CEO Message: March 2026

West Modesto Community Collaborative achieved important milestones. During the month of February, we organized our first “Heart to Heart” Community Wellness Event through our Health Equity Initiative with the support of our partners: Sutter Health, the American Heart Association, Golden Valley Health Centers, Central Valley PACE, and WIC. The goal was to promote collaboration with the vulnerable communities of West and South Modesto and to expand access to health resources and education. It is our vision to continue this partnership to offer health education on topics such as diabetes, childhood obesity, women’s health, hypertension (high blood pressure), and other chronic diseases in underserved communities.

The agency organized community members and staff to create “Together We Walk, Together We Thrive.” This bi-weekly walking group is open to all ages and takes place every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. We especially welcome our senior citizens group and other community members to join us as we walk together, stay active, and strengthen our collective commitment to building a healthier community.

The agency also partnered with the California Workforce Outreach Project (CWOP) to provide information on worker safety and resources to dairy workers. This was a wonderful experience for both WMCC staff members and the workers. During the meeting, workers expressed their concerns about ICE and the need for food assistance and other resources.

Lightning Bugs celebrated a special Valentine’s Day event with their parents. This provided an enjoyable time for families, and we appreciate the children’s full participation.

The Board of Directors has appointed three new board members: Nancy Martinez, Debrief; Luke Schwartz, Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department; and Juan Telles, VIP & community member from West Modesto.

The WMCC podcast, “Vibin with West Modesto,” continues to highlight the agency’s magnificent work and introduces the community to future leaders, agencies, and companies that offer job opportunities.

Meetings and Events:

The Community Builders/People Plan will be holding an informational meeting on the following topics:

- CWOP Worker Rights
- Faith in the Valley will present the objectives of the Valley Watch Network
- El Concilio will discuss how to stay safe during these challenging times

March 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Join us on May 5th for our Cinco de Mayo celebration fundraiser, featuring great food, music, and some of the best coffee in the Central Valley from The Pour Over Coffee Company. This special event supports our work in the community, and we know you’ll enjoy every cup of this exceptional coffee while helping a great cause.

Ticket price is $30 per ticket, and sponsorships are welcome.

Finally, there is a need for greater support from the community at large to speak out about the way ICE is conducting the treatment of undocumented individuals, documented individuals, and U.S. citizens. As I have mentioned in the past, deporting criminals should be the country's highest priority. The labor of Latinos in the workforce is especially important to the economy of this country. Many essential industries, including dairy work and agricultural labor that sustain America's food basket, rely heavily on this workforce.

I invite you to have conversations with your families, faith leaders, churches, civic leaders, and others as we reflect on what God would call us to do. In these moments, we must ask ourselves where our faith principles come from and ensure that they remain at the center of our actions and decisions.

Quote:
"When communities are given the tools, knowledge, and opportunity to lead, they have the power to transform their own future."