Dear friends,

When COVID-19 hit, we knew that the low-income immigrant families, youth, and seniors we serve were going to need us more than ever. We mobilized our pandemic response in March 2020 and our dedicated team has been on the frontlines in East Oakland and Concord ever since, responding to the urgent needs of community members with direct cash assistance, free food, housing stability grants, testing, vaccines, and other essential resources.

We were able to rise to the challenge during this pandemic because of our solid foundation, one that you – our incredibly generous donors and partners – built with us. Thank you for standing with us during one of the most difficult years any of us have ever experienced. Together, we made a real difference.

I invite you to take a look at our complete 2020 Impact Report online to learn more about everything we were able to accomplish with your support: www.unitycouncil.org/impact

You helped us change lives, and we are profoundly grateful because we truly couldn’t have done it without you.

Chris Iglesias,
Chief Executive Officer
January 1
Casa Arabella’s 94 affordable units are fully occupied. Families and formerly homeless veterans enjoy their new homes and access to The Unity Council’s programs and services.

March 4
Governor declares emergency.

March 18
The Unity Council’s Fruitvale-San Antonio Senior Center and the Head Start & Early Head Start programs start food distribution services for low-income seniors and children.

March 16
Bay Area counties issue shelter-in-place orders.

March 23
Schools across the state close in response to coronavirus.

April 2
The Unity Council launches Fruitvale is Open, a shop local campaign to support mom-and-pop shops and restaurants in the Fruitvale.

April 4
The Unity Council’s Fruitvale is Open, a shop local campaign to support mom-and-pop shops and restaurants in the Fruitvale.

April 17
The Unity Council’s requests for housing, financial security, and career employment services increased from 13 requests in late March to 568 requests for services in April (a 4,269% increase).

April 24
The City of Oakland starts providing free COVID-19 testing for all symptomatic community members. The Unity Council supports outreach efforts in the Fruitvale neighborhood.

May 1
The Fruitvale Business Improvement District program helps small business owners apply for the City of Oakland Small Business Emergency Grant Program and the LISC/Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund.

May 20
The Unity Council Fruitvale Neighborhood Career staff helps immigrants apply for the CA Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI) program.

May 5
2020 Census Caravan in Fruitvale! The Unity Council partners with the Census Bureau and local elected officials to bring a Census Caravan to Fruitvale and invite people to fill out the 2020 Census.

June 4
The Unity Council raises funds to distribute as cash grants to families affected by the pandemic.

June 15
Art is Healing, Art is Action! The Unity Council invites local artists and community members to create temporary art on the plywood panels placed on the Fruitvale Transit Village windows to promote racial healing and support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

July 21
State of California Grants $30 Million to The Unity Council and BRIDGE Housing for the Fruitvale Transit Village Phase IIIB from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program. This funding will support the construction of 188 units of affordable housing, to be completed by 2023.

July 23
Governor declares emergency.

August 10
Jack Dorsey’s Square initiative invests $2 Million in The Unity Council’s Covid-19 response and recovery efforts. The investment supports: emergency cash assistance, small business recovery and resilience, and food security efforts.

August 20
Resilient Fruitvale Collaborative, led by The Unity Council and La Clinica, partners with UCSF to host mass testing and study event in the Fruitvale neighborhood.

September 23
Commercial eviction moratorium extended.

September 26 and 27
Resilient Fruitvale Collaborative, led by The Unity Council and La Clinica, partners with UCSF to host mass testing and study event in the Fruitvale neighborhood.

October 2
The Fruitvale Business Improvement District program helps small businesses submit applications to the City of Oakland CARES Act Small Business Grant Program.

October 4
Housing Access & Financial Success Services start offering online team workshops to help clients with their housing search, rental applications, credit, and budgeting.

December 4
Bay Area orders second shelter-in-place order.

December 14
First vaccine arrives

December 23
The Resilient Fruitvale Collaborative of more than 10 local organizations led by The Unity Council submits a budget request to Alameda County to address the devastating effects of Covid-19.

October 15
Dia de los Muertos Virtual Festival monthly celebrations begin! Featuring the Real Fruitvale mini-series, DIY videos with local artists, low-rider caravan, and Mueertos Mercadito.

December 18
Vice President Chris Iglesias, Chief Executive Officer of Community Programs

April 27
The Unity Council’s requests for housing, financial security, and career employment services increased from 13 requests in late March to 568 requests for services in April (a 4,269% increase).

“Even though there is an eviction moratorium in Oakland, people are still carrying debt and that is going to impact families and individuals, specifically for families who wouldn’t qualify for unemployment or other sources of relief.”

– Armando Hernandez, Vice President of Community Programs

May 1
The Fruitvale Business Improvement District program helps small business owners apply for the City of Oakland Small Business Emergency Grant Program and the LISC/Verizon Small Business Recovery Fund.

June 4
The Unity Council raises funds to distribute as cash grants to families affected by the pandemic.

August 3
The Unity Council’s partnership with Keep Oakland Housed prevents displacement of families affected by pandemic.

October 20
The Unity Council and Enterprise Community Partners announce $12 Million investment to preserve a 55-unit multi-family property in the Fruitvale Neighborhood.

November 1
The Fruitvale Transit Village Phase IIIB is completed by 2023. This funding will support the construction of 188 units of affordable housing, to be completed by 2023.

November 5
The Unity Council and BRIDGE Housing for the Fruitvale Transit Village Phase IIIB from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program.

November 20
The Fruitvale Business Improvement District program helps small businesses submit applications to the City of Oakland CARES Act Small Business Grant Program.

December 4
Bay Area orders second shelter-in-place order.