



San Joaquin Valley Funders' Gathering Thursday, December 5, 2013 Site Visit

Building Community Leadership

Funder Leads:

Manuel Alvarado, community relations manager, Sierra Health Foundation, Merced, CA
Sandra Flores, senior program officer, Fresno Regional Foundation, Fresno, CA

Tour Schedule:

1:00 pm Bus departs hotel – Piccadilly Shaw Hotel
2:00 pm Arrive Center for Health Program Management (CHPM)
521 West Main Street, Merced, CA

With ever changing demographics and economic drivers shifting across the Valley, who are the leaders working to address critical needs for an expanding population and how are they accomplishing their objectives? What does it look like to be on the ground where there are few systems in place to protect and support equitable outcomes for everyone in the community? What happens when hardworking, talented leaders come together to support true community leadership in those communities most affected? Traveling north from Fresno to Merced, we will be joined by three grass-roots organizations that developed new and inventive leadership program models that address very diverse issues and have made creative change in their communities.

- One of the defining struggles in the history of the environmental health and justice movement continues in Kettleman City, Kings County, in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. **Bradley Angel, Maricela Mares Alatorre** and **Ana Martinez** of **Greenaction** will share with us how the community leaders of Kettleman City are facing proposed expansion of the giant hazardous waste and PCB landfill, a fossil fuel power plant, proposed dumping of contaminated sewage sludge on agricultural fields next to town, new oil drilling, toxic contaminated water and diesel truck emissions, along with high rates of birth defects and childhood cancer. Hear how these leaders are addressing these life-threatening issues and creating change within their community.
- **Promotores** are a unique, grassroots group of community leaders who have cultivated deep and egalitarian relationships based on mutual trust, understanding, respect, and empathy in numerous pertinent issues. Promotores are characterized by their *servicio de corazón* (heartfelt service) and actively support the development of skills and abilities in others while they share knowledge and experience to create a healthier and more resilient community and to improve the well-being of one another – locally, regionally, and beyond. **Hugo H. Ramirez, Vanessa Lopez Asaah, and Chely Romero** will share with us their experience in this important work.
- **Caroline Farrell**, executive director at **The Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment** will discuss CRPE's Martinez, Aguirre & Simunovic (MAS) model of organizing and leadership development. This model incorporates the Fred Ross model of organizing (door to door visits, house meetings, community meetings), which forms the basis of their work. Having formed a strong community base, they help organize them into a formal community groups with bylaws, a mission, and clear goals to address issues facing their communities.

4:00 pm Bus departs Merced en route back to Fresno
5:00 pm Arrive at hotel – break until 6 pm

**Contact information:****Bradley Angel**

Executive Director
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
San Joaquin Valley
P.O. Box 277
Kettleman City, CA 93239
Tel. 559 583 0800
bradley@greenaction.org

Manuel Alvarado

Community Relations Manager
Center for Health Program Management (CHPM)
521 West Main Street
Merced, CA 95340
Tel. 916-922-4755 x 4001
mjalvarado@sierrahealth.com

Caroline Farrell

Executive Director
Center for Race Poverty & the Environment
1012 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215
Tel. (661) 720-9140
cfarrell@crpe-ej.org

Sandra Flores

Senior Program Officer
Fresno Regional Foundation
5250 N. Palm Ave Suite 424
Fresno, CA 93704
Tel. 559-226-5600
sandra@fresnoregfoundation.org

Vanessa Lopez Asaah

RAIZ Promotores support/coordination
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
1917 Memorial Drive
Ceres, CA 95307
Tel. 209-652-1043
vlopez@stanbhhs.org

Maricela Mares Alatorre

San Joaquin Valley Environmental Health and
Justice Organizer/Policy Advocate
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
P.O. Box 277
Kettleman City, CA 93239
Tel. 559 583 0800

Ana Martinez

San Joaquin Valley Community Organizer
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
P.O. Box 277
Kettleman City, CA 93239
Tel. 559 583 0800

Hugo H. Ramírez

Senior Community Development Program
Specialist
Promotor, Northern Central Valley Regional
Committee, Visión y Compromiso Network of
Promotores and Community Health Workers
City of Modesto
Tel. (209) 577-5368
hramirez@modestogov.com

Chely Romero

Northern California Network Director
Visión y Compromiso Network of Promotores and
Community Health Workers
San Joaquin Valley, CA
Tel. 510.427.2643
www.visionycompromiso.org