

NEWSLETTER

2018 / Fall

OUR MISSION

Social Justice Fund for Ventura County promotes fairness, equality and human rights. We strengthen social justice by

creating change beyond charity

OUR VISION

The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County envisions a world where each person lives as a part of an inclusive community that provides them equitable access to resources and opportunities to be safe, healthy and happy.

OUR APPROACH

The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County invest in community organizing – the process of bringing people together and helping them develop their voices, realize their power and collectively act to create real change in their lives and communities.



Notes from the SJFVC Board

For the past 10 years, the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County has worked with thousands of donors, community stakeholders, and organizations working on the front lines for social justice. We have learned that to truly create systemic change we must support efforts focused on:

- **Educating** and building awareness about the prevailing issues in social justice and training on best practices to overcome them.
- **Convening** stakeholders and providing a platform to magnify the impact of those leading the charge in the social change movement
- **Grantmaking** to grassroots organizations for strategic support and fostering deeper connections between donors and practitioners

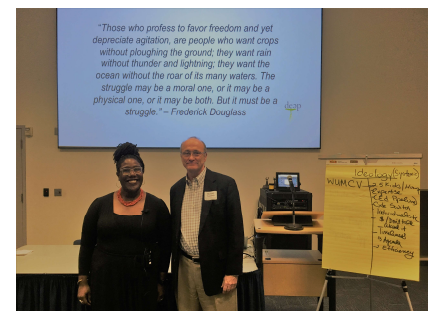
The Social Justice Fund Ventura County has expanded its Board. In December we will have a one-day retreat to further build relationships, conduct strategic planning and begin to identify next year's theme.

Implicit bias in education: (last years' campaign) has produced several real identifiable accomplishments including:



Future Leaders of America (FLA) convincing the Oxnard Union High School District to Align their A-G requirements with those of the UC and CSU systems.

Implicit Bias Training for over 70 school board members, administrators and teachers from Ventura County, cohosted by SJFVC and the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE).



SJFVC BOARD

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-
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CONTACT US

Social Justice Fund for Ventura County

P.O. Box 1271

Camarillo, CA 93011

805.419.0214

socialjusticefundvc@gmail.com

socialjusticefundvc.org

Immigration (this years' theme)

In July of 2018 SJFVC awarded \$27,500 to six local organizations working on the critical issues of immigration while inspiring and educating young leaders to become leaders and advocates. Both east and west county organizations have aggressively stepped forward on this issue, reacting to our volatile political climate regarding needs in Ventura County. SJFVC had nineteen diverse organizations that submitted letters of interest to help in their respective efforts on immigration issues.

July 15 Celebration of Activism Event



Grantees and their proposed projects:

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

Workshops, to partner with the Mexican Consulate in Oxnard to set up mobile one-stop-shops in Santa Paula and Fillmore, and partner with La Hermandad to deliver two 10-week citizenship classes.

Ventura County Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)

Building upon its successes at Thousand Oaks High School, where undocumented students gather from local high schools for skill-building trainings, CLUE proposes expanding the program to new schools in Santa Paula, Ojai, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura. The program will assist schools in organizing 12-15 knowledge and skill-building training sessions for club members.

Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)

MICOP will conduct Train the Trainer presentations for Know Your Rights, U-Visa, Asylum, Permanent Resident, T-Visa, US Citizenship, DACA, and other programs. Additionally, MICOP has proposed compiling a one-page list of immigration resources in Ventura County, creating a safe space for indigenous immigrant youth to share their stories, and hosting a weekly radio talk show and podcast.

Westminster Free Clinic (WFC)

WFC provides free medical care to the uninsured and working poor, regardless of immigration status. Additionally, the WFC serves as an advocate and safe resource for Know Your Rights information, access to a free bi-lingual immigration lawyer, socio-emotional support and stress management. Annually, WFC offers free medical, dental, vision, mental health and legal services to over 8,000 low-income, uninsured individuals. Beyond improved access to care, the WFC provides leadership and youth development opportunities to high school students through trainings and hands-on experience. This program, known as Student Advocates Leading Uplifting Decisions, or SALUD, seeks to train parents to be advocates for their children in schools, raise awareness about A-G requirements and student rights, as it will train teachers and school administrators on challenges faced by low-income, first generation Latino students, distribute Know Your Rights information and conduct training sessions on the material.

California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI)

The goals of CSUCI's grant are twofold: First, to educate the Ventura County community about immigration laws and policies. Students will gather and compile both quantitative and qualitative data on non-US citizens who are detained by VC Sheriff and ICE officials. They will then design an online website for immigration resources in Ventura County to disseminate information to local and national immigrant advocacy groups, partnering with local community organizations to raise awareness. The second goal of the grant is to transform these students into the next generation of immigrant right activists by developing a toolkit and training students to conduct Know Your Rights and Dream Act workshops.

California Lutheran University (CLU)

CLU was designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution in 2016, Latino students represent 31% of the undergraduate population. This is a part of the University's mission of educating leaders for a global society who are confident in their identity, vocation, and mission. As a part of that mission, CLU has proposed creating program to train eight Immigrant Empowerment Advocates. This for-credit curriculum will provide 16 hours of training for CLU students / residents of Ventura County in: community organizing, needs assessment, community mapping, fundraising, event planning, and cross-cultural network building. These students will then supervise the planning and execution of four projects addressing high-need areas throughout Ventura County.