



SAN DIEGO ORGANIZING PROJECT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Beloved siblings,

July 2021 marks two years since I stepped in as Executive Director. When I accepted this role, I knew I was called to build power with people to organize change in our region. What I did not expect was that it would be more than that; the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the inequalities in our systems and left many of our families in the dark. In the midst of so much hardship, I am inspired and energized by the love and compassion that has allowed us to survive so much these past 18 months.

SDOP leaders, clergy and staff have been working tirelessly and alongside each other to ensure the next phase of financial, health and spiritual COVID-19 recovery. In addition to our Faith Community Mutual Aid program, SDOP congregations and local partners hosted vaccine clinics and resource fairs at various congregations including: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Christ the King Catholic Church, City of Hope International and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Throughout this report, you will read more about our victories and primary issue campaigns this year.

We were blessed to hire a new Community Organizer as well as a Development and Communications Coordinator. In the last two years, SDOP has expanded membership in San Diego's North County through four new member congregations. We are also very proud to share that in the last year, we have more than doubled the number of faith leaders welcomed into our family!

We are excited for 2022. Our statewide network, PICO CA, will see through an 18 month Renewal process where we set forth a prophetic, strategic and powerful vision for our collective organizing efforts. On the organizing front, SDOP will continue to center the dismantling of white supremacy and anti-racism as our core values through our work on various policy initiatives such as: Oceanside police de-escalation, City of San Diego PROTECT Ordinance and legalization for undocumented essential workers.

Thanks to your support, we have built power through our congregations and celebrated exciting wins. We look forward to continue building with our SDOP family to create a more equitable San Diego for all!



Dinora Reyna-Gutierrez

DINORA REYNA-GUTIERREZ
SDOP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MISSION

The San Diego Organizing Project is a multi-faith, multi-ethnic network of 24 congregations that represents more than 70,000 individuals across San Diego County. Our mission is to unlock the prophetic power of people by developing and training grassroots community leaders, and to empower communities that are directly impacted by the unjust systems we seek to transform.

VISION

As one of the most diverse grassroots, base-building organizations in the region, we uniquely bridge racial, cultural, and economic divides to bring justice, equality, and greater opportunity to fruition in their communities. We envision a San Diego in which all families are engaged, healthy, stable and secure.

2021 AT A GLANCE

1,360 ONE-ON-ONES

Leaders & organizers discover the values, concerns and ideas of their fellow congregants and neighbors by doing one-to-one visits and listening sessions. Together, we work on problems that matter most to our communities. We engage thousands of people, and sustain long-term campaigns to bring about systemic change.



22 RESEARCH MEETINGS

Our leaders meet with key decision-makers to research why problems exist, the solutions, and who has the power to make change. As a result, our leaders are knowledgeable and able to bring solutions that get to the root of problems

5 RESEARCH ACTIONS

Our congregations put on mass turnout action meetings with decision-makers. These meetings ensure that decision-makers witness the great number of people that want change, listen to the testimonies, and publicly state their positions.

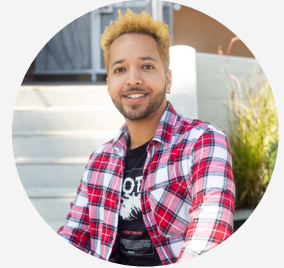


MEET OUR STAFF



DINORA REYNA-GUTIERREZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JEFFREY KARAHAMUHETO
LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



TERESA PEREZ
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

CIELO GARAT
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



DAVID ZAMUDIO
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

JUDAH COKER
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



RORY ESCHENBACH
OPERATIONS MANAGER

SELMA HASSANE
**DEVELOPMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**



MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GLORIA MORALES-PALOS,
CO-CHAIRPERSON
CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH



DEACON TOM CARTWRIGHT,
CO-CHAIRPERSON
CITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH



ISABELLA FURTH, SECRETARY
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH,
SAN DIEGO



REVEREND MARK ROBSON,
TREASURER
ST. STEPHANS CATHEDRAL COGIC



JAMES STIVEN, MEMBER
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



LUZ GODINA, MEMBER
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



DANYREA MEGGINSON, MEMBER
CITY OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH



PASTOR KADRI J. WEBB, MEMBER
ST. JOHN CHURCH

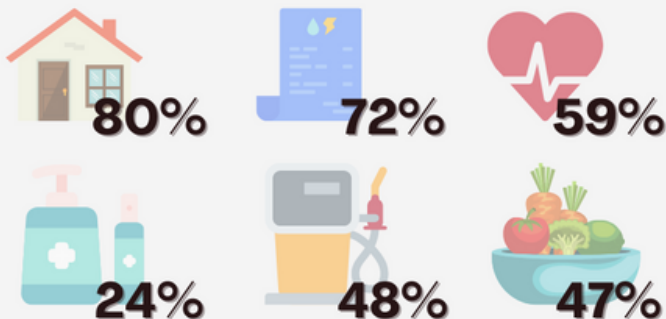
SDOP'S FAITH COMMUNITY COVID-19 AID



Throughout 2020 and 2021, SDOP awarded over 130 households with financial assistance to support needs exasperated by the pandemic. Of those households:



The grants helped households pay for the following expenses:



“OUR COVID-19 financial assistance has been a life saver for many impacted families in our communities. Especially, those families that have been most affected and were left out by our government. SDOP’s work is very important and crucial to bring social justice to our local underserved communities.”

Gloria Morales
Christ the King Catholic Church



The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated many social ills that our SDOP family has been at the forefront of fighting against, including housing insecurity, racism, and systemic poverty.

In 2020 and 2021, SDOP has been fortunate to receive funding from our partners and donations from our community to create a COVID-19 Faith Community Response Fund.

Mutual aid is part of a radical, transformative, community-based legacy that people of faith have historically used to sustain ourselves in trying times. Thanks to our SDOP family, we are able to unlock prophetic power and alleviate the pain of people.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE



2021 VICTORIES:

San Diego County - \$5 million for Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs

San Diego County - \$2 million for Immigration Legal Defense Fund pilot program

U.S. Congress - initial historic budget resolution to deliver a path to citizenship

ISSUE CAMPAIGN: A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

SDOP leaders are engaged in the national fight to legislate protection and a path to citizenship for undocumented essential workers. President Biden and Congress are negotiating what will be included in the jobs and infrastructure package of the President's Build Back Better plan, and we are advocating for the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for essential workers, TPS holders, Dreamers and farm workers.



We have to stand up and we have to demand action to greet the stranger who comes to our border.

Let us stand with them, let us unite with them across this nation. And let us do so as people of faith because *that is what our faith calls us to do.*

“**BISHOP ROBERT W. MCELROY**
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

ISSUE CAMPAIGN: PROTECT ORDINANCE

Alongside our partners at the Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency (CPAT), we are working to pass the Preventing Overpolicing Through Equitable Community Treatment (PrOTECT) ordinance through the San Diego City Council. PrOTECT will require San Diego law enforcement to have probable cause to stop, ask for identification, question or search someone, and hold officers accountable if they violate the ordinance. The PrOTECT ordinance seeks to address invasive policing practices that disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color.



2021 VICTORY:

Oceanside Police Department - Thanks to our leaders' organizing efforts, Oceanside Police Chief Armijo agreed to adopt a mandatory de-escalation policy. This will change the language from "should" to "shall" and hold police officers who could use de-escalation tactics but don't accountable.



2021 SPECIAL ELECTION: GET OUT THE VOTE! *in numbers*

4 PART-TIME PAID PHONE BANKERS

PHONE CALLS

5,711

1,147

PHONE BANK CONTACTS

12

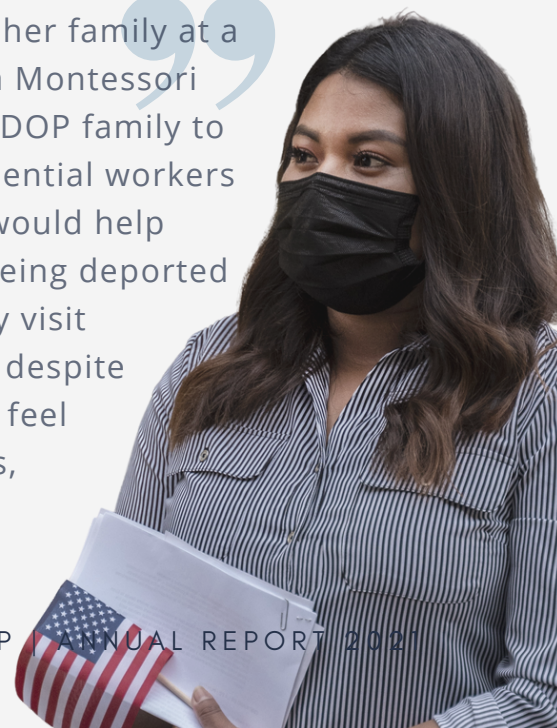
CONGREGATIONS HELD VOTER
EDUCATION AT THE PULPIT

7,000+

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

MEET OUR FAITH LEADER, MELIZA ST. LEO CATHOLIC CHURCH

Meliza Espinoza came to Solana Beach from Mexico with her family at a young age. As a DACA recipient, she currently serves as a Montessori School Teacher. Meliza stands with her community and SDOP family to demand Congress create a pathway to citizenship for essential workers & DACA recipients like herself. A pathway to citizenship would help Meliza feel **safe** living in the United States and not fear being deported or separated from her family. She also aspires to one day visit Mexico. Meliza teaches her students to love one another despite national origin or immigration status. SDOP helps Meliza feel supported & powerful in this fight. Hopeful Meliza shares, *"With prayer, everything is possible."*



SDOP'S 2022 VISION:

Determine our statewide advocacy plan and concretize a working relationship with partner federations and our statewide network at PICO CA.

Engage in internal strategic planning to evaluate our work, develop priorities, and outline a working plan.

Strengthen and engage our membership base of leaders and congregations, and strengthen our leadership formation programs.

Create more channels for diverse, progressive congregations to identify with SDOP as a spiritual and political home.

Pass the PrOTECT Ordinance through San Diego City Council & win a national pathway to citizenship for essential workers.

Raise awareness on human trafficking throughout the County and within the faith community.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN MAKE OUR 2022 VISION A REALITY!



Donate at: *sdop.net/donate*



**Mail a check to:
4305 University Ave # 530, San Diego, CA 92105**



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*bit.ly/SDOPNews***

