

DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

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



2022 Pandemic School Closures



In 2020, despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, Vecinos and youth were successful in advocating for improved policies and practices to support students during distance learning. Some accomplishments include:

- Arvin Union improved access to school board meetings by providing a “call-in” option rather than video conferencing for English and Spanish speakers.
- Parlier Unified delivered school meals using buses, provided culturally relevant food such as tamales and jicama, adopted protocols to address issues with food spoilage, and added a location and additional time to pick up school meals.
- Lindsay Unified contracted with a professional interpreter for Spanish speakers at school board meetings.
- Bakersfield City School District moved school board meetings from 10 am back to 6 pm to allow working parents to participate.
- Fresno Unified removed police officers from middle schools and committed to investing \$38 million in mental health resources and staffing.

Local Control & Accountability Plan



The Local Control and Accountability Plan known as “LCAP” is a state law that allows parents, students, and community members the opportunity to provide recommendations to school districts on how funding should be allocated. Parents and youth received a series of LCAP training that led to 51 Vecinos and youth presenting 58 recommendations to 8 school districts. The recommendations included increasing school counselors, healthy start programs, cultural celebrations like Black History month, mentorship programs, and LGBTQIA+ youth support. School district budgets will be finalized in July for the school year 2022-2023.

Improving School Meals

Vecinos and youth continue to advocate for better quality and access to school meals.

- DHF partnered with the University of California’s Cooperative Extension program offering workshops on planning, saving, shopping, and cooking healthier meals.
- Vecinos met with Parlier Unified School District’s Food Service Director Marina Navarro to design a community survey to increase school meal participation.
- Recognized by Parlier Unified School District with the “Empowering Communities” award for our school meal advocacy.
- DHF and parent leaders were awarded the “Hunger Hero” award from No Kid Hungry for improving access to school meals during the pandemic!

- Stanford published the research paper “Mitigating childhood food insecurity during COVID-19: a qualitative study of how school districts in California’s San Joaquin Valley responded to growing needs” with the support of DHF’s education department

DHF Education Justice Academy



DHF is excited to introduce the Neighbors United (Vecinos Unidos) Education Justice Academy starting September 8th, 2022. The academy is a matriculated monthly program for parents, students, and community members to expand their knowledge on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and learn how to better support students in schools. Participants will receive opportunities to engage with education leaders throughout the Central Valley and will graduate from this program.

Spotlight: Local Action



In response to the retirement of BCSD’s Migrant director, Janie Flores, parents created a petition to urge the BCSD board to find a candidate who could continue building on the success of the migrant program. Vecinos collected signatures, presented recommendations for transparency in BCSD’s hiring process, and participated in media.

Back to School 2021-2022

In the school year, 2021-2022 Vecinos and youth were tasked with navigating the impact of COVID-19 as students returned to in-person instruction. DHF is proud of student and parent leaders who worked tirelessly to uplift the needs of their communities.

Back to School Announcement!



Starting the new school year 2022 - 2023 California becomes the first state to provide FREE breakfast and lunch to ALL students in schools!

**For more information on how you can join the Vecinos Unidos® contact 1-833-564-6343 or 1-833-JOIN-DHF
To support the organizing work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, please visit Give2DHF.org**