Homies Unidos will be celebrating 14 years doing exceptional work in the Pico Union, Koreatown and Westlake areas of Los Angeles.

We would like to thank all those supporters who have stood next to us in the good times and the unjust persecution of our Executive Director Alex Sanchez by the FBI. All charges were dropped after four years. While other organization would have closed, Homies Unidos stood strong and continued conducting prevention and intervention programs in our community.

We will continue working hard to help our young men and women in gain the skills to become strong leaders. We want you to join us in becoming a stronger organization for years to come.

Points of Interest:
- Alex Sanchez Case Dropped
- Advocating For Victims Rights
- ASAPLE Families working to free their love ones

ASOCIACION DE SALVADORENOS PRIVADOS DE LIBERTAD EN EL EXTERIOR (ASAPLE)

Elizza Jurado has been working hard to gain the freedom of Salvadoran incarcerated people in the prisons of California for the last eight years. Homies Unidos has joined the fight by organizing families of those incarcerated to be able to advocate for their love ones to legislators and California Department of Correction and Rehabilitations officials.

In June Homies Unidos took a group of families with the help of the Salvadoran consulate to Sacramento. Families were able to express their concerns about their love ones denial of parole for simply having immigration holds. Elizza Jurado was able to present 25 cases in which people incarcerated have demonstrated to officials in their parole hearing that they are ready to go home. There package of support they introduce shows that once they get released to El Salvador they will have the necessary support in getting employment, Alcoholic Anonymous and religious services.

EPIPANY PROJECT PROGRAM

After Melinda graduated our Epiphany Project life skills development program she enrolled in our Youth leadership summer internship. She has now been hired to be part of our team. She wants to improve the lives of other youth like her.

The Epiphany Project was created for at-risk and gang involved youth. a 12-week life-skills building program for “at-risk” and gang involved youth involved in participating agencies. Using cognitive behavior concepts youth learn the reasons they make the decisions and the thought process that takes place when they do.
Over the past 8 years Homies Unidos has removed over 650 gang related tattoos.

LIBERTAD CON DIGNIDAD
To Educate local Central American immigrant community, youth and their families on legal process of deportation and criminal justice, to nurture a movement through civic engagement, action, public awareness and on the power of advocacy. To do so we are currently working to end solitary confinement, Educating Central American school teachers through and exchange program with Cal. State Dominguez Hills and empowering our youth through the Youth Leadership training.

END SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
Since July 8th, 2013 we have supported the California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement. We provided resources to the families as they brought the message of the torturous conditions their love ones were suffering in solitary confinement. The California prison hunger strike brought a national and international outcry as the days when in 30, then 40 days. The hunger strike ended at the 60th day when there were commitments by members of the assembly and state senate to have hearings on the concerns brought up my people in solitary confinement. The strikers are demanding that California Department of Corrections (CDCR) address the five core demands and 40 supplemental demands. Which include; ending group punishment, debriefing policies, end long-term solitary confinement, adequate food and provide constructive programs. We have facilitated meetings with families and experts on policy and prison systems; we have connected them with media outlets and participated in rallies locally as well as the state capital and prisons where they have the Segregated Housing Units (SHU).

SALVADORAN SCHOOL TEACHERS
As part of our Leadership Development program, we had three of our graduates give a presentation in July to a group of 15 Salvadoran school teachers in an exchange program in Cal St. Dominguez Hills. These teachers come for six months to learn how to deal with school base violence. Our youth being Central American immigrants understand this issue very well and make suggestions using their personal stories. We take this group in an educational tour through our community where they have a clear understanding about the impact of violence in our communities as well as the efforts being done to eradicate the problems.

Lloyd Lewis(22), An Epiphany Project graduate, was ready for a change and had begun his journey on his own. the Epiphany Project helped him continue that journey and begin to see life in a different light it gave him, as he said, a “positive outlook”.

“Over the past 8 years Homies Unidos has removed over 650 gang related tattoos”
VOLUNTEERS/ INTERNS

Our volunteers are at the heart of Homies Unidos. The volunteers/interns have been involved with all of our ongoing programs and supporting the office tasks by contacting program participants, revising curriculum, sending out invitations, researching statistics and information for our Epiphany Project sessions, answering phones, and attending our events — to name just a few.

This summer we are grateful to have had Ricardo Kim, Juan Jose Mangandi, Evelyn Cortez and Reina Salazar help us in the implementation of our programs and events.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Homies Unidos’ Leadership Development Trainings engages youth and their family of our immigrant community to advocate for just immigration and criminal justice laws that have affected them or their family members.

This summer we trained 14 graduates of our Epiphany project program as community organizers; we organized a Know Your Rights workshop in MacArthur Park and met with our city representatives where they expressed their concerns in their communities. We aim to influence the criminal justice and immigration systems that directly impact these youth’s chances for a healthy and productive future and break the destructive cycle of state repression and community violence while developing our youth into leaders.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN

Homies Unidos in April convene a event called “We Want Peace In El Salvador” to bring a diversity of organizations together to start speaking and look for solutions of the violence that has created a crisis in El Salvador and throughout Central America.

No one was prepared for the 90,000 children that are expected to be cross the cross through Mexico into the U.S. this year. But we are organizing with organizations who have come together to share resources and best practices. Homies Unidos will be helping in providing immigrant youth with the tools to navigate the culture clash youth will be confronting. In July we held a forum on The crisis named “ Child refugees, Understanding the Crisis” and since then we have organized and weekly meeting and rallies and in Oct. 4 a concert to raise more awareness.

“Homies Unidos saw that I had potential to motivate the young ones. You have to be ready to succeed and leave no space in your own mind for any other option.” Juan Esparza
Homies Unidos

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“Believe in the possibility of a world without violence”

Founded in El Salvador in 1996 and expanding to Los Angeles, CA in 1998, Homies Unidos mission is to defend the inherent right of youth, families and their communities to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential in a just, safe and healthy society. To achieve this, Homies Unidos; Epiphany Project, life skills program; Libertad Con Dignidad, our advocacy program; and our Tattoo Removal program work to end violence and promote peace in our communities by empowering youth and their families to become advocates for social justice rather than agents of self-destruction.

Please contact us for more info: Alex Sanchez
213-383-7484

Wish List

Events: promotional items for events, event signage, door prize items, paper towels, artwork, bags of ice, paper plates, napkins, cutlery, hand sanitizer, plastic gloves, packing tape, boxes, large gift bags, holiday ribbon, new toys, kid's books (through teen), coloring books, bead sets, Barbie dolls, action figures, sports balls, sports cards, arts & crafts kits, Legos, building blocks, Matchbox cars, dress-up clothes, bath & body lotions, games and puzzles.


Services: printing and graphic design, a marketing and public relations volunteer to write press releases, general volunteers, Web site assistance and computer technical services.

Please, log onto our website at: www.homiesunidos.org

Sign up to receive our newsletter, make a donation, or volunteer your time.

Together we will continue transforming the lives of our youth.

Events

Sep. 26-27 Fruits of War screening at Justice on Trial film festival

Sep 30th – Alex Sanchez presenting at Holy Names University, Oakland, CA.

Oct. 4th – Vos Sos Mi Canto – Concert to benefit child refugees at Plaza de la Raza.

Oct. 25th – School of The Americas Watch fundraiser to send our youth to Atlanta Georgia.

Nov. 13th-14th Anniversary ,Have dinner with Homies Unidos staff at TEIX French Restaurant.

For more info Call: 213-383-7484
E-mail: homiesunidos@homiesunidos.org