

## **Vanessa Pinto**

New Board member Vanessa Pinto organizes community building, advocacy and support network programming for CHEER (Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research) in Long Branch. Before finding her passion in community organizing, Pinto was an accountant in her hometown of La Paz, Bolivia.

For 20+ years, Pinto has volunteered for Long Branch community organizations and Silver Spring schools, promoting the community school approach. She has taught Spanish literacy and basic computer classes (through the YMCA-Linkages-To-Learning Program) to parents at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School. Since the outbreak of COVID in 2020, Pinto — in collaboration with community members and youth from Long Branch — has led the school's weekly CHEER food distribution program serving 350 families.

