

Annual Report 2021

GRATITUDE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To nuestra comunidad,

Sitting here, just on the other side of 2021, I am humbled and inspired by the work we have come together to do to plant the seed that is growing into Mt. Hood Unida.

By “we”, I truly mean all of us here in the greater Mount Hood area of Oregon.

It took not one village, but all of the villages of Wemme, Welches, Brightwood, Rhododendron, Zigzag, Government Camp, Cherryville and more to begin this new nonprofit that seeks to unite the community by empowering Latinos to thrive. You have joined us in our first six months of celebration of Latinx histories, cultures, contributions and growth.

And ¡sí!, did we celebrate at our inaugural Dia de La Independencia celebration on September 19, 2021! Over 150 members of our community enjoyed a day of music, food, makers, crafters, storytelling, dance and more. Better yet, our community raised over \$9,000 for the Saul Gallegos Ruiz Scholarship and to continue growing the outreach, programs and services Mt. Hood Unida will offer for years to come. **On the morning of this event, the introduction of Mt. Hood Unida to our community, I wrote down the word “comunidad” on a little piece of paper and placed it next to my heart. Because that is how closely we hold community - at our very center, our very core - and that is where we all draw power, from the strength of who we Latinos are.**

Then, in October, you joined us for a special day of remembrance and love for those who have passed at our Dia de Los Muertos event. Again, the community came to learn about this important Latinx tradition, enjoy fresh and delicious food, and gather in peace and solidarity after nearly two years of grief and solitude.

As we wrap up this first year (well, six months of Mt. Hood Unida, to be exact - we launched on July 7, 2021, afterall!), I want to pause and reflect on those two words - “solidarity” and “solitude”. As we look at a horizon line where, all at once, we can see pain in the past, uncertainty in the present and hope in the future, I feel the least alone when I look around at this Latinx community, our mountain community, and the wonderful people who support Mt. Hood Unida in ways big and small.

It is with great gratitude that I celebrate our Latinx community on the mountain. *Gracias por el 2021, y muchas bendiciones en el 2022.*

Maria Burke, *Presidenta de Mt. Hood Unida*

OUR COMMUNITY

WHERE and WHO WE SERVE: In our first year, our primary focus is to uplift the Latinx community in the greater Mt. Hood area of Oregon. We believe this uplifts the entire community. We believe acts of equity and recognition anywhere make for meaningful change everywhere.

WHO WE WORK WITH:

- We have a growing team of amazing **volunteers** from all areas of our community. Volunteers contribute to events, manage our social media pages, serve on our Board, tell others about our services and programs, and more. We truly couldn't do *una cosa* without them.
- We currently have a five-member **Board of Directors** with strong representation of the diverse, intersectional population we serve. Visit mthoodunida.org to learn more about these dedicated *mujeres!*
- We are honored to have the support of numerous . Thank you for partnering with us and contributing funds, goods and *corazones* to our first year of events and programs.

- ❖ Mt. Hood Lion's Club - Mt. Hood, OR
- ❖ Skyway Bar and Grill - Rhododendron, OR
- ❖ Coffeehouse 26 - Welches, OR
- ❖ Sandy and Hoodland Public Libraries - Sandy and Welches, OR
- ❖ The Beer Den - Sandy, OR
- ❖ El Burro Loco - Welches, OR
- ❖ Hoodland Women's Club - Mt. Hood, OR
- ❖ La Tapatia Super Market - Portland, OR
- ❖ La Milpa - Sandy, OR
- ❖ La Cima - Sandy, OR
- ❖ La Perlita - Portland, ORValcan Cellars - Corvallis, OR
- ❖ The Whistle Stop - Welches, OR
- ❖ Neighborhood Missions - Welches, OR
- ❖ Dairy Queen - Rhododendron, OR
- ❖ Wildwood Recreation Site (BLM) - Welches, OR
- ❖ Kor Roofing - Welches, OR
- ❖ Sandy High School Azteca Club - Sandy, OR



WHAT WE DO

Events

- COMING 2022! May - *Día de las Madres*
- September - *Día de la Independencia*
- October - *Día de los Muertos*

Scholarships & Grants

For many, the cost of enrolling in an athletic program is a significant obstacle. In furtherance of our mission, Mt. Hood Unida is proud to offer the *Beca Memorial de Saul Gallegos Ruiz* (the Saul Gallegos Ruiz Memorial Scholarship, a community-funded scholarship) to encourage and enable Latinx individuals to participate in sports programs.

Programs and Services

COMING SOON! Our after school storytelling program engages local Latinx youth in a weekly meet up that encourages them to use their voice to tell their own, their family's and their community's stories through creative expression. Our students already have *una voz* - we only need to provide them more tools, skills, platforms and the time to share them.

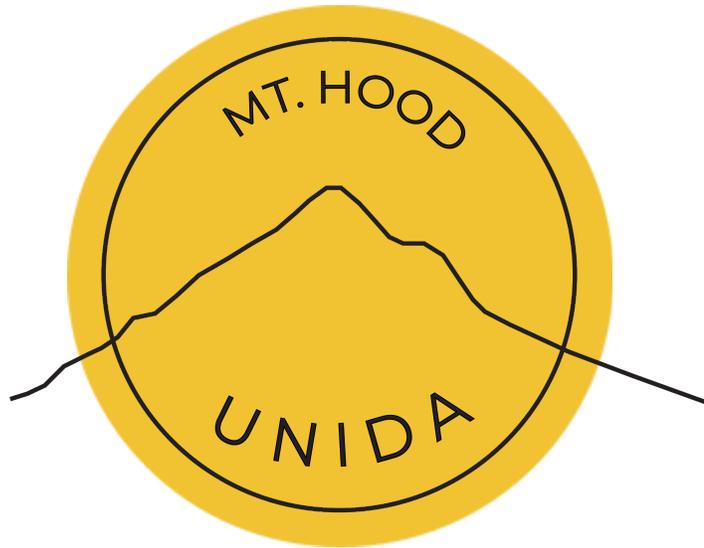
Outreach

We use our social media platforms to uplift the Latinx community; tell the broader community about our history, culture and contributions; and connect all with programs and services that help make our world more equitable. We also enjoy tabling at local events where we can connect with our community. We look for every opportunity to partner with other community organizations seeking to support Latinos so that, together, we can extend the reach of Mt. Hood Unida's mission and vision.



OUR IMPACT

We're proud of all our community accomplished in just 6 months of 2021. We can't help but feel optimistic for the impact we'll have in years to come! Here are a few highlights.



Over **150 community members** attended our first *Día de la Independencia* celebration on September 19.

We raised **over \$9,000** with **50+** community members and local business and organizations contributing.

25+ dedicated volunteers helped make it *un día increíble*.

Over **50 community members** joined our *Día de los Muertos* honoring on October 31.

We collectively honored the lives and legacies of beloved friends and family we lost (and you can't put a number on the value of that).

OUR VISION FOR 2022

As *Vicepresidenta* of Mt. Hood unida, one of my *cosas favoritas* about celebrating the history, culture and contributions of Latinos in the Mt. Hood area is brainstorming all kinds of fun, interesting and inspiring ways to partner with you, our community, to do as much of it as possible!

Here are the things I'm thinking about for 2022:

Día de las Madres

In May, we'd love to show how much we love our *mamas* by hosting a celebratory meal. We truly believe our *mamas* - many who have sacrificed so much to give us the lives we have today - make this world go round and this mountain stand tall. We can't wait to shine a light on the special *madres de la montaña* with cultural food and celebration.

After School Program

We believe lifting Latinx voices lifts all in our small mountain community. When sharing our voices together, we strengthen the local Latinx community and amplify our amazing contributions.

This program would engage local Latinx youth in a weekly after school program that encourages them to use their voice to tell their own, their family's and their community's stories through creative expression. In our primarily White community, our ability to tell our stories is critical for cultural awareness, self-esteem and community building. Our students already have *una voz* - we only need to provide them more tools, skills, platforms and the time to share them.

¡Todo es posible!

Our community is amazing, and we know you have ideas, too. I want to hear them! Email us at mthoodunida@gmail.com and tell us how you'd like to celebrate the history, culture and contributions of Latinos in the Mt. Hood community.

Want to join me in this work? Keep reading for all the ways you can!

Cristina Saldivar, *Vicepresidenta de Mt. Hood Unida*



HOW YOU CAN GIVE

To all our supporters this year, gracias por el 2021, y muchas bendiciones en el 2022.

Want to get involved in Mt. Hood Unida? There are so many ways! Join us in whatever way is meaningful to you.



Donate

We are grateful for monetary and in-kind donations from community members and local businesses.

- Donate online at mthoodunida.org.
- Send checks to P.O. Box 369, Rhododendron, OR 97049.
- Have a service or material good you think we could use? Email us at mthoodunida@gmail.com.
- Businesses who donate funds, services and/or goods to help us deliver events and programs receive free promotion on our posters, social media and more. Email us at mthoodunida@gmail.com for more information.

Volunteer

Have *un latido del corazón*? This is community work, and all are welcome to join us in it. Email us at mthoodunida@gmail.com, tell us about your skills and passions, and we'll suggest opportunities that might interest you.

Join Our Board

As a new and small organization, we are always seeking passionate members of the community to join Mt. Hood Unida's Board. Whether you've served on several nonprofit boards or this would be your first, we know you'll bring new ideas, enthusiasm and perseverance to our important historical, cultural and equity-driven work. Email us at mthoodunida@gmail.com.

Spread the Word

We're not ashamed to admit it - we love attention! Give us some love on social media.

- On Facebook at facebook.com/Mt-Hood-Unida.
- On Instagram at [@mt.hoodunida](https://www.instagram.com/mt.hoodunida).
- In the real world at "Mt. Hood Ooo-knee-duh" (for those wondering how to pronounce it!). Tell your friends and family about us the good old fashioned way - word of mouth!

