



### A letter from our CEO



CHRIS IGLESIAS, CEO CELEBRATING 10 YEARS WITH THE UNITY COUNCIL

## To our partners and friends; A todos nuestros socios y amigos:

o hicimos. We did it. We got through another year. Once again, in the face of incredible odds – from the pandemic to the economy to the cost of living here – The Unity Council managed to keep on growing. In fact, we served over 5,000 children, families, and seniors in 2022, while continuing to build affordable housing, create jobs, and nurture small businesses.

We also deepened our commitment to collaboration, advocacy and systems change. Through Resilient Fruitvale, a coalition of 19 community-based organizations, we strengthened the social safety net for East Oakland's hardest to reach populations. Through our small-but-mighty policy team, we helped pass 5 state bills, signed 33 letters of support, and successfully advocated for Alameda County to adopt community-based coalitions as part of the Health Care Services Agency 2-year strategy. Notably, The Unity Council was instrumental in ensuring that Fruitvale remained together during the redistricting process and ensured the Latino voting power was not diluted.

Take some time to read the success stories featured in this report because we could not have achieved these victories without you. These are the fruits of our labor. And your generosity through the difficult times made all the difference.

When I accepted this job in 2013, I could never have predicted the challenges we would face, nor the incredible things we would accomplish. It's a testament to the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our clients, and the loyalty of our supporters. Thanks to you, The Unity Council continues to grow and flourish.

Chilyli



### The Fruits of our Labor



5,183

Unduplicated clients served in 2022



**2,000**+

Hours of instruction for 169 students at 8 schools through Latino Men and Boys and Latinx **Mentoring Programs** 



785

Children served through Head Start and Early **Head Start** services



\$485K

Public dollars directed to 6 East Oakland nonprofits as a result of our advocacy



**\$1,052,044** 

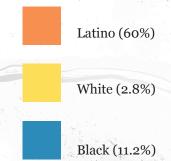
Dollars refunded to 566 clients who received help filing income tax returns from our Financial Services team



874

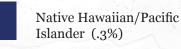
Seniors receiving services and culturally relevant programming







Asian (6.3%)



American Indian

or Alaska Native (.3%)



Other (1.7%)

Multi-race (1.8%)



N/A (15.6%)



## Young Minds Grow at The Unity Council



Supervisor Wilma Chan fought for equity and opportunity for all Alameda County residents. We honored the late, great Supervisor by opening the Wilma Chan Child Development Center in East Oakland, bringing the total number of children in our infant and toddler programs to 785.

As these children blossom into young adults, we will continue to serve them through our Latino Achievement and Youth Employment Programs.

Like flowers in concrete, our teens pushed through all the hardships of the past few years to achieve incredible milestones.

34 opportunity youth ages 16 to 24 completed 150 hours of job readiness training followed by 3,000 hours of paid internships, collectively earning more than \$65,000. 35 youth earned over \$35,000 through our summer job placements, while 25 undocumented/newcomer youth earned \$5,000 in stipends while participating in our job readiness program.

Nine more youth took part in Roots of Success, a 10-week program where they learned skills and earned Cal-OSHA certificates to prepare them for jobs in the green economy.



### **Small Businesses Blossom**



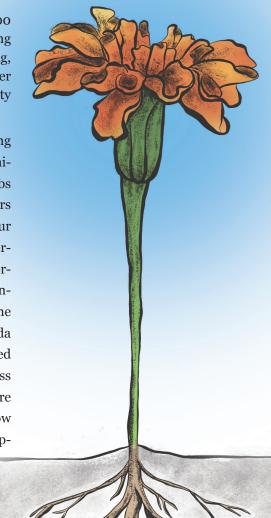
Vicky Castillo, proud owner of Nena's Hair Studio, is known for helping other small business owners in the Fruitvale through tough times. She could never have predicted that a global health crisis would force her to close her salon doors for so long. Thankfully, Vicky had a long-standing relationship with The Unity Council's small business support program, Onward Oakland, where she'd previously received help with grant and permit applications, as well as accounting.

The Unity Council helped Vicky secure a PPP loan, a \$10,000 grant from Comcast, and a \$5,000 CA Relief Grant. Persisting through it all, Vicky came back with a bang, not only reopening, but expanding her salon to include more chairs to rent to other stylists. Nena's Hair Studio will be here to keep the community looking fresh for years to come!



In addition to supporting small businesses, The Unity Council provided 20 jobs to individuals with barriers to employment through our groundbreaking social enterprise, Peralta Services Corporation, securing new maintenance contracts with the ACLU, Downtown Alameda Business Association, Red Bay Coffee, Solano Business

Improvement District, and Oakland Public Works. Now we are working with REDF to chart a growth strategy that will allow more formerly incarcerated individuals to skill up and have opportunities for career and economic mobility.





## New Programs Take Root



The COVID-19 pandemic drew new attention to food insecurity, a crisis facing 1 in 4 families in Oakland.\* Through the early part of the pandemic, we worked with Alameda County to provide over 500,000 hot meals to residents while supporting 15 local food businesses owned by women and people of color.

In 2022, we officially launched a long-term Food Security Program, thanks to a \$1 million investment from The Stupski Foundation. We formed a community advisory board with 15 resident leaders who meet monthly to provide input on community needs.



197,463

Pounds of groceries distributed



12,422+

Boxes of free groceries and hot meals given



3,780

Hot lunches served



96

Households received \$200 food and wellness grants



8,642

Individuals received groceries

\*According to the Alameda County Community Food Bank



In 2022, The Unity Council joined forces with residents and community partners to create equitable access to safe play spaces by building a new playground in East



Oakland. Children living in and around The Unity Council's affordable housing development on 36th Avenue were asked to draw pictures of their dream playground. We collaborated with the Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation, Ripple, KABOOM!, and more than 260 volunteers to turn these dreams into reality. The playground provides over 100 children and families a safe place to play, socialize, and gather for years to come.

We also provided housing access services to 292 clients working to stay housed despite the challenging Bay Area housing crisis. And our dedicated coaches rolled up their sleeves, disbursing \$42,281 in first month's rent and deposit assistance and \$50,000 of rental assistance to clients who were behind on their rent payments. Additionally, we partnered with the East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative to provide housing counseling during their "Here to Stay" event in December to help our clients stay rooted in the community.

The Unity Council currently provides 411 affordable homes to 608 low-income residents and we have 366 more in the pipeline!





## Honoring Essential Workers at Día de los Muertos



We celebrated and honored essential workers at the 27th annual Día de los Muertos Festival in the Fruitvale in October. Altars created to remember the dead were especially meaningful at our first in-person festival since the start of the pandemic. Artists, musians and dancers used art to promote healing and celebrate the diverse cultures of the Fruitvale.

The Día de los Muertos Festival broke records! Sacred altars, live performances, a generous children's play area, and the low-riders' eye-popping cars were all vital elements of the celebration. We were joined by over 100,000 festival goers. 269 volunteers and staff put on a beautiful event. Our local economy benefited as we were able to boost sales for local merchants and small business owners in the Fruitvale Community.

Our dedicated laborers and essential workers took care of us during arguably one of the most challenging times in U.S. history. We are honored to recognize Fruitvale as the land of The Essential Worker and remember the lives of those who served our community in restaurants, as custodians, nurses, farmers, cashiers and the many essential positions that made our lives possible. It is critical we don't forget these heroes and all the ways they sacrificed for our community.







## Funders, Sponsors & Donors

#### FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

A. Ruiz Construction AC Transit Alameda County Community Food Bank Alameda Health System Alaska Airlines

Amalgamated Charitable Foundation

Amazon AT&T

Athletics Investment Group LLC Bakery El Sol

Bank of America Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund

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California Housing Partnership Corporation

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Catalyst

Cerus Corporation

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Comcast Foundation Construction & General Laborers Local Union 304 Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council

Convey, Inc.

County of Alameda Crankstart Foundation

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Dodge and Cox Donor Network West Douglas Parking Dreisbach Enterprises Dubose Family Foundation Duke Realty

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East Bay Golf Center

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Electrical Industry Advancement Progrem

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

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Gannett Fleming Companies Garaventa Foundation

Generational Recovery Fund

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Insurance Companies Harris & Associates Hollins Consulting, INC HUB International

Humanity United IBEW Local 302 Impact Assets

International Association of Heat

International Brotherhood

 $of\ Boilmakers$ 

International Union Of Elevators Constructors J H Fitzmaurice Inc. John Muir Health Kaiser Permanente Kelson Foundation

Kitchell

La Clinica de La Raza

La Familia

Laborers" PSWROC

Latino Community Foundation

IBEW Local 302

Construction and General Laborers

Local 304 LiUNA Local 324 Ua Local 342 Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Iron Workers Local 378

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

McGuire & Hester

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MUFG Union Bank NeighborWorks Network for Good

Northern California Carpenters

Regional Council

Northern California District Council

of Laborers

Oakland Athletics Baseball Oakland Neighborhood Voices

Oakland Promise Oakland Roots Oakland Thrives

Oakland Unified School District

Oportun PG&E

Plumbing Industry Consumer Protection Fund

Port of Oakland Public Health Institute

Pyatok Architecture + Urban Design Pzena Investment Charitable Fund

Sage Salesforce

Samuel Merritt University San Francisco Foundation Seeno - Discovery Homes

SF Bay Ferry

Sheet Metal Workers Int. Associ.

Shryne Group

Silvio & Mary Garaventa Family

Foundation Square Sunlight Giving Sutter Health SVA Architects, Inc.

Target

The Hellman Foundation

U.S. Bank UCSF Benioff USI Insurance Vanguard Charitable Visit Oakland

Warriors Community Foundation Waste Management Services CNTR Wells Fargo

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

Alice Fishman Alice Nhu Alison Brokke Aliza Gallo André Pinter

Angela & Marquisa Hawkins

Annie Kuo Antonio Martinez

Audre & Roger Newman

Audre & Roger Newma Brian Jackson

Carlos Castellanos Carol Regalbuto Casey Williams

Cecile Scandone Charlotte Saxon

Chris Iglesias Christina Morales Claudius Reich

Councilmember Noel Gallo

Craig Shields
Cristina Butterfield
Dalia & Lawrence Frank
Dana Kleinhesselink

Daniel Zamani
Darolyn Davis
Dave Richards
David A Harris
David Li-Bland
David Reinertson
David Wilkins
Deborah Bayer
Deborah Koski
Debra Bowles
Denise Flynn

Derek Nutley

Elena Anava

Edward Samayoa

Elena de la Garza Erin Moore Felipe Bernal Francesca Vega Frank Montes Freesia Blizard George F. Gund, IV Gilda Gonzales Gordon Leung Gregory Linden

Gregory Linden Hector Lopez Vasquez Henry A J Ramos

Henry Levy Hilarie Coate Iris and Joe Brooks Jacqueline Downing Janeen Goedde-Taplin

Janice Cantu Janis Medina Jason Hopkins

Jeanne & Robert Nixon

Jennifer Easton

Jennifer Foster Fausett

Jennifer Willis Joe Geldhof Joe Ivankovich Judy Weiss Justin Sims Karely Ordaz Karen Breslau

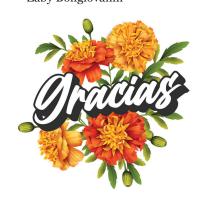
Katy & Kevin Morsony

Kelly Ciotti Kimberly Munoz

Larry & Veronica Womack

Laura Luster Lawrence Simon Lewis Canyon Lina Torio Louise Bay Waters

Louise Bay Waters Lovon Fausett Lucila A. Cahuasqui Madelaine Bolton Madelyn J Murphy Marc Boroditsky Maria Belen Maigua Picuasi Maria Gladys Maigua Mariah Lafleur Marisela Cristina Gonzáles Ginestra Mark Backman Marsha Murrington Maura Roias Maureen Sullivan Michael Tully-Cintron Michelle Chin Mirella Almaraz Neil Gilfedder Niels Povlsen Nkeiruka Bakke Noemy Mena-Miles Olivia Flores Pamela Dernham Paul Bailey Rebecca Smvth Robert & Patricia Raburn Roderick Roche Rvan Warden Samuel Sharkland Sara Zamani Sheila Campos Silvia Topete Stephanie Rivers Susan Strom Teresa Estrada Tom Courry Tom McCov Tyron Jordan Vicky Iglesias Wladimir Wlassowsky Zaby Bongiovanni



# Nutrients for Growth





## Growing Through It All THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Unity Council is a nonprofit Social Equity Development Corporation with nearly 60 years of history in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland. Our mission is to promote social equity and improve quality of life by building vibrant communities where everyone can work, learn, and thrive.

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