

DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

INSPIRING AND ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES TO BUILD VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS EMPOWERED TO PURSUE SOCIAL JUSTICE.

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY BENEFITS THE CARUTHERS COMMUNITY

On Saturday, January 30, 2021, community members anxiously waited in line as early as 10 AM at Our Lady of the Assumption Caruthers Catholic Church. They eagerly sorted through thousands of pieces of clothing, toys and household items to take back to their families. DHF Organizers and Caruthers Vecinos Unidos® led a team of 47 dedicated community members who came to volunteer for the all day event. A total 130 families benefited from the gracious donations from Rodolfo Ortiz with Catolicos en Accion, who coordinated the delivery of a 48-foot-truck full of household items. Esperanza, a Caruthers community member, expressed gratitude throughout the event, "On behalf of the community I would like to thank the Dolores Huerta Foundation for supporting us and not leaving us alone in the city of Caruthers." Throughout the event, DHF organizers practiced CDC guidelines by ensuring folks had proper PPE and respected socially distanced spaces. DHF's highest priority during this alarming pandemic is making sure that our most vulnerable families have the ability to stay safe and access necessary resources.



PARLIER FAMILIES FIGHT SOLAR FRAUD

Three years ago the Parlier Vecinos Unidos® Chapter families began discussing issues they had with solar panels installed on their homes. Homeowners were being charged fees for contracts to loans they never signed. In some cases the newly installed solar panels were not completely functional. The Parlier Vecinos Unidos® Chapter started a Solar Fraud Committee with seventeen families who came together to expose these consumer issues. They were not fully informed by solar contractors who took advantage of these homeowners and signed them up to state PACE/HERO loans that they didn't know about.

Hundreds of families all over Fresno County were affected by these practices. Families affected continued to join the Vecinos Unidos® Solar Fraud Committee. Vecinos Unidos® members came together to host house meetings and invited community members to join them in bringing justice to this issue. The Parlier Vecinos drafted a plan to support families and organized to file formal complaints with state agencies including the Contractors State License Board, California Attorney General's office, the Fresno's District Attorney's Office, and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

In response to the community efforts, the CPUC created a Solar Fraud Taskforce to address these issues and is working toward ensuring consumer protections. So far nine families have had their loans adjusted and had their solar panels properly connected for use. The CPUC also created a solar guide to help families. The CPUC recommends that solar providers give out this guide during their first contact with potential customers <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/solarguide>. Affected families are encouraged to report their issues with the Contractors State License Board: (800) 321-2752 or at www.cslb.ca.gov.







Emily Ramirez, founding member of Vecinos Unidos Parlier Solar Fraud Committee, hosted the first Vecinos house meeting on issues of solar fraud with and recruited affected families. Since then the committee has helped hundreds of homeowners.

More information on how you can join the Vecinos Unidos® contact 1-833-564-6343 or 1-833-JOIN-DHF

Save the Date for Dolores Huerta's 91st Birthday Celebration

A night of activism and entertainment coming to you LIVE on May 8th 2021. Join Dolores and special guests as we celebrate a life well lived and raise funds for the Dolores Huerta Foundation Peace and Justice Cultural Center
<http://bit.ly/DHF-Center>
Don't miss this spectacular event!

STAY IN TOUCH!

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