# 2023ANNUAL REPORT



### **SAN DIEGO ORGANIZING PROJECT** UNLOCKING THE PROPHETIC POWER OF PEOPLE

sdop.net

### A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SDOP friends and family,

This year marks four years as SDOP's Executive Director and I must say that it has been one of the most exciting years of my entire organizing career. Together, we built deeper relationships, fought for housing in our communities and opportunities for our families to thrive. Through relationship building, listening and shared learning, we doubled down on our commitment to building powerful communities for the sake of the people we love and the region we call home...and we won!

Alongside our statewide network, PICO CA, we co-sponsored one of the most important housing bills in California: SB 567, the Homelessness Prevention Act. Locally, the St. Francis of Assisi Church team turned out over 400 people in support of the inclusionary housing ordinance and it passed with overwhelming support from the council. In Oceanside, we witnessed the story of our leader, Cristina Moreno, and her family's experience with high costs in rental applications resulting in the City allocating \$50,000 for rental application fees for residents.

As we look ahead, SDOP is committed to strengthening the organization's infrastructure to ensure sustainability and equity within our team. This year, we completed an organizational strategic planning process led by a Task Force made up by clergy, leaders and staff. To deepen our organizing work, we also outlined our five years organizing strategy to ensure that the issues affecting our families the most are prioritized and that WE WIN around housing, police reform, immigration and addressing a moral economy.

We also hired a new team! In 2023, we welcomed three Community Organizers, one in North County and two in San Diego; and we added capacity to our Communications and Operations teams. We are excited to have captured the stories of our leaders, highlighted local actions in San Diego and Vista, and brought light to our narrative that Home is Sacred.

I look forward to continuing on this journey with you.

Dinora Reyna-Gutierrez

DINORA REYNA-GUTIERREZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SDOP

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

We are excited to announce the completion of SDOP's Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. The Strategic Task Force spent 2022 outlining the organization's mission, values and identity statement to create uniformity and identify across the organization's memberships.

#### MISSION

The mission of the San Diego Organizing Project is to equip people of faith and spiritual values to build power and organize their communities to win racial and economic justice.

#### VISION

Our vision is a just and equitable San Diego, transformed by the power of love rather than the love of power.

Over the next five years, we will focus on the following areas:

Funding and Development: strengthen and grow our fiscal stability in order to fulfill our vision and priorities
 Leader and Staff Formation: create and implement a development track for new and experienced staff, leaders, clergy and congregations
 Targeted Expansion: strengthen and build new teams in areas where crucial issues are being debated and/or in the constituencies that are crucial for the issues we are working on
 Power Building and Issue Campaigns: focus on the organizing priorities impacting our communities most (housing, policing and economic justice) and deliver policy wins over the next five years
 Operations: create sustainable internal systems and structures in order for SDOP's hiring, staff and board procedures and training to be effective and efficient

Our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Strategic Planning Taskforce and editorial support from our own leaders and clergy as well as the professional guidance of our consultant Allan Dorsey. The Planning Taskforce: Bishop Ramon Bejarano, Wendy Baez, Rev. Jason Coker, Rory Eschenbach, Isabella Furth, Jeffrey Karahamuheto, Danyrea "Cookie" Megginson, Gloria Morales-Palos, Ana Laura Nunez, Pastor Christopher Ransom, Judge Jim Stiven, Dinora Reyna-Gutierrez, and Dr. Kadri Webb.

## **2023** AT A GLANCE

### **1,200** ONE-ON-ONES

Leaders & organizers discover the values, concerns and ideas of their fellow congregants and neighbors by doing oneto-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.





### 23 RESEARCH MEETINGS

Our leaders meet with key decisionmakers 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.

### 8 PUBLIC ACTIONS

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





**DINORA REYNA-GUTIERREZ** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

> **IUDAH COKER** COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



TERESA PEREZ COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

> DANYREA MEGGINSON COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



DANIEL DUARTE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

> **RORY ESCHENBACH** OPERATIONS MANAGER





SELMA HASSANE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

**UESIN KIM** 



JORJ CHISAM-MAJID ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

LAURA ESTRADA COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE







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

> PASTOR KADRI J. WEBB, CO-CHAIRPERSON ST. JOHN CHURCH





**ISABELLA FURTH, SECRETARY** FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, SAN DIEGO

**LUZ GODINA, TREASURER** ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH





**JAMES STIVEN, MEMBER** ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ELDER JOHN ROBINSON, MEMBER ST. STEPHAN'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST





**GABRIEL CONTRERAS, MEMBER** OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### HOUSINGJUSTICE



### OUR HOUSING JUSTICE VISION:

We are protecting existing housing units, tenants' rights, and advocating for services & policies that create more affordable housing and lift people out of homelessness.

On January 10, 2023, 400 community members flooded the Vista City Council halls to advocate for an inclusionary housing policy in Vista.

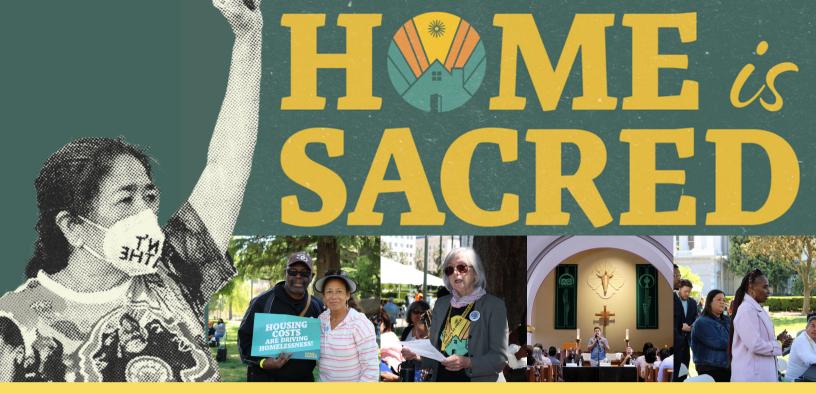
Thanks to our efforts, **Vista City Council passed an inclusionary housing policy in a 4-1 vote that will dedicate 9% of Vista's housing developments to affordable housing**.



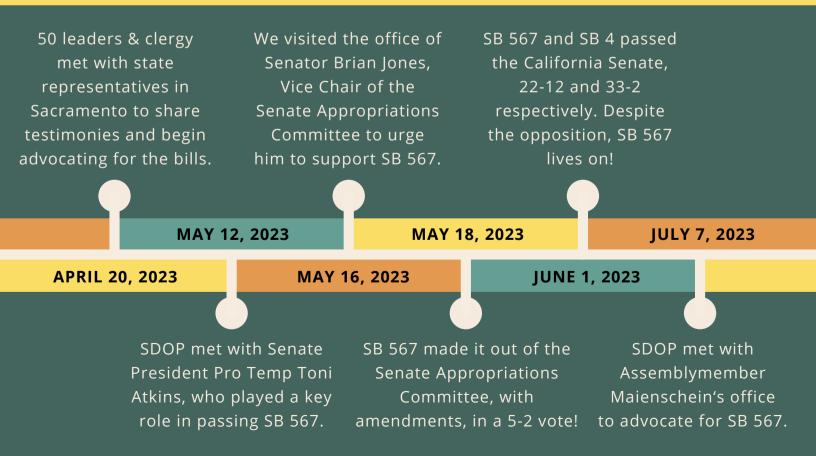
Inclusionary housing in Vista is an important step to making our housing justice vision a reality.

After sharing the story of a leader experiencing housing instability, **Oceanside City Council voted 4-1** in favor of a pilot program allocating \$50,000 to provide financial assistance for rental housing application fees.

This pilot program, powered by the stories of impacted families, will alleviate a financial burden for prospective renters and create more equitable opportunities for families in Oceanside.



This year, SDOP joined our statewide siblings in power to send a strong message to our California legislators: *pass equitable policies that will alleviate the pain our families are facing as a result of the housing crisis.* We advocated for the passage of SB 567, the Homelessness Prevention Act, and SB 4, Affordable Housing on Faith Lands. These two bills will protect tenants rights and develop more affordable housing. Our leaders and clergy shared their stories and successfully imparted the sacredness of housing for all.



### **POWER IS IN THE NUMBERS:**



### WE SHARED OVER STORIES OF IMPACTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS



WE MET WINASSEMBLYMEMBERS & SENATORS

Leaders flew to Sacramento to witness SB 567 pass the Assembly Judiciary Committee, thanks to our advocacy efforts with Assemblymember Brian Maienschein.

In a powerful processional with over 200 community members, Assemblymember David Alvarez committed to voting YES on SB 567.

SB 4 passes the California State Assembly, 73-1. EL HOGAN

 JULY 27, 2023
 AUGUST 13, 2023
 SEPTMBER 14, 2023

 JULY 11, 2023
 AUGUST 6, 2023
 SEPTMBER 7, 2023

 Leaders & clergy met with Assemblymember Akilah Weber.
 North County leaders met with Assemblymember Davies' office, joined by Vista
 SB 567 passes the California State Assembly, 55-16.

Councilmember Melendez.

### in numbers **NOVEMBER 2023 SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTI**

#### Why was this election important?

Although District 4 is the smallest of the County's five supervisorial districts, it is very diverse. San Diego County has one of the largest government budgets of \$3 billion. Our faith calls us to be at the decision-making table with the allocation of these funds, to ensure the best use of the County's budget to respond to the needs of our people.

### **COMMITMENTS TO VOTE**

PAID PHONE BANKERS

1,266

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

### PHONE BANK CONTACTS

PHONE BANKING HOURS

### **3 WAYS YOU CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SDOP**

- 1. Donate at sdop.net/donate
- 2. Mail a check to 5011 Holly Dr San Diego, CA 92113
- 3. Sign up to receive newsletter updates at *bit.ly/SDOPNews*

### **MEMBER & PARTNER CONGREGATIONS**

Oceanside Sanctuary Christian Church Episcopal Church of St. Andrew the Apostle Good Samaritan Episcopal Church Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Christ Church Coronado St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church St. John's Church St. Thomas More Catholic Church San Leo Catholic Community St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church St. Stephen's Cathedral Church of God In Christ City of Hope International Church Christ the King Catholic Church First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Charity Apostolic Church of God In Christ

### **CLERGY CAUCUS**

20+ clergy from SDOP's member and partner congregations from across San Diego County come together monthly to deepen relationships, develop a shared prophetic vision and build collective power through shared organizing campaigns.

- Rev. Richard Hogue Rev. Jason Coker Dr. Kadri Webb Fr. Tommie Jennings Fr. Neal "Pepe" Wilkinson, SJ Rev. Jenell Coker Fr. Brad Mills, SJ Fr. Hung Nguyen, SJ
- Rev. Janine Schenone Rev. Brenda Sol Bishop Cornelius Bowser Bishop Ramon Bejarano Bishop Susan Brown Snook Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ Minister Bradley Megginson Mother Regan Schutz

### **FUNDERS**

County of San Diego Price Philanthropies Engage San Diego Vanguard Charitable Rockefeller Philanthropy Faith in Action The California Endowment U.S. Gifts and Charitable Trust PICO California Amazon Smile Network for Good City of Hope Intl Church

#### **THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR VISION BECOME A REALITY!**

