

Newsletter: July 2022



FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

Spotlight: Celebrating Immigrants in Marin

We had a full house at the San Rafael Community Center on June 23rd to celebrate immigrants in Marin!

(pictured on the right: Pegah Faed, executive director of First 5 Marin; Douglas Mundo, executive director of the Multicultural Center of Marin; and Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, a First 5 commissioner.)



We began our policy forum with discussion of the new report: "**Equitable Pandemic Recovery Strategies for Marin**." Thanks to our panelists: **Chandra Alexandre** from

Community Action Marin, **Omar Carrera** from Canal Alliance, **Lucie Hollingsworth** from Legal Aid of Marin and **Cheryl Paddock** from North Marin Community Services.

For the next part of the agenda, "**Programs to Welcome and Support Immigrants & Help Them Thrive**," we were honored to welcome **Marin County District Attorney Lori Frugoli** and **Marin County Public Defender David Sutton**, who shared information about their respective immigrant support and relief programs. The presentations continued with **Cecilia Perez** from San Rafael City Schools (Supporting English Learners in School), **Socorro Romo** from West Marin Community Services (Abriendo Caminos and Latino Engagement), **Gina Guillemette** from Community Action Marin (Serving Immigrants through a Whole Family Approach), **Javier Vacuna** from the Multicultural Center of Marin (Immigrant Resources and Community Resilience) and **Alejandro Menacho** from North Marin Community Services (LatinX Services in Novato).

We concluded the policy program with a presentation by San Rafael City Councilmember **Maika Llorens Gulati**, who shared her immigration life story.

After a bountiful buffet dinner on the patio with friends and colleagues (and live music), we concluded the event with special recognitions to:

- **Cuerpo Corazón Comunidad** - for keeping the community informed
- **Voces del Canal/Canal Alliance** - for outreach and advocacy
- **Community Action Marin & Marin Child Care Council & Parent Voices** - for providing critical child care services and parent support during the COVID pandemic
- **Cesar Lagleva** - for being an outstanding advocate
- **Bordenave's Bakery** – for being a proud immigrant employer
- **Luz Alvarado, Linda Que & Voces del Cambio** – for being champions for safety
- **Lupe Garcia/Tamales Doña Lupe** - for being a small but mighty force in West Marin
- **Samantha Ramirez** - for her fabulous work with the Marin County Youth

Commission

- **Parent Services Project** - for their very important work with children and families

We also presented two very special awards:

- **Florencia Parada** – for being the heart of the community
- **Vinh Luu** - a lifetime achievement award for his service to the Asian community in Marin County

If you missed this wonderful event, you are invited to watch the video! You may view the video [HERE](#).

[If you have any questions, please email Michelle@First5Marin.org.]

**SAVE-THE-DATE for the next meeting
of the First 5 Marin Children and
Families Commission: Wednesday,
September 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.**

First 5 Things to Read Today!

Take a look at some of the recent articles about important issues related to children and families:



1. CNN: Opinion: If women are encouraged to breastfeed for two years, they need much more support

2. Opinion: COVID-19 vaccination is approved for babies. As a pediatrician, here's why I recommend it.

COVID-19 has caused more than 2 million infections among children ages 6 months to 4 years old and is associated with 20,000 hospitalizations.

3. EdSource: More teachers, outreach needed to support California's youngest English learners

California's effort to provide all 4-year-olds in the state with one year of transitional kindergarten, or TK, by 2025 is historic and one of the largest investments state policymakers are making in our youngest learners that will pay dividends for decades to come.

4. The Hill: Our children are in crisis; thus, our village is in crisis

As a society, we often refer to the proverb, it takes a

village to raise a child. The village — families, friends, schools, clinical professionals, communities and elected officials — has never been more important as our children experience the pain and impacts caused by struggles with their mental health.

5. CNN: Set bedtime back to prepare your child for kindergarten, study says

A backpack, lunch box, crayons and at least 10 hours of sleep each night are all things children need to get off to a good start in kindergarten, according to a new study.

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