



# Annual Report

FY23: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

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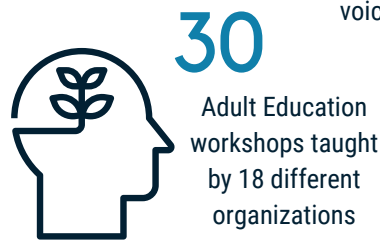
As recipients of God's love, we demonstrate love for our neighbor in South Orange County by **strengthening under-resourced neighborhoods.**

We are currently focused in the Capistrano Villas neighborhood of San Juan Capistrano.



*In our mission to strengthen the neighborhood, this year:*

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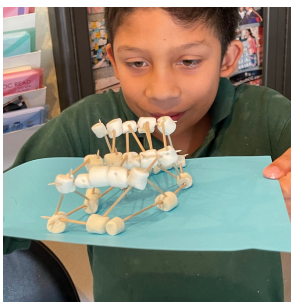
- Homework Club
- Unidos Youth
- Summer Camps
- Youth Study Hour
- Enrichment Activities
- Ballet classes
- Field Trips
- Workshops

# DIRECT SERVICES

Unidos South OC's Neighborhood of Focus is a geographic area that we look at holistically across a broad range of services, rather than focusing on one area like education or advocacy. This geographic focus allows our impact to be multiplied through the existing social networks. We prioritize connecting people to services that already exist and then only create services that are filling a gap.

*Direct Services meet felt needs, while avoiding the duplication of services and building trust.*

In this period we are especially thankful for partnerships with Surf and Turf Therapy and with the Ecology Center who help increase our students' access to important enrichment activities.



## The Story of one Family by Heather Chapman

Over the years Lupe and her family have been part of nearly every Unidos activity: Homework Club, Unidos Youth, food distributions, pandemic relief, cultural events, housing advocacy, workshops and leadership development and more! Her daughter Kacie even spoke to City Council on behalf of Unidos when they were considering an MOU with us. **Lupe and her family have become fierce advocates for their neighbors**, and this year Lupe will be serving on the Orange County High Road Transition Collaborative, providing local insight for economic development.

It's such an honor to work alongside such amazing neighbors!

“ Unidos has had a really big impact on my life. It has helped me focus on the good and is leading me on the right path. It has also helped me with public speaking and being able to express myself. One of the biggest impacts has been Maritza [Unidos Youth Director]. She has really helped me with my problems and I've learned a lot of things. I feel like I'm finally doing something productive and good with my life, because I used to just get home and do nothing. Now with Unidos I feel like I am really doing something and making a positive change in the community. ”

Kacie Aguilar, 16 years old





Día del Niño  
 Fiesta Mexicana  
 Micro-grants for Crisis  
 Fundraisers,  
 Family Activities  
 Christmas Store  
 Adult Education  
 Workshops

# COMMUNITY BUILDING

“  
 "As a single mom, this  
 [Family Campout] was a  
 blessing to be able to spend  
 time with my boy."  
 The Del Castillo Family  
 ”



This includes 1) Building the community within the Neighborhood of Focus among residents, and also 2) Building community between residents and their partners.

*Community Building Activities strengthen the social fabric, enhancing community pride and supporting mutual aid.*



In this fiscal year, Día Del Niño served 650 children and their families. Parent Panel events brought together residents with staff from local public schools. Neighborhood clean-ups built community pride and the Christmas Store served 197 families.



## RESIDENT-LED INITIATIVES

Comments to City Council  
 Capacity Building  
 Affordable Housing Advocacy  
 Neighborhood Surveys  
 Civic Education Workshops

*Residents make lasting change.*



As a result of community research in 2020-2021, residents selected the issue of housing affordability as their top priority, and the problem has gotten substantially worse since then. 73% of renters in our Neighborhood of Focus are spending more than half of total household income on rent - in fact much more than half. The median amount people are paying in rent is actually 66% of total household income.



Unidos sponsors and supports the Community Leader Coalition (CLC), a group of residents who advocate for affordable housing and build leadership capacity. Residents are also partnering with the South Orange County Equity Collaborative (SOCEC) on a plan to address Housing Stability. In this fiscal year we received responses from 15% of households on a Housing Survey that will inform a long term strategy.





John and Heather Chapman  
*Co-Executive Directors*  
 Ashley Ruiz

*Elementary Director*

Maritza Rebollar

*Youth Director*

Miriam Zuniga

*Lead Facilitator of Resident Leaders*

Ester Ocampo

*Program Coordinator*

**Board of Directors**

Kristy Branham, Chair

Alma Zamudio, Treasurer

Donna Runyon, Secretary

Victor Cota

Joshua Pinto

Andrew Lurker



*Our Faith is our Fuel*

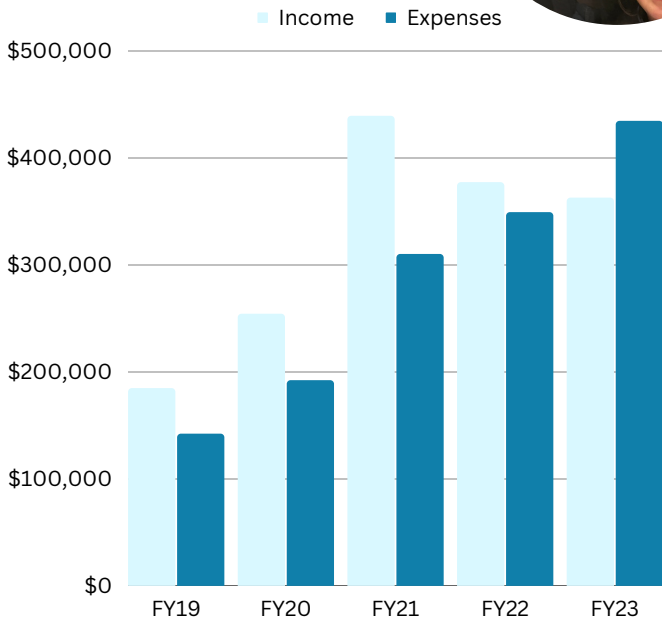


## VOLUNTEER

While residents take the lead in community-building and long-term initiatives, volunteer partners are essential to programs with children and youth. We have weekly and one-time volunteer positions available.

**You can also serve by praying.**

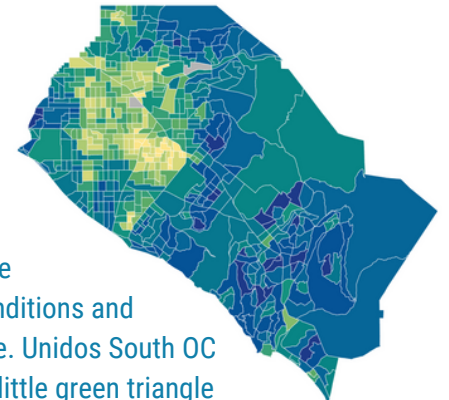
Text the word PRAY to 949-365-4636 to be reminded every Tuesday morning to pray for our neighborhood.



\*In FY21 we met our goal of a 3 month reserve.

## DONATE

The Board of Directors has taken a huge step of faith in approving a 38% increase for FY24 in order to build out administration and infrastructure for Unidos' long-term sustainability. **Would you consider taking that step with us?** You can give a one-time donation or become a Unity Partner by giving a recurring donation. Any amount counts as residents and partners work together to strengthen the neighborhood.



This is Orange County, color-coded by social conditions like income, housing conditions and access to healthcare. Unidos South OC is dedicated to that little green triangle toward the bottom, where South Orange County's inequities and social challenges are concentrated.



@UnidosSouth OC About Us  
 @SJCunidos Community Messages

501(c)3 non-profit organization 82-3518252

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