



We will remember 2020 for years to come.

Community crises aren't new to Nuestra Casa. So when the pandemic began, we were nimble and ready to pivot.

Our staff members revamped the Food Distribution program to include COVID-19 safety precautions in a matter of days. The program puts basic weekly essentials into the fridges of community members who are experiencing serious financial hardship. Our staff members and promotoras remain committed to getting everyone counted in the census, whether it's through a Facebook live "Gran Rifa", "La Caravana del Censo 2020", or good, old fashioned posters and street signs. The work of reaching into our community—whether it be on the front lines or virtually—must go on.

Despite these challenges, we have good news. Thanks to our many donors, supporters, and new partnerships, we doubled our operating budget this past year. A stronger financial footing allows us to expand our efforts to serve hope and build leaders who transform our community into one where every resident thrives.

In solidarity,

Miriam Yupanqui
Executive Director

Delia Perla & Kelly Hunt
Board Co-chairs



"The Census is our voice! Making us count gives us power as a community and secures a better future"

—Nuestra Casa Promotora

FY2020 By the Numbers



Community Education

29

students trained by English as a Second Language program

3,000

people informed about safety net resources by [Project LIBRE](#) Outreach



Leadership Development

16

new promotoras trained

165+

promotoras trained since 2010

128 parents & 25 high school youth

trained on local climate change issues and solutions through Environmental Justice Parent Academy



Community-Driven Advocacy

6,000

people served through Food Distribution Program

39,508

grocery boxes served through our Food Distribution Program

110,000

pounds of food saved from landfill by Food Distribution Program

10,000

community members informed about importance of the census

275

families supported in completing their census forms



Building Hope Amid Crisis

One thing the pandemic has laid bare are the glaring inequities some communities faced well before the statewide shutdowns displaced thousands of workers. Residents of East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park, and North Fair Oaks (Redwood City) struggled with access to stable and affordable housing, economic sustainability, and food security long before March 2020. But the crisis brought these issues front and center.

Yet in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, Nuestra Casa is delivering hope. For example, our Food Distribution program saves families up to \$400 per month in groceries so they can afford rent and utilities. We deliver fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs, and other important grocery staples directly to residents in 50 apartment complexes in East Palo Alto and Redwood City. We deliver these free items directly to families, removing any transportation or time barriers, while using the interaction to inform residents about important census, immigrant benefits, and voter opportunities. Prior to the pandemic, we served 2,200 people per month through this program. Demand tripled by April.

Voices from our community underscore the impact of the program. "It's been chaotic. I was laid off from my job. I did not see this coming," said one young man sheltering in place with family members in East Palo Alto. He commented that the food program was particularly helpful for getting some of the simplest things, especially during the most challenging moments of the Shelter-in-Place order.

"This program has been amazing for my family because it's just a way to find quality food that is both healthy and affordable that we always have access to. And especially now during this virus where we have limited sources of income," said a young man who lives in one of the apartment buildings our food program serves. "I think it's amazing that your organization is able to find the kindness to share with other people and give us food. I'm just really grateful, more than you guys know."

And many families shared with our staff that the food program has been critical to them. Some have experienced months without work and don't know when they'll have a steady paycheck again. Nuestra Casa's food program is putting food on the table for their children and older adults during this difficult time.

Nuestra Casa is planning to roll out two new projects in fall 2020—our business incubator program and housing advocacy. Nuestra Casa's new Women on the Rise business incubator will foster the entrepreneurship of local community members and allow them to gain the skills they need to launch and run small businesses. Thanks to a contract from the City of East Palo Alto and a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, Nuestra Casa's team now includes a full time housing advocacy professional to support innovative housing solutions that will protect and preserve our talented and multicultural community.

