



FALL 2021



RELIABLE WORKERS  READY TO SERVE

day worker center of mountain view



25 YEARS!

Serving Our Community Since 1996

On a warm October afternoon at Mountain View's Civic Center plaza, an enthusiastic crowd danced and sang in celebration of the Day Worker Center's 25th birthday.

Celina Rodriguez from [KZSF 1370 AM-La Kaliente](#), expertly emceed the lively gala that included dance performances by [Baile Folklorico Raices De Mexico](#), [Orgullo Latino of Mountain View High School](#), and [Las Cambaeras](#), as well as a short play by [Teatro Nahual](#).

Victor Hugo Santos Martinez serenaded the crowd, as did Day Worker Center members **Ivan Canseco**, **Pablo Juarez**, and **Erwin Choc**, who performed his original composition *El Centro de Todos*. Rounding out the afternoon were touching testimonials from workers,



Mountain View City Council members **Pat Showalter** and **Lucas Ramirez** look on as **Mayor Ellen Kamei** reads a City proclamation.

staff, and community members, as well as proclamations from state and local elected officials. Guests were treated to a *loteria* game created for the occasion by **Notre Dame High School's Spanish 3 Honors class** with prizes offered by the Center, as well as delicious cakes by [La Imperial Bakery](#). The day ended with the crowd on their feet, dancing to live music by [Los Jornaleros del Norte](#).

The Day Worker Center has been improving lives since 1996 when we set out on this journey of connecting employers and workers in a safe, supportive environment. The Center helps many day laborers improve their socio-economic status, while offering job-matching services for homeowners and

CENTER NAMED OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION

For exceptional contributions to the Mountain View community, The Day Worker Center was honored as an Outstanding Organization at the 2021 [Celebration of Leaders and ATHENA Awards](#) hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

You can catch all the action, including executive director **María Marroquín's** acceptance comments, in a [short video](#) beginning at 40:45.

businesses who need reliable, hardworking, and trustworthy people to help them with their tasks.

Over the years the Center has grown tremendously, offering hot healthy meals, classes for workers to learn new skills, as well as education for community members.

A huge bouquet of thanks to everyone who took part in this celebration of our milestone — including **Jack Owicki** for his [photographs](#) recording this magical day.

The lively crowd spun and whirled to the sounds of [Los Jornaleros del Norte](#).



Day Worker Center member **Erwin Choc** composed and performed *El Centro de Todos* especially for

our 25th birthday. The song encompasses the sentiment that, despite the challenges in his way, the Center is like a home and offers a helping hand. Erwin sang:

*"More than a Center,
It is a home...
It hugs you and...
Motivates you to continue."*

Visit our beautifully redesigned [website](#) for more photos and a video recap of the day, as well as a full list of the singers, dancers, musicians, and community members who took part in this star-studded celebration.

DAY WORKERS GIVE BACK

STITCHING TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD

The Day Worker Center's laborers contribute to a better community and world in countless ways! Here are just two, featuring the efforts of our sewing brigade.



Eloisa sews face masks that will be donated to the community.

Days for Girls. More than 500 million women do not have the products they need to manage their periods. [Days for Girls](#) works to advance menstrual equity, health, dignity and opportunity. In 2020, our workers sewed **400 fabric bags** for kits that are distributed to women and girls in rural and indigenous areas in 200+ countries around the world.

Masks for Health. In 2020, our dedicated sewers donated a whopping **8,545** masks to organizations such as: [Hope's Corner](#), [Upward Scholars](#), [The Navajo Nation](#), [United Farm Workers Salinas](#), [The National Day Laborer Organizing Network \(NDLON\)](#), and [MAÍZ San Jose](#).

CHANGE LIVES!

Your generous support allows the DAY WORKER CENTER to provide valuable services to the community. Thank you!



If you'd prefer to donate by check, please mail to:

DAY WORKER CENTER
113 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

Healthy Meals To Go

COVID-19 threw us a new challenge when the Center could no longer offer dine-in breakfast and lunch for workers. We adapted on the fly to provide nutritious, balanced take-away meals to community members in need—more than **23,980** meals last year!

Our cooks create hot breakfast and lunch for the multitudes Monday through Saturday, and lunch and dinner on Sunday.

As part of our sustainability efforts,

all of the utensils and take-out trays are compostable.

You Can Help!

Our hard-working kitchen workers could use your support! It takes expensive, commercial-sized equipment, such as an insulated food pan carrier and camdolly, a toaster, non-stick frying pans, food storage containers, an electric can opener, knives, and cutting boards, to prepare and distribute hot, healthy meals.

Help feed our community! Use the **GREEN BUTTONS** at right to support Healthy Meals.



Connecting Employers and Workers

COVID-19 severely reduced the number of jobs available for day laborers in 2020 and 2021.

Between January and December 2020, Day Worker Center compañer@s worked **11,521** jobs, averaging **960** jobs a month.



Graciela prepares a delicious, nutritious salad.

STAFF CHANGES

Our staff grew this year when **Yajaira Vargas-Cipres** came aboard as Job Coordinator and Dispatcher.

Carla Dardon was promoted to Workforce Development Coordinator.

More 25th Birthday Fun...

Here are a few more special moments from our party captured by **Jack Owicki**. View even more of Jack's images at [Pro Bono Photo](#).



Colorful dancers from Baile Folklorico Raices de Mexico.



A State resolution from senator **Josh Becker** and representatives **Marc Berman** and **Ash Kalra** honors the Center's 25 years of community service.



Executive Director **María Marroquín** and Board member **Marco Cedillo** cut a rug on the plaza dance floor.

Do You Know What's "WISE"?

Santa Clara County has one of the highest levels of wage theft. Day laborers are particularly vulnerable. They may not speak English, making it more difficult to negotiate with employers, and they may not be aware of regulations that protect how they are paid. The pandemic has increased the number of workers not getting paid.

Our **Workers Initiative Secure Encounter**, or **WISE**, strives to ensure that day laborers in Santa Clara County know their rights and where to turn if they have problems. Our WISE mobile outreach unit brings information and resources directly to workers, including where to find guidance and legal support for wage claims. Laborers are invited to "Know Your Rights" sessions where they learn about minimum wage laws, overtime pay, and other rights such as rest and meal breaks.

While reaching out, the WISE unit provides referrals to basic social services and supports community health by distributing free masks and hand sanitizer along with information about surviving the COVID-19 pandemic, including where to get tested and support for making vaccination appointments.

WISE is offered in partnership with the **County Office of Labor Standards and Education (OLSE)** and the **Fair Workplace Collaborative (FWC)**, both programs of Santa Clara County.



Providing WISE community outreach are volunteers **Diana**, **Celerina**, and the Center's Outreach and Initiative Supervisor **Carlos**.



Young tablers tout our new **Spanish As a Second Language** program.

day
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