

A photograph of two women, likely of Asian descent, wearing face masks and looking intently at a document or screen. The woman on the left is wearing a pink top and a purple mask, while the woman on the right is wearing a tan top and a black floral mask. The image is framed by a white border with a torn-paper effect. The background is a light, neutral color.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Solidarity's 2020-21 Annual Report



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Kevin Mo-Wong
Executive Director

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been a little over 3 years since I took over as Executive Director of Solidarity. In this time, I have been able to work alongside and lead a staff, board, & group of dedicated partners/donors to grow in our compassion for those in our city who may tend to go unheard, be overlooked, and unfortunately, find themselves under-represented.

Solidarity, even in our founding, has always been an organization that deeply and passionately recognizes that everyone - regardless of ethnicity, country of origin, gender, sexuality, socio-economic standing, or faith - has dignity and worth, because they are made in the image of God. And **our calling, as a faith-based organization, is to emulate the way that Jesus - through relationship - amplified this inherent dignity and worth by loving those who find themselves on the margins as well.** He never stopped there. Instead, he spoke out against the systems of power that perpetuated the power dynamics, attempting to help humanity reimagine a different and more beautiful way to live.

This calling, **to break the barriers that inhibit all people from an opportunity to thrive**, is what personally drives me and the staff, and therefore, our organization. It is why we do the work that we have been doing for nearly 20 years. **I would venture to guess that this is also what drives you - as donors, partners, & champions of our neighbors - to be invested in Solidarity's mission.**

Thank you for this investment, especially in what was a disruptive & tumultuous pandemic time for the Garnet & Maple communities. Due to COVID, the disparity between those who have resources and those who do not exponentially grew, yet your investment in the mission helped provide a pathway of hope for two resilient communities. While there is still an incredible amount of work to be done, Solidarity has seen fruit in this difficult year. **This annual report is a small way to capture this fruit and the beautiful things God did, and to highlight the neighbors who are breaking barriers of their own to contribute to positive change within the city.**

WHAT IS SOLIDARITY ALL ABOUT?

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, BREAKING BARRIERS

It's as simple as that...

Building relationships, grounded in mutuality, is what drives our mission.

Breaking barriers, so that all have an opportunity to flourish, is why we exist!





VISION & MISSION

WHY WE EXIST

Everyone deserves a chance to flourish, to be loved, and to be treated with the utmost dignity that we saw modeled in Jesus's interactions with others.

MISSION

Solidarity's mission is to equip Latino immigrant families from under-resourced neighborhoods to transform their communities.

WHAT WE DO

Solidarity creates opportunities to **build relationships** with people in the Maple and Garnet Community. We build relationships that amplify their voices and the strengths of the community.



VISION & MISSION

HOW DO WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS?

We build relationships through our three initiatives. Each initiative provides a context for relationships.

THREE INITIATIVES

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

EDUCATION INITIATIVE IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE

Context For Relationships (CFR) - Programs specifically designed to foster and develop dignifying relationships while simultaneously equipping neighbors to address multiple identified barriers negatively affecting their community.



THE PROBLEM

SOLIDARITY HAS IDENTIFIED FIVE BARRIERS

Unfortunately, our world is full of exclusion, inequality, and unjust systems that create barriers to everyone having the opportunity to thrive. Here are five core issues that inhibit our neighbors' ability to flourish:

**1. EDUCATIONAL
INEQUITY**

**2. BROKEN
IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

3. YOUTH VIOLENCE

**4. FOOD & FINANCIAL
INSECURITY**

**5. LACK OF
REPRESENTATION IN
PLACES OF INFLUENCE**



THE FIVE BARRIERS

EDUCATIONAL INEQUITY:

Educational inequity occurs when a people group lacks access to academic resources & support due to outside factors that are not under their control, in contrast to the majority who have access to academic resources & support.

FOOD & FINANCIAL INSECURITY:

Food & financial insecurity happens when families are forced into survival mode by a limiting economic environment.

YOUTH VIOLENCE:

Youth violence occurs when there is a misguided sense of belonging that leads young people (ages 10-24) or youth in high-risk environments to a destructive pattern of behavior to others and self.

LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN PLACES OF INFLUENCE:

Lack of representation in places of influence occurs when overlooked and under-resourced neighborhoods are neither sought after nor have the ability to affect the policies that impact their community.

BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM:

A broken immigration system exists when a government policy is outdated since its inception 50-80 years ago, has not been fully enforced, and has not been able to make progress in having policies that 1) create new pathways to citizenship, and 2) break the backlogs of people trying to get into the country.

WHAT DOES BREAKING BARRIERS LOOK LIKE?

Check out the **transformative statistics** behind all the work you invested in through **partnership with Solidarity's Context For Relationships (CFRs)**.



EDUCATION INITIATIVE

EDUCATION INITIATIVE CFRs



Garnet After-School Program

A COVID-safe elementary homework tutoring program aiming to address the barrier of educational inequity.



Tilt

An outdoor adventure program that provides intentional experiences in nature that lead to transformation in the lives of youth in high-risk situations



Summer Elementary Program

Combating summer learning loss through a six-week educational program.



Maple Elementary Program

(COMING IN 2021-22)



- **18 students** received much-needed distance learning homework tutoring during COVID.
- Students had access to **315 total hours of tutoring.**
- **17 social/emotional exercises** were introduced to students.
- **179 days of a safe learning environment** provided for students.
- **13 individual educational plans** were created to target student learning goals.



- **18 math enrichment** exercises were used to equip students.
- **10 health and nutritional workshops** were attended by students during the summer.
- Students engaged academically for **24 days combating summer learning loss.**



- **12 students enrolled** in Tilt, an outdoor program aimed at reducing gang involvement for teens in high-risk situations.
- **24 teens went to winter camp** in 2020 (pre-COVID).
- **15 outdoor adventures were organized**, exposing teens to positive activities and alternatives.



A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

In the beginning of the pandemic, when distance learning was first being implemented, Solidarity was concerned about the growing disparity gap between the accessibility to quality academic resources that our students had in contrast to their middle-class peers. A redesigned, COVID-safe, outdoor elementary program focused on educational equity was started in response to needs voiced by concerned parents. When asked what the program added to their child's education, one parent responded...

"Solidarity for me is a big help because they support my daughters... I know a little English, but not as much as I would like, and the truth is, they are a big help, because - as [my daughters] are in older grades - I can't help them...[Solidarity] gives them the help that I cannot."

- Garnet mother of 4th/6th graders



NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE CFRs



Mamas De Maple

Neighborhood leaders come together to provide resources, cultural events, and community building gatherings for the Maple residents.



Neighborhood Relief Fund

To combat the heightened financial insecurity caused by COVID, donors, partners, and staff created the Neighbor Relief Fund to get much-needed financial aid to neighbors.



Community Food Distributions

Addressing issues of food insecurity, Solidarity held ongoing food distributions to get nutritious food into the homes of our neighbors.



Mamas De Garnet

(COMING IN 2021-22)



- **6 moments where neighborhood leaders organized** to support a social cause close to their hearts.
- **8 moms were equipped in computer literacy** classes.
- **10 COVID-safe gatherings** were held to celebrate cultural and religious events, holidays, & 2021 graduates.
- **35+ adult Bible studies were held** virtually and in-person (thanks Judy, Jazmin, & Veronica!)



- **2 distribution sites:**
 - Garnet & Maple.
- **8 Partners**
 - Abound Food Care, Placentia Presbyterian Church, Vineyard Anaheim, The Vine Church, Sojourners, Fullerton Free, Ekko Church, & The Well.
- **496 families received food.**
- **\$101,250 worth of food distributed** to families.



- **85 donors** contributed
- **\$67,000+ distributed** to neighbors experiencing COVID-related hardships.
- **112 families received funding** to assist with COVID-related needs.
- An **additional \$30,000 was raised** to distribute in a future Neighbor Relief Fund (Fall 2021).



**OTHER
NEIGHBORHOOD
INITIATIVE
STATS**

- Partnered with the county, city, Topaz Elementary, & Fullerton Fire to host a vaccination clinic:
 - **200+ individuals were fully vaccinated, with an additional 120 receiving at least their first shot.**
- **2 family field trips were hosted** (park & beach) to strengthen community connectedness.



A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

Patricia Gonzalez is a Maple mother who is suffering with cancer. She attends as many events as she can, health permitting. And when she does come, she jumps right into helping, donating supplies for the kids, and assisting in decorating for events. Martha San Elias, Maple Community Development Lead, keeps in touch regularly to pray with Patricia when she cannot go to the events.

Martha says this about Patricia:

"To me, she is a super mom who is struggling twice as much to get ahead with her family & her health. I love the times when she can come to an event, connect and hear stories from other moms, give back to the community, and get a little relief in not having to constantly think about her illness."



IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE

IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE CFRs



Camino Immigration Services

Camino offers practical solutions to our neighbors regarding citizenship by providing quality legal counsel on immigration matters.



Community-Based Workshops

Camino partners with local community-based organizations to provide Know Your Rights workshops, and hosts webinars to inform the general public on immigration law, and advocacy.



Legislative Ministry

Collaborating with local pastors and church leaders, Solidarity & Camino engage our legislative representatives to advocate for immigrant rights.



- **423 clients served**
- **119 DACA applications** submitted
- **35 asylum seekers** assisted
- An amazing **99% case approval rate!**



- **64 allies were informed & trained** through the Demystifying DACA webinar.
- **20 DACA scholarships** (\$495 each) were raised through workshops & campaigns.
- **Started a “co-lab” partnership with Fullerton ACT** to invite church leaders to be educated and advocate for immigrant rights.



A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

With the short-lived full re-opening of DACA (*re-opened by court order to initial applications in December 2020, then closed again in July 2021 due to a separate court order*), we were able to file over 30 initial applications. The first two approvals we got back were for two amazing sisters. They had overcome many obstacles to graduate high school and had been working odd jobs to support themselves and their family since they did not have access to legal work. When their approvals finally came in, we received the following email from one of the sisters:

"I just saw that my case has been APPROVED!!! I am overjoyed and I can't even explain the happiness I am going through right now. I am SOOOO thankful for everything you have done for my sister and I. JUST THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH! You truly are angels!"

- Camino Client



NEIGHBORS OF THE YEAR

GARNET NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR



Juan Ventura

In the first month of COVID shutdowns, Solidarity & Placentia Presbyterian Church responded by equipping the Garnet community with goods and supplies to combat the food insecurity many families were facing. Juan had recently lost his job, but **instead of focusing only on his hardship, he set out to see how he could help other families in a similar situation.** He contacted Matt Anderson, Solidarity's Tilt Director, and asked if there was any way he could help the community. Every week that food distribution was held, Juan showed up to sort food, pass out boxes of supplies, and even volunteered to carry food to the homes of elderly neighbors. Thank you, Juan!

MAPLE NEIGHBOR OF THE YEAR



Maria Garcia

Maria has always exhibited a compassionate heart for her neighbors. During the pandemic, this strength was fully on display. Every week she connected with Martha San Elías to help distribute food and supplies, and to host workshops that would get much-needed resources into the hands of Maple community members. Maria volunteered to translate for a workshop in partnership with The Well Church to give neighbors access to United Way emergency funding, which **resulted in \$33,500 in mini-grants being awarded to her neighbors**. Thank you, Maria!



2020-21

SOLIDARITY'S FINANCIALS

A transparent look into the way Solidarity
managed your contributions

2020-21 NET INCOME

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

TOTAL INCOME	\$680,960.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$542,536.16
NET INCOME	\$138,424.72

Total Income: \$680,960.88

Miscellaneous

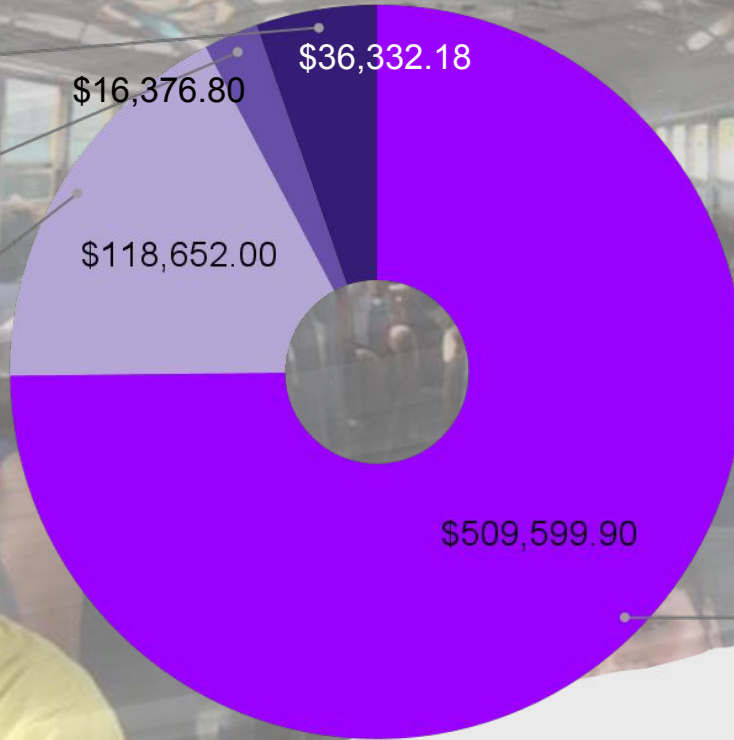
5.3%

Program

2.4%

Grants

17.4%



Fundraising

74.8%

Total Expense: \$542,536.16

Operations
37.4%

\$203,117.30

\$20,181.65

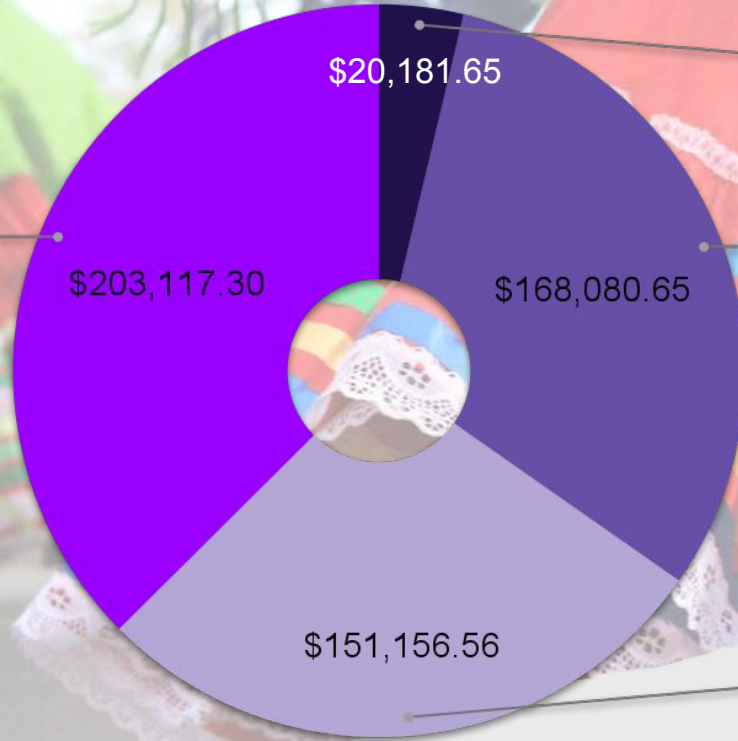
Education
3.7%

Immigration
31.0%

\$168,080.65

\$151,156.56

Neighborhood
27.9%





SO WHAT'S NEXT?

The 2020-21 year brought many unexpected developments. What are we hopeful for this next year?

WHAT'S TO COME IN 2021-22

Establish core outcomes for each barrier that Solidarity is able to positively affect.

Grow deeper partnerships with other like-minded organizations to further the mission.

Invest in neighborhood leadership spiritually, emotionally, & strategically.

1

3

5

2

4

6

Track, develop, & strengthen these outcomes so Solidarity can prove we are completing our mission.

Open key programs that contribute to the mission: Mamas de Garnet, Maple Elementary Program, & Teen Center.

Increase resident participation in places of influence where decisions impacting the neighborhood are made.



WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

We have many opportunities for you to build relationships with our neighbors. **Let's stand together in solidarity to break barriers** that have inhibited our neighbors from truly thriving.



THREE WAYS TO STAND WITH US



VOLUNTEER

www.solidaritynpo.org/VOLUNTEER



DONATE

www.solidaritynpo.org/GIVE



LEARN & SHARE

www.solidaritynpo.org/CONNECT

THANK YOU!

Solidarity is so grateful for your investment and partnership with the Garnet/Maple neighbors and Camino clients. We cannot wait to see what stories of transformation 2021-22 brings as barriers continue to be broken down and residents have more opportunities to flourish!