

Conéctate

The Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers

Building Equitable Communities

In May the Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month and honored our mother figures in our lives. Our mental health is extremely important especially when we are working towards building equitable communities. As promotores and community leaders, we understand community transformation is not an easy task and it can take a toll, yet the wins (big or small) are worth celebrating. In the spirit of taking care of our mental health and honoring our mother figures, let us continue to find ways to take care of ourselves with acts of self-love and celebrating our successes. In the following pages we highlight our impactful activities and accomplishments.

With love and gratitude for having you as part of our Network family,

Norma Benitez,
Network Director



Visión y Compromiso™

“Lo que la salud mental necesita es más luz, más franqueza y más conversaciones sin sentimientos de vergüenza”.

—Glenn Close

mayo

MES DE LA CONCIENCIA
SOBRE LA SALUD MENTAL

“What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation.”

—Glenn Close

May

MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH



Recent Highlights

LOS ANGELES & SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

♥ In our desire to continue empowering promotores, the Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers in Los Angeles held its annual regional conference (virtually) on April 21, 2022. With topics ranging from “Keeping the Love of Community,” “Moving Service from the Heart to the Workforce” and “Financial Literacy: From Work to Retirement” the committee provided tools to support the integration of promotores into the workforce. They validated and elevated the important role of community promotores in maintaining our communities resiliency during the pandemic. Recognizing that many promotores do not have the necessary equipment to carry out their work effectively, the committee decided to donate three computers to promotores who did not have this essential work equipment. “Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world.” Thanks to the promotoras of the Los Angeles committee for their GREAT service from the heart and for continuing to empower community promotores in Los Angeles.

♥ Promotores from the regional committees in Los Angeles County and San Fernando Valley/Antelope Valley participated in two press events representing promotores in support of the “Health for All” and “Food for All” statewide campaigns. These campaigns are tangible efforts toward achieving equity and social justice for our immigrant communities. Some members of these committees also participated in two Medi-Cal expansion enrollment events where they educated the community with essential, updated information about this new benefit and about public charge—an issue that greatly concerns our immigrant community.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL COMMITTEE



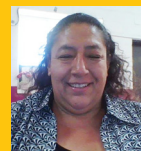
Blanca Rivera



Brenda Aguilera



María Talavera



María Leon



Kathi Cervantes



Ricardo García



Laura García



Rosy Lopez

Visión y Compromiso™
El Comité Regional de la Red de Promotoras y Trabajadores Comunitarios de **LOS ANGELES** te invita a nuestra

CONFERENCIA REGIONAL VIRTUAL
¡Haz de tu servicio de corazón una profesión!

ABRIL
21
3:00pm-6:00pm

Moviendo el servicio de corazón hacia la fuerza laboral
Minera Hernández, Visión y Compromiso

PLENARIA
Manteniendo el amor a la comunidad
Mariana Contreras Borrego, Visión y Compromiso

Educación financiera—del trabajo a la jubilación
Angie Lopez y Marlene Rivera

Para inscribirse, use el siguiente enlace:
www.visionycompromiso.org/conferencias-regionales

Si tiene preguntas sobre el evento, comuníquese con: Verónica Arciga, Gerente de la Red de Promotoras del Condado de Los Angeles (323) 407-4816 o por correo electrónico a veronicar@visionycompromiso.org

POR ZOOM



BAY AREA

♥ Promotores from the Bay Area committee met on April 19 to share experiences and connect with each other. We want to thank Alma Esquivel, Director of the Department of Education for her support and contribution in sharing tools to improve the interpersonal relationships of the promotoras and giving them strategies to be more productive in their community work. With renewed hearts, the promotoras are ready to continue working in the service of their community.

♥ Promotores also gathered at Discovery Bay for the Bay Area regional committee's annual retreat. In a relaxed atmosphere, there were moments of reflection, fun and work, and visualizing plans for 2022 including the Regional Conference which will be held on November 12. More information about this grand event will be found on our website closer to the event date.



Visión y Compromiso's Executive Director, Maria Lemus along with her husband David Hollands joined the Bay Area Regional Committee promotores in their retreat.



NAPA

♥ After two years, the promotores of the Regional Committee in Napa met to reconnect and to celebrate their continual work supporting their community with service from the heart. The committee decided to continue working on the housing issue with their district official representatives and other local agencies.



SAN DIEGO

♥ On April 29 promotoras of the San Diego regional committee hosted a children's fair to honor one of our Latino traditions, El Día del Niño. The in-person event gathered more than 30 families from different parts of San Diego, providing a space where children and adults could participate in fun activities with lots of games, prizes, and it even included a dance contest! The committee members did an amazing job collecting toys for this event and making sure the child in all of us was celebrated and honored!

♥ Twelve promotoras from the San Diego regional committee participated and collaborated at the Adelante Promotores Conference hosted by the San Diego Promotores Coalition on Friday, May 20th. Vision y Compromiso's Programs and Education Department staff facilitated three of the six sessions presented to the more than 200 promotores in attendance. It was a great success—promotores left informed, motivated, and above all, empowered.



COACHELLA

♥ The male promotores of the Coachella regional committee organized an in-person Mother's Day celebration dinner to honor the mothers and mother figures of the committee. They recognize their contribution not only to their families but to their communities. They broke bread together and talked about their future plans to continue their environmental justice work—much-needed in Coachella.



KERN

♥ The Health Equity team participated in the Kern County Candidate Forum where candidates that are running for county seats, convened. The promotoras were able to ask questions that impact their communities around health equity and access to health. They made sure each candidate addressed each topic and shared their solutions to these disparities. Now promotoras are well informed and ready to support their communities!



WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED? WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE LEGISLATIVE VISITS? WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Contact Peter Phillips, Advocacy Manager at peter@visionycompromiso.org or via phone at (213) 500-6262.

UNITED IN ADVOCACY

Over 50 promotores from the Network virtually met with more than 20 state legislators on May 3, 2022, on what was our 17th Annual Legislative Day! They flexed their advocacy muscles to prioritize 8 bills in hopes of moving them ahead in the legislative process with the goal of all 8 becoming laws. These proposals include creating a pilot program to give undocumented residents unemployment insurance, expanding the role of promotores to serve as health navigators, allowing all undocumented of all ages, to be eligible for Medi-Cal health coverage, and strengthening community resources in special education programs.



To make the case, over 20 promotores from regional committees across the state went to Sacramento on May 4th on our Statewide Action Day, to meet with legislators including Assembly Health Committee Chair Joaquin Arambula, and Senator Monique Limon. As promotores continue to advocate for their community, Senator Limon's statement rings true, "You are the ones who can work in the community, and you are the messengers for health for all."

A long overdue bill in Congress to protect pregnant workers was supported this month by promotores from Nebraska. They met with staff from Senator Deb Fischer's office to advocate for passage of this bill that will require employers to accommodate the needs of pregnant workers such as providing a seat for workers who stand long hours, or allowing frequent bathroom breaks. In many states workers do not have these protections. The bill is five senators short of passage and Senator Fischer's staff indicated her support if final details are worked out.



-BEYOND THE NETWORK-

Our network is expanding and reaching promotores in Nevada, Nebraska, Utah, Kansas, Arizona, Texas, Illinois and Mexico. Our impact reaches beyond the Network Department through our impactful and effective collaborations with other departments of Visión y Compromiso.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Join us in welcoming **Maribel Montes de Oca** to our wonderful familia at Visión y Compromiso. She is joining the team of our newest department, Community Engagement! We can't wait to see the wonderful work she'll do in service of our community.

Maribel Montes de Oca comes from the montañas of Michoacan and Washington state. She is a bilingual Spanglish speaking Xicana grounded en comunidad, advocacy, equidad and el corazón de servicio. When Maribel was younger she wanted to grow up to be la reina Selena Quintanilla. Now Maribel harnesses the reina's power into efforts of advocacy, equity and the power of chisme (radical formal and informal information sharing). She has years of experience shared from her familia, teachers, colegas and youth in immigrant and refugee rights, policy advocacy, community and migrant health centers, community organizing and coalition building. Maribel is fiercely passionate about advocating alongside comunidad, ensuring communities most impacted are centered in decision making, and luchando for a better present and futuro. When Maribel isn't working you can find her enjoying el sol, paddle boarding, making a mess in the cocina, cooking antojos, chismeando with loved ones, or traveling!



VISIÓN Y COMPROMISO EMPLOYMENT

We're Hiring! ~ We're Hiring!

*Please check our website for job announcements
of our current employment opportunities.*

• Our Calendar •

For information about upcoming events, visit our [events page](#).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES—SAVE THE DATES!

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

San Fernando Regional Conference
Aug 20 • 9am–3pm

Orange County Regional Conference
& Health and Resource Fair
Sept 16 • 9am–12pm

Stanislaus Mental Health Conference
Oct 29 • 9am–1pm

Bay Area Regional Conference
Nov 12 • 9 am–2pm

20TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“The Role of the Community
Promotor in Creating Equity and
a Culture of Prevention”

OCTOBER 6–8, 2022
Los Angeles • Hybrid

www.vyconference.org

DID YOU MISS ANY OF OUR PAST EVENTS?

Don't worry! You can find the [recordings of some of our past events](#).

Have questions about the work of a promotor? Would you like to know more about a committee in your region? Are you interested in advocating for your community?

PLEASE REACH OUT TO US:



Norma Benítez
Network Director
norma@visionycompromiso.org



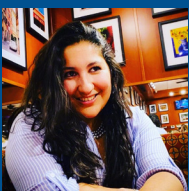
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