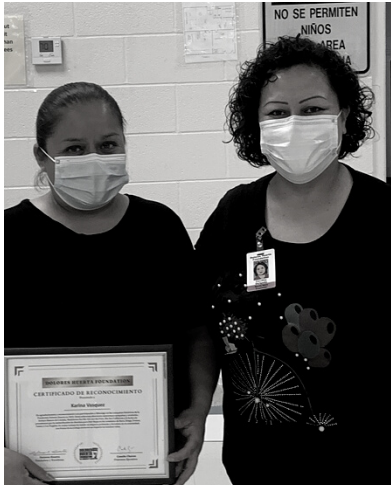


Celebrating the Victorious Vecinos Unidos®

With thriving Vecinos Unidos® chapters in Arvin, Lamont, Weedpatch, Greenfield, California City, Rosamond, Bakersfield, Tulare, Lindsay, Woodlake, Caruthers, Sanger, Parlier, Palmdale, and Lancaster, DHF has been instrumental in increasing voter turnout, passing progressive local and statewide legislation. Years ago this was only a dream, a dream turned into reality through the ambition and dedication of the community members who help organize for health access, education equity, and civic engagement. As we continue to support community leaders with hands-on training through collective action we understand that it's important to celebrate the big and small victories. For the first time since the pandemic, each chapter gathered safely to recognize and honor their accomplishments. DHF Organizer Cecilia says, "We wanted them to feel acknowledged for their efforts and hard work."



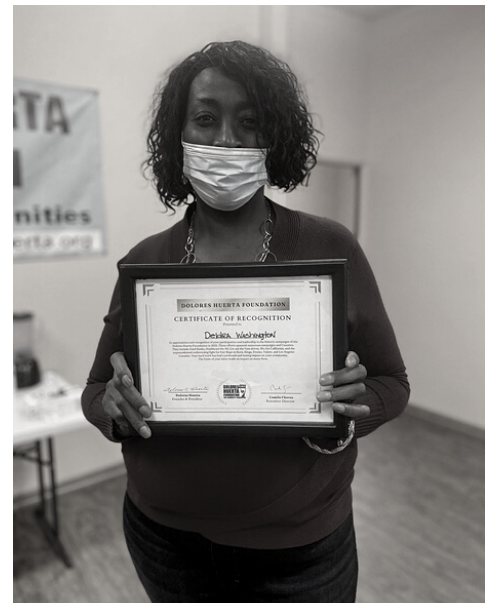
"I like attending the meetings because it keeps us informed about our rights. I also like attending the education meetings because we are able to bring up issues that happen at our kids' schools and they guide us to resolve the problems." - Karina Vasquez

she/her/ella, Arvin Vecina

Pictured Above: Karina [L] & Cecilia [R]

The most memorable member in the Arvin chapter was Karina Vasquez. She was under the spotlight when I shared with everyone that during our big food distribution event, despite her just giving birth to her son she came out to help. It was phenomenal!" Each regional chapter organized the event with the Vecinos preferences and dietary restrictions in mind. "I started to plan out the celebration by asking the Vecinos Unidos® for suggestions. Pozole was most voted and we also accommodated those who don't eat meat by having salad available for them. Kids were also spoiled by having pepperoni pizza. We had plenty of desert and treats for everyone," said Cecilia. Each chapter awarded the Vecinos Unidos® members with Certificates of Recognition. This followed an emotional share out where each member had the opportunity to share their favorite experiences in grassroot organizing throughout the various campaigns over the past two years. Karina states, "It was our first gathering after not having any meetings at all and it was nice to have unity as the big family that we are. It was nice to see everyone in person." DHF Organizers also had a raffle opportunity where folks walked away with prizes. However, the prizes weren't the selling point, the people and movement building were. Cecilia says, "They were all very happy to be acknowledged and they felt proud of what they did for their community. Everyone left the celebration thanking us for everything and asking me when the next action was. They were excited to continue to do bigger and better things for this 2022 because they know their actions benefit us all."

"It's the power of both entities [DHF & Vecinos Unidos] that make a difference in the communities." -Van Roberts
he/him/his, Antelope Valley
Pictured [L]



Creating Safe, Supportive, Police-free Schools



Vecino Unidos®, youth and partners gathered at the Kern High School Board meeting (03/07/22) to stand in solidarity with the youth and families traumatized due to police brutality within the Kern High School District. Youth and Vecino Unidos® members were able to provide public comment and provide recommendations to the KHSD board in hopes for a social and policy change that fosters students wellness.

History was made!



History was made! Bakersfield City Council votes in favor of a community map 5B that will impact communities of color for years to come. Thank you to all the Vecinos Unidos® who advocated and organized throughout the entire redistricting process!

DHF Youth Program (LYFE)



DHF's Youth Program LYFE welcomes a new opportunity to connect with the community. Youth can now be seen, alongside a DHF Youth Organizer, conducting outreach, hosting raffles and providing resources to families at the California City Farmer's Market every week. Most recently, Youth member Nickolas had the opportunity to speak with Council Member James Creighton and with the Parks and Rec supervisor at a previous event!

United Against COVID-19

Even on a rainy day 28 Individuals chose to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones from the deadly COVID-19 virus at the most recent Delano United Against COVID-19 event. Make an appointment today at myturn.ca.gov or call 1(661) 383-2588 for more information on a vaccination pop-up clinic near you.

