

One Step A La Vez

Making Changes One Step at a Time

421 Sespe Ave, Fillmore CA



# 2024



# COMMUNITY IMPACT *Report*

**SERVING TEENS IN THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY**

# SINCE 2007

**MYONESTEP.ORG**



# THE FUTURE IS NOW

## A Message from the Executive Leadership



**Pedro A Chavez**

Co-Executive Director

**Jazmin G Gavilanes**

Co-Executive Director



Gold  
Transparency  
2024

**Candid.**

As Co-Executive Directors of One Step A La Vez we are thrilled to share some exciting news about the incredible transformation that we have undergone this year. Thanks to a clear vision for the future and unwavering support and dedication of a community that cares, we have been able to rehabilitate and redesign a safe space that not only meets the needs of our youth, their families and our communities but also inspires and empowers them to reach their full potential.

When we set out on this journey, our vision was to create a safe, welcoming, and dynamic environment where teens could thrive. Today, I am proud to say that we have achieved that and more. Our Teen Center has been revitalized not only with the aesthetics but with new programs, and a renewed sense of community. Our once outdated and underutilized facility now boasts modernization, a fully equipped computer lab, a vibrant arts and crafts room, and a comfortable lounge area where teens can relax and socialize. These improvements have not only enhanced the aesthetics of the center but have also provided our teens with the resources they need to explore their interests and develop new skills.

In addition to the physical transformation, we have also expanded our program offerings to better serve our teens. We now offer a wide range of activities, including academic support, career readiness workshops, arts and culture programs, and mental health resources. These programs are designed to address the holistic needs of our youth, helping them to grow academically, emotionally, and socially.

Our dedicated board and staff and volunteers have been instrumental in driving this change. Their passion, creativity, and commitment to our mission have created an atmosphere of positivity and possibility. We are seeing firsthand the impact of their efforts, as more and more teens are engaging with the center, building meaningful relationships, and achieving their personal goals.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to continuously evolving and improving our services to meet the ever-changing needs of our youth. Together, we will continue to create a nurturing environment where every teen has the opportunity to shine.

We invite you to walk with us and take the next step by helping us write the next chapter in the history of One Step A La Vez. Your investment will help us maintain, sustain and grow our impact on the teens and families we serve throughout the Santa Clara River Valley.

Respectfully yours,





# BOARD LEADERSHIP

***Our diverse Board has extensive experience creating change in the community.***



**NANCY  
RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ**



**SAL  
FUENTES**



**SUSAN  
JOHNSON**



**JOSH  
TRAPASSO**

## **Executive Officers**

**Sal Fuentes**

*Co-Chair*

**Nancy Rodriguez Hernandez**

*VCo-Chair*

**Susan Johnson**

*Treasurer*

**Josh Trapasso**

*Secretary*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHANGEMAKERS COMMITTED TO LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE**



**ARACELY  
AVILA**



**BRITTANY  
BOTTS-VOLASKI**



**MIA  
MARTINEZ**



**MARIO  
RODRIGUEZ**



**CHRISTINA  
VILLASEÑOR**



**VIBAY  
WEISBECKER**



# OUR HISTORY & MISSION

One Step A La Vez (OSALV) began our grassroots campaign in 2007 to respond to the pressing need for a community center to serve youth and their families in the communities of Fillmore and Piru. Our founder Lynn Edmonds and a handful of Latino teens recognized the absence of essential services available in the neighboring areas such as counseling, drug and alcohol cessation programs, domestic violence support groups, and the lack of a safe haven for teens to spend time afterschool. This grassroots movement propelled the establishment of OSALV and these efforts continuously evolve to better meet the needs of our teens and their families.

OSALV affirms our commitment to our mission of serving the communities of Santa Clara Valley by providing a safe environment for 13-19 year olds and preparing informed, co-powered youth who are equipped with the tools to lead; cultivate cultural awareness; bridge the gaps of inequality; and advocate for fair, just and healthy individuals and community.

One Step A La Vez has become a safe haven for teens to gather after school and obtain access to a hot meal and program activities that help them grow, build character and unlock their potential.



**Culturally proficient staff with  
lived experience rooted in the  
community we serve.**



# OUR VALUES

One Step A La Vez is committed to the values of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.). These are action-driven behaviors that we practice throughout all levels of our organization. Our history in addressing systemic barriers deepens our commitment to these values. We are a community-centric organization that serves teens who identify with their Latino background, culture, and roots and our board, staff, donors, and volunteers represent the diversity found in the community we serve.

We have adopted hiring practices to ensure that we have culturally proficient staff that connect with the struggle faced by many of our teens. This makes us empathetic to understanding their issues and leads to effective youth outcomes.

J.E.D.I. is at the heart of our mission as we believe that every teen – regardless of who they are – deserves an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed in school, work, and life. To cement these values is a moral imperative but also the foundation for building strong, resilient, and healthy communities. Our organization is rooted in the struggle towards social and racial justice and equality and our commitment continues as we serve the needs of the historically underserved and underrepresented throughout the Santa Clara River Valley.

# EXTRAORDINARY STAFF

Our caring and dedicated staff is committed to delivering the highest level of service and support to the teens and families served by **One Step A La Vez**. Their lived experience makes our staff exceptional mentors to our teens who are struggling to find their way by addressing adverse childhood experiences.





# WHO WE SERVE

In 2024 alone we have served nearly 300 teens in communities of Fillmore, Piru, and Santa Paula.

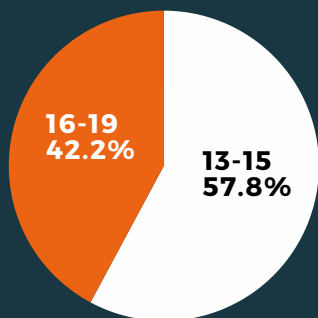
100% Teens identify as Hispanic/Latino with deep roots in their Mexican culture.



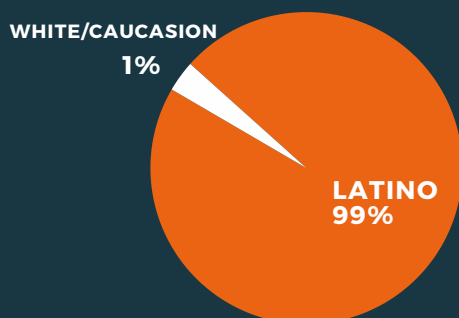
***100% of One Step High School Seniors graduated with a high school diploma in 2024.***

## MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

### AGES



### RACE

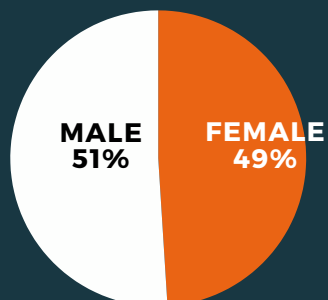


## TOTAL NUMBER OF DROP-IN CENTER VISITS

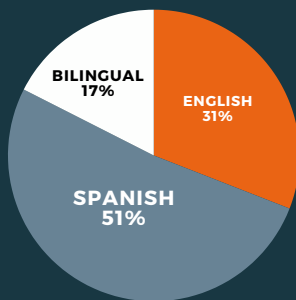
**3,064**



### GENDER RATIO



### PRIMARY LANGUAGE



## HOT MEALS DISTRIBUTED

**3,746**

## SERVICES PROVIDED

**4,643**



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One Step A La Vez was recognized with the Vanguard Award at Diversity Collective of Ventura County's Annual Diversity Gala for their social justice work by advocating for Pride & Equality for members of the LGBTQ+ in the City of Fillmore. Former Board President Brisa Romero accepted the award and shared her gratitude by thanking members of the community for supporting One Step teens and their efforts to advocate for a fair and just society.



## OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS



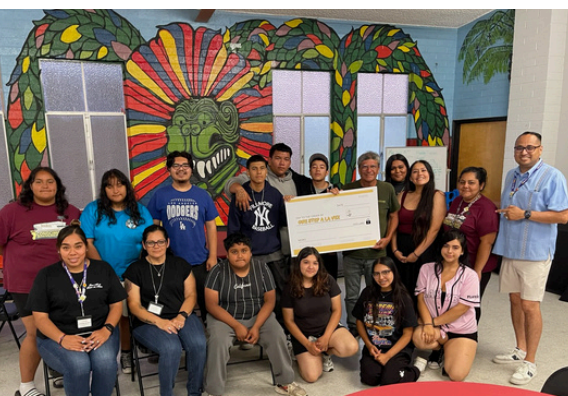
VENTURA COUNTY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency



McCune  
FOUNDATION



PREMIER AMERICA  
CREDIT UNION





# PROGRAM & IMPACT



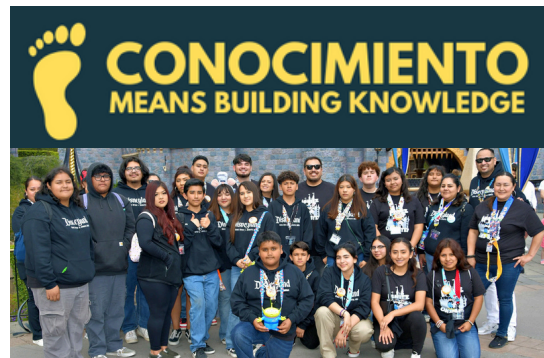
Our after-school teen center serves as a safe and inclusive place and the home base for all of our programs and services. Membership is free and we're open year long.



Empowers our teens to find their voice to address issues of social justice and equality.



Provides access for teens to prevention and early intervention, mental wellness services, case management, counseling, and support groups.



Evidenced-based prevention program that helps youth with adverse childhood experiences access wellness education and leadership development while breaking down small-town rivalries that lead to positive behavioral changes.







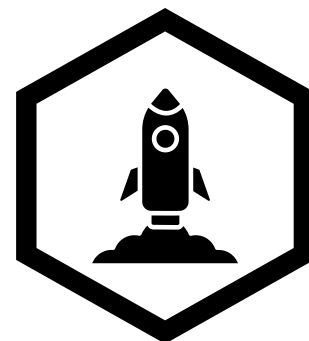
# LAUNCHPAD

**Career & Life Mentoring Skills to ensure teens takeoff to a better future.**

Providing Career and Life mentoring to youth has a profound impact on their overall development, helping them make better decisions about their future and navigate life challenges.

Successful youth outcomes include:

- Increased Career Readiness
- Enhanced Self-Confidence
- Improved Decision-Making Skills
- Better Social and Emotional Skills
- Access to Networking Opportunities
- Goal Setting and Achievement
- Reduced Risk of Negative Outcomes

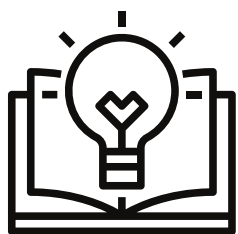


## Career & Life Mentoring Impact

**17 Opportunities**

**262 Teens Participated**

**300 Hours of Instruction**



*Thank you for your investment!*



# PROGRAM & IMPACT



## CIRCLE OF CARE

A monthly community collaborative representing different service providers, community stakeholders, and county and local agencies that work together to find community-based solutions.



## EVENING REPORTING CENTER

Youth are referred through the Ventura County Probation Agency or members of the community (school, community members, law enforcement) and complete their court-appointed community service requirements and are also provided individual case management.



## FOOD ACCESS

Staff, youth, and volunteers coordinate our twice-monthly food distributions to local families to combat hunger and food insecurity.

***One Step A La Vez utilizes the 8 Dimensions of Wellness to craft program activities that contribute to overall well-being for teens and families we serve.***

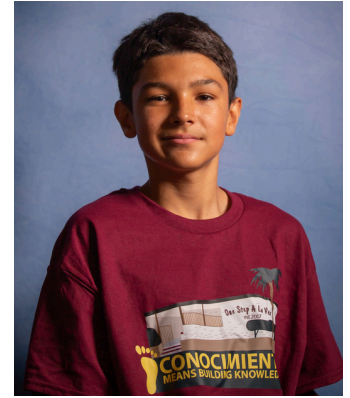




# TEEN LEADERSHIP



*Gabriel*



*Eithan*



*Karen*



*Mrileny*



*Aideth*



*Bryan*



*Esteban*



**"MAKING CHANGES  
POCO A POCO"**



# ADELANTE



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

The generous investment from the McCune and Weingart Foundation made it possible for **One Step A La Vez** to build its capacity to organize and helped reignite its commitment to advance social justice. The ability to hire Maria Robles, as our Community Organizer was key to building our Adelante program, which created a training ground that empowered our teens to find their voice and address issues impacting their lives. Our teens unlocked advocacy and community organizing skills and are on the path to becoming community change-makers.



## Adelante Program Impact

### 11 Adelante Meetings

### 20 Teens Participated

### 242 Hours of Training

### Successful youth outcomes include:

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



CREATING CHANGE  
ONE STEP A TIME



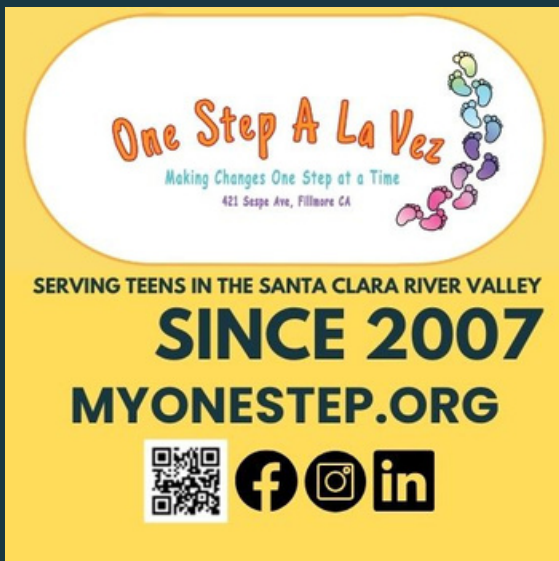


**One Step A La Vez offers daily hot meals for teens in Rosita's Kitchen.**



One Step A La Vez has become a safe place for teens to grow, build character, and unlock their potential in school, work, and life.

Your investment helps us meet our mission and be true to our values.



## One Step Center Hours

Monday - Friday

1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Open to teens ages 13-19

## Food Share Hours

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

## Contact Us

421 Sespe Ave

Fillmore, CA 93015

Office: 805-625-7067

One Step Center: 805-625-7066

Info@MyOneStep.org



**MAKING POSITIVE CHANGES  
ONE STEP AT A TIME**