

**One Step A La Vez**  
Making Changes One Step at a Time  
421 Seize Ave, Fillmore CA

SERVING TEENS IN THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY  
**SINCE 2007**  
MYONESTEP.ORG

# ADELANTE

**One Step Teens mobilized to advance social justice for working families in the Santa Clara River Valley.**

In the second year of this investment, the generous support of the McCune and Weingart Foundation has strengthened One Step A La Vez's organizing capacity and enabled us to respond to growing challenges caused by the Trump Administration's unfair immigration enforcement policies. Retaining the talents of Maria Robles as our Community Organizer was essential to the continued growth of the Adelante program, which has evolved into a leadership and training space that equips teens with advocacy and community organizing skills. Through this work, youth are empowered to elevate their voices, support their families, and emerge as community change-makers addressing the systemic issues impacting their lives.



## PROGRAM IMPACT

**14 Adelante Meetings**  
**40 Teens Participated**  
**827 Hours of Advocacy Training & Organizing**



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**ADELANTE**  
Youth Rising for Justice

Weekly meetings to help youth find their voice!

**READY TO BECOME A CHANGE AGENT?**  
Meet us on Mondays @ 5:00 P.M.

ONE STEP A LA VEZ  
421 SEIZE AVE  
IN FILLMORE

For more information:  
CALL: 805.625.1223  
EMAIL: MARIA@MYONESTEP.ORG

### **Successful youth outcomes include:**

- Increased Civic Engagement and Participation
- Enhanced Leadership and Organizational Skills
- Development of Empathy and Cultural Awareness
- Improved Confidence & Social and Emotional Skills
- Stronger Sense of Identity and Purpose
- Improved Academic Achievement
- Access to Career Pathways and Skill Development



**ADELANTE**  
MEANS TO MOVE FORWARD

**CREATING CHANGE**  
**ONE STEP A TIME**

# CAPACITY-BUILDING



- One Step A La Vez staff and teens attended the **Gathering for Justice Conference** in Oxnard to learn about the values and principles championed by the civil rights movement in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Teens attended both the Fillmore and Santa Paula City Council meetings where One Step A La Vez was presented with a **César Chávez Proclamation**.
- Teens participated in a screening of a film about César Chávez, where they gained deeper historical context about his life, leadership, and advocacy. Through this experience, youth learned about Chávez's work organizing farmworkers and advancing the rights and dignity of immigrant and marginalized communities, helping connect historical movements to present-day struggles for justice.
- One Step A La Vez staff, teens, and families attended the **César Chávez March** and Community Resource Fair in Oxnard to honor the legacy of César E. Chávez and the ongoing work to advance social justice for farmworker communities. Through a partnership with the Port of Hueneme, we were able to provide transportation and bring nearly 50 youth and community members to this event, many of whom were participating for the first time.
- The **2025 Central Coast Community Organizing Training** took place at the Museum of Ventura County. Youth and our Community Organizer attended this McCune Foundation and CAUSE-hosted event, where they received hands-on training in community organizing. Participants engaged in interactive activities, including one-on-one organizing demonstrations and group project work, building practical skills in leadership, communication, and grassroots organizing.
- Teens attended and accepted the **2025 Pride Proclamation** on behalf of One Step A La Vez at both Fillmore and Santa Paula City Council meetings, recognizing the organization's commitment and ongoing work in support of equality and social justice within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Youth attended the **Future Leaders of America Camp**, where they developed leadership and organizing skills.
- To learn more about **Proposition 50**, our Community Organizer and Executive Director attended a two-day training in preparation for a Fall 2025 campaign. As part of our voter education and democracy project, we were able to hire seven youth to serve as phone bankers and canvassers focused on Proposition 50 thanks to a partnership with Unidos805.
- Teens organized alongside **Unidos805** to develop and distribute a questionnaire addressing the potential closure of Santa Paula Hospital. Through this outreach, we gathered community input and found that more than 90% of respondents opposed the hospital's closure.
- Teens participated alongside a Community Organizer at a **Ventura County Community College Board of Trustees** meeting to advocate for the expansion of a variety of educational programs at the Santa Paula East Campus.
- One Step A La Vez staff and teens attended a Fillmore Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting to advocate for increased partnerships with organizations and programs that benefit the entire family. They also requested the creation of a Community Partnership Committee to bring together key stakeholders to share information, resources, and services.

## Stand with us as we work to advance justice for working families in the Santa Clara River Valley.

Through thoughtful planning, research, and clear communication, we have established a strong foundation for the Adelante program at One Step A La Vez. Our staff has implemented systems to track and monitor progress, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement. We have built meaningful relationships with policymakers and demonstrated our capacity for effective advocacy by elevating the voices of youth and their families. Our program activities reflect our commitment to building a grassroots movement that empowers community members to become effective change-makers, particularly on issues impacting marginalized, underrepresented, and underserved populations. The overarching goal of this work is power building—equipping our communities with the tools, resources, and collective strength needed to influence decision-making, create lasting change, and challenge oppressive systems.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Immigration

- To better understand the resources available to community members—particularly those needing support with immigration-related issues—four Adelante youth attended **Swap Meet Justice** at Oxnard College. During the event, Co-founder Vanessa Frank provided a personal tour that offered valuable insight into the services being offered. This experience directly supported the youth as they began planning and organizing an Immigration “Know Your Rights” Forum for the community, scheduled for February at One Step A La Vez.
- One Step A La Vez staff and teens planned and hosted a “**Know Your Rights**” **Immigration Forum** at One Step A La Vez, with approximately thirty community members in attendance. The forum featured presentations from an immigration attorney and a representative from the Mexican Consulate. Community members also had the opportunity to meet directly with these representatives to ask questions and receive guidance.
- This summer, ICE conducted a raid at **Glass House Farms** on the Oxnard Plain near Camarillo. During this time, staff and youth watched the events unfold live—witnessing living history—and observed the immediate reactions and impacts on the surrounding community. Teens took turns contacting Representative Julia Brownley to share concerns on behalf of our communities and those directly impacted. Her staff acknowledged these concerns and reported them back to the Representative.
- One Step A La Vez teens alongside El Concilio and CAUSE, organized a workshop to help families prepare a **Family Emergency Preparedness Plan**, with approximately 50 participants in attendance.
- To support community outreach, Adelante youth and our Community Organizer participated in the **Fillmore City Hall** tree lighting event, staffing a resource table where they connected with 70–80 families about the Family Preparedness Workshop and Adelante’s mission and work.
- To learn about the value and importance of peaceful protest, youth attended the **No Kings Rally** in Ventura, where they participated with banners and stood alongside community members in opposition to the Trump Administration’s unfair policies and practices immigration actions.
- We have been actively participating with the **805UndocuFund** and **ICE Out of Ventura County** as part of coalition-building dedicated to protecting immigrant communities. This collaboration focuses on responding to the Trump Administration’s immigration policies and efforts toward mass deportations, while advocating for the safety, dignity, and rights of impacted families.
- Our Community Organizer joined the **Public Safety Racial Equity Advisory Group** in September 2025, where they have raised concerns within the SCRV and contributed to discussions aimed at identifying potential solutions, including issues related to public safety and Federal immigration enforcement tactics impacting marginalized communities.
- Youth attended the **Truth Act Rally Forum**, where one youth spoke publicly about her personal experiences and shared her perspectives on ICE and the impact of its actions on her community.
- Using art as a reflective and healing space, a **mural** was commissioned to express the current state of immigration in our country and capture recent community experiences. This project served as a tool for building awareness, fostering collective healing, and inspiring individuals—especially youth—to step forward and use their voices in support of their community.
- To better support our immigrant families, we established an **emergency food delivery system** that allows families to call in and request food assistance as needed.

## Environmental Justice

- We have worked with CFROG to support the City of Fillmore’s participation in the **Clean Power Alliance**. As part of this effort, we attended multiple Fillmore City Council meetings to advocate for the importance of this option and to highlight how it would benefit local communities through direct local climate action.
- The **Monterey CAPS Project** took place in Summer of, 2025, during which youth presented the work they have been leading on environmental justice in the Fillmore area. Their presentation focused on environmental protection, conservation, and advancing equitable solutions to address climate and environmental impacts affecting their community.
- Our Community Organizer met with CAUSE Leaders to coordinate a presentation focused on **cooling hubs and climate resilience** across the region.
- The **2025 EarthEcho Youth Leadership Summit** took place at the Santa Barbara Zoo, where youth participated in an educational experience focused on ocean and underwater life. Youth engaged in interactive partner activities and discussions that explored their knowledge of marine species and ecosystems. This summit provided a valuable learning opportunity, particularly for youth interested in pursuing careers related to environmental science, conservation, and marine life.

*Thank you for your investment!*

McCune  
FOUNDATION

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Phone: **805.625.1223**

Email: **maria@myonestep.org**

One Step A La Vez  
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**WWW.MYONESTEP.ORG**