San Jose to San Francisco in support of immigration reform and to raise awareness about the need to pass the Registry Bill (HR 1511 and S 2606) providing a pathway to citizenship for 8+million people.



September 2023

From after-school programs and field trips, to swimming pools and joyful graduations, students shared new experiences, learned new skills and first-generation scholarship students started their journeys in higher education.



October 2023

Amigos was again honored to be the beneficiary of the 2nd Annual Dia de Los Muertos Celebration and Bike Blessing, hosted by the Red Rum First Nations Motorcycle Club. Even beyond the generous donation, the Red Rum event gave us an opportunity to connect with our broader community and raise awareness about our work.



November 2023

"It has been a long road from being a survivor of domestic violence to having a U visa and now to getting a green card. I can't wait to see my family in Mexico after 24 years and to get full medical benefits to treat my cancer."

-Amigos Legal Services Client, U Visa Recipient turned Permanent Resident.



December 2023

Families who are unhoused in Amigos' programs work extremely hard year-round to move into permanent housing (not an easy feat in the SV housing market!). At this time of year we shower them with an extra dose of love with our Community Posada, holiday dinners, and our legendary "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa at Casitas." Through the challenges, our community finds joy together!



This year, Amigos encountered a variety of opportunities and obstacles, all the while working hand in hand with our determined community to make steady progress towards transformative change in East San Jose.

February 2024

Amigos has continued to welcome newly arrived families to our community after they have survived long, often painful journeys. Seeking safety and a better life for their children, they used their voice and strength to provide powerful testimony to the SCC Board of Supervisors, resulting in the allocation of additional funds and a new program for unhoused families across the County. From pain to power.



April 2024

With the help of Amigos rental assistance, Edith - a domestic violence survivor and single mom of 3 daughters - found a path to complete vocational training as a nursing assistant and landed an upcoming job at the organization where she completed her training hours. Filled with positivity at this new chapter in her life, she feels very accomplished and excited about all that is to come.



June 2024

As anti-immigrant sentiment increased throughout the year, the Rapid Response Network -led by 8 organizations across the County-continued to provide Know Your Rights, Rapid Responder training, and Legal Clinics to further strengthen the community defense project to protect our families from family separation.



January 2024

After years of planning, several Mayfair families started receiving a monthly guaranteed income payment (\$1,000/month for 2 years) to give them flexibility to decide how best to meet their needs. Partnering with the Si Se Puede Collective and the Silicon Valley Guaranteed Income Project on this bold initiative for systemic change, we are excited to see how this investment will impact Mayfair families far into the future.

March 2024

By the community, for the community-real systems change! After 5 years of advocacy, the Tenant Preference Policy passed unanimously in the City of San Jose - this transformative policy will be key to preventing displacement in Mayfair and East San Jose, giving preference to people who already live in the neighborhood for affordable housing opportunities.



May 2024

Coming home. A single mom and her teenage son received keys to their OWN apartment, after 4 months of being unhoused!



The Amigos' Impact

Serving our Community

Served over
48,941+
people between July 1st 2023 - June 30th 2024!



On the Path to Permanent Housing



379
families have moved into permanent housing

798
community members were prevented from becoming homeless through rental assistance

172
people living in their cars had a safe place to sleep at night in the Safe Park program, offering stability to help focus on finding a permanent home

"My name is Maria, My son and I were with Amigos de Guadalupe (the family shelter program) for a few months, and during our time there, Amigos staff was great in helping with all our challenges. They offered many opportunities for families to grow and be successful. Although they are firm on rules, they are also kind and helpful, going the extra mile. From Laura and Nick being firm but willing to push you through the struggles to accomplish goals, to Mariela and Marilyn going above and beyond everyday to help with all your needs with housing and other opportunities to better your future, I thank all of Amigos staff for their hard work and dedication. Thank you!"



The Youth are our Future: Educating and Supporting our Community



200 children and youth built friendships and literacy skills in our Summer Under the Sun program & After School Programs.

55 first-generation students started their college journeys with the support of an Amigos scholarship

1,209 newly arrived community members including 550 children have received services from Amigos as of November 2024



More on the Amigos' Impact

Making Long-Term Systemic Change: Policy, Organizing, & Immigration Legal Services

411 people attended pro se asylum info sessions



320 legal consultations



222 cases filed for immigration/citizenship benefits



181 people who received citizenship, green cards, and DACA/work permit renewals.



Rapid Response Network

a community defense project developed to protect immigrant families from deportation threats and to provide accompaniment support during and after a community member's detention.



In our current political climate, RRN is more important than ever!

- **3,683** people served by RRN partners
- **490** calls answered through the RRN hotline
- **254** free consultations with RRN attorneys provided

"I walked from Venezuela to the U.S. in search of stability and safety. I sold flowers on the streets to afford my work permit filing fees while my family took refuge at one of Amigos' emergency shelters. Today my wife and I have jobs, and we are saving up to rent our own place."



Throughout the year, Amigos' Immigration Legal Services team provided over 700 community members with high-quality legal services at low/no cost. With the election looming, our attorneys focused on helping permanent residents become citizens—increasing the civic participation of the community in Mayfair and beyond. All the while, we assisted still-vulnerable members of our community, such as newly arrived families and survivors of violent crimes, to apply for protection from deportation such as asylum and the U Visa among other legal remedies.



Si Se Puede Mayfair - a BOLD VISION to end poverty in Mayfair

As we continue to be inspired by Cesar Chavez, we have reached out to thousands of Mayfair residents to listen to their ideas on how best to build wealth and end poverty in their community - including an extensive Knock 'n Talk campaign, intentional relationship-building and community organizing, and our first community gathering focused on building a united movement to end poverty. Much more to come - please join us in 2025- Si Se Puede!



3,300+ visits made to homes of Mayfair neighbors

900 people shared their ideas and suggestions

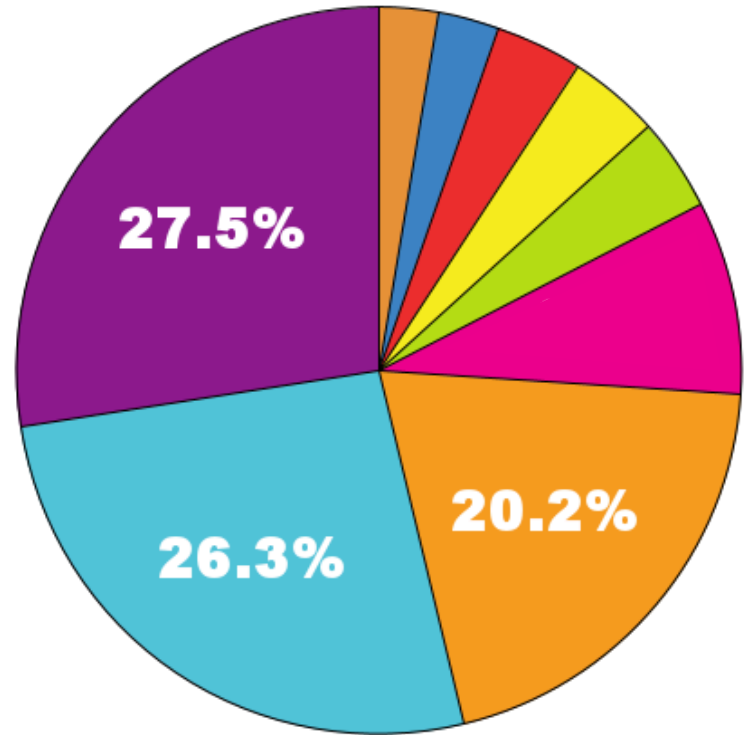
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SEE WHAT TOOK PLACE AT OUR FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING.



FY23-24 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

AMIGOS SERVICES

- **Wrap Around Services**
- **Interim Housing for Families**
- **Financial / Rental Assistance**
- **Administrative Services**
- **Legal and Professional Services**
- **Meals for Guests**
- **Education Programs / Scholarships**
- **Facilities**
- **Program Supplies and Services**

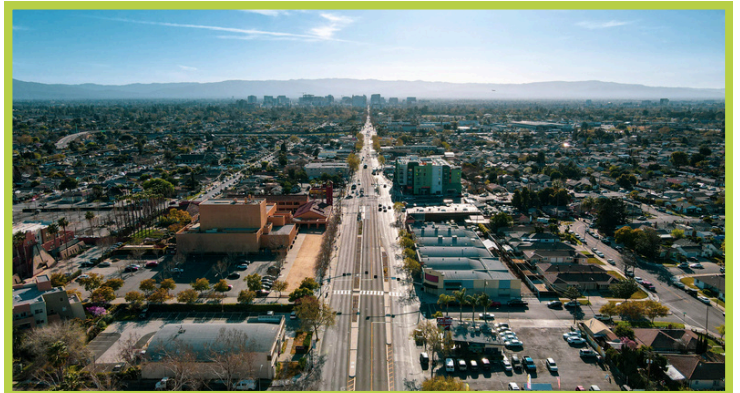


\$6,181,720

Provided in housing assistance

\$6,098,432

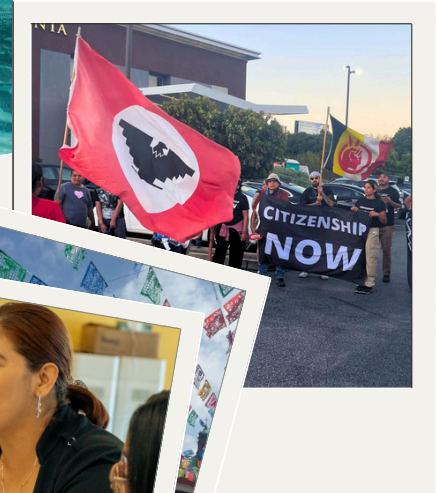
Provided for basic needs services



AVERAGE COST TO ASSIST A FAMILY

\$1,189

MUCHAS GRACIAS & THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS & COMMUNITY



A Special Thank You to our 2024 Sowing Seeds of Justice Sponsors:

Amigos/Friend



Miembro/Member



Aliado/Allies



Si Se Puede Collective Partners:



Amigos de Guadalupe
Center for Justice & Empowerment



Leadership Team

Maritza Maldonado, Founder and Executive Director
Christine Carbone, Chief Financial Officer
Jose Murillo, Director of Place Based Initiatives
Laura Delgado, Director of Housing Programs
Stephanie Jayne, Director of Social Impact and Sustainability
Aurora Olivares, Director of Economic Empowerment
Jeremy Barousse, Director of Policy and Organizing
Itzhecatl De La Cruz, Director of Education Programs
Michelle Longosz, Director of Wellness & Mental Health Programs