

A photograph of a church interior during a service. The view is from the back of the sanctuary, looking forward. The ceiling features a series of wooden beams with recessed lighting. The walls are white, and the floor is made of light-colored wood. On the left side, there are several tall, narrow stained glass windows. In the center, a large arched window is visible. The right side of the image shows the altar area, which is decorated with a large cross and a statue of the Virgin Mary. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The congregation is seated in wooden pews, and many people are wearing yellow safety vests. The overall atmosphere is one of a formal religious gathering.

2023

ANNUAL 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.



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:

1

Funding and Development: strengthen and grow our fiscal stability in order to fulfill our vision and priorities

2

Leader and Staff Formation: create and implement a development track for new and experienced staff, leaders, clergy and congregations

3

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

4

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

5

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 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.



23 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.



8 PUBLIC 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



JUDAH 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
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



JORJ CHISAM-MAJID
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



LAURA ESTRADA
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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*

HOUSING JUSTICE



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.

2023 VICTORIES:

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.



HOME *is* SACRED

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.

50 leaders & clergy met with state representatives in Sacramento to share testimonies and begin advocating for the bills.

We visited the office of Senator Brian Jones, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee to urge him to support SB 567.

SB 567 and SB 4 passed the California Senate, 22-12 and 33-2 respectively. Despite the opposition, SB 567 lives on!

MAY 12, 2023

MAY 18, 2023

JULY 7, 2023

APRIL 20, 2023

MAY 16, 2023

JUNE 1, 2023

SDOP met with Senate President Pro Temp Toni Atkins, who played a key role in passing SB 567.

SB 567 made it out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, with amendments, in a 5-2 vote!

SDOP met with Assemblymember Maienschein's office to advocate for SB 567.

POWER IS IN THE NUMBERS:

WE HAD **16**
RESEARCH
MEETINGS WITH KEY
DECISION-MAKERS

WE SHARED OVER
STORIES OF IMPACTED
COMMUNITY MEMBERS **5**

WE TURNED OUT
OVER **300** COMMUNITY
MEMBERS TO
PUBLIC ACTIONS

WE MET WITH
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
& SENATORS **5**
2

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.



JULY 27, 2023

AUGUST 13, 2023

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

JULY 11, 2023

AUGUST 6, 2023

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Leaders & clergy met with Assemblymember Akilah Weber.

North County leaders met with Assemblymember Davies' office, joined by Vista Councilmember Melendez.

SB 567 passes the California State Assembly, 55-16.

NOVEMBER 2023 SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

in numbers

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.

7

PAID PHONE BANKERS

PHONE BANK CONTACTS

1,266

90%

COMMITMENTS TO VOTE

2

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

384

HOURS PHONE BANKING

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!

