

# THE PROMISE



MISSION PROMISE  
COMUNIDAD PROMESA DE LA MISION  
NEIGHBORHOOD



MPN Families and Coaches.

## A DAY WITH THE GIANTS

On Sunday, June 4th, at the Oracle Park Stadium, the San Francisco Giants faced the Baltimore Orioles for the third time in the season, and although they beat the Giants 8-3, what happened before the game was the most exciting. Nine MPN kids were invited to be a part of "SF Giants Kids Take the Field," to meet the players and enjoy the game.

Thanks to Bank of America, MEDA had the opportunity to invite eleven children between the ages of 8 and 13 and their families to watch the game. Family Success Coaches from Mission Promise Neighborhood met at the entrance of Oracle Park Stadium with families and children to give instructions and give them tickets to enter the stadium to watch and enjoy the game.

Thirty minutes before the game began, a Giants representative led the nine lucky kids to the baseball field, just behind home plate, where they had the opportunity to watch the kick-off ceremony and sing the National Anthem. The representative of the Giants gave a baseball to each of the participants and asked them to take the position of a player on the field, they counted to three, and the kids ran excitedly to their position. At that moment, players from the SF Giants came out onto the field to take their positions and met the child at his plate to greet them and sign their baseball.

The participants could not stop smiling at the emotion they felt for having received an autographed ball from their favorite San Francisco Giants player; commenting, "This is the best day of my life" and "This is my dream come true" and other phrases were euphorically expressed by our youth people of Mission Promise Neighborhood for having been part of this experience.



Walter and Liliana on their way to the State Capital.

## ADVOCATING TO END CHILD POVERTY

On April 27th, ten families that are part of Mission Promise Neighborhood (MPN), travel to Sacramento from Plaza Adelante. Their goal was to support the "End Child Poverty in California" campaign by sharing their experiences and advocating for Assembly Bill 1321. If this bill passes, the state will allocate funds to create a service provider in every neighborhood in the state of California similar to the one we have in the Mission.

Two families were able to share why it was important for them to attend. Liliana, an MPN client, said that the help she received when she came to a program like this has helped her get ahead. She shared that this type of program was important to enroll her children in schools, and they accompanied her to the district to attend her appointments. Liliana shared was that these programs are important to families and provide a "reciprocal" service to families and their children, meaning that the effort their parents give serves as an example for how their children can achieve their goals.

Jaime, also felt very motivated to share his voice in a different setting. He has been an MPN client since his daughter attended Everett School and as a Housing Promoter offering services to others. What stood out to him the most was the opportunity to be in the same area with people who can change the system that affects our communities. After the pandemic, he has seen how the community has supported people every step, and how important it has been to recover from the effects. Jaime shared that these programs are relied on that allows people to "keep walking, or get up to achieve their dreams and goals."



Kids at the Mission Graduates Spring Festival.

## 50 YEARS OF MISSION GRADUATES

St. John's Educational Threshold Center, SJETC, was first established as an after school program at the Espiscola Church of St. John the Evangelist in the early 70s. This was done to support students who had been identified as at-risk from Marshall Elementary, and followed them through 9th grade at Everett Middle School. In 2006, SJETC became Mission Graduates, the name might have changed but the mission remained the same, to continue to support students reach their college dreams.

Today, Mission Graduates provides programming at 12 different school sites and has five unique programs. Their success in the Mission Community has helped many Latinx, Black, and immigrant San Francisco students make their college dream a reality.

On May 7, 2023 Mission Graduates hosted their Primavera Festival on the Corner of 18th St. and Valencia Street to commemorate their 50th Year Anniversary. This is the first time in three years that they have been able to celebrate with the community since the pandemic and COVID-19 regulations. Due to this, they wanted to make sure everyone took part in the celebration. There were over 200 people registered and many more walked-in the day of the event. This event welcomed current students and their families, alumni, staff, volunteers, donors, and community members.

The space was filled with different activities such as an Opening Blessing Ceremony, face painting, food vendors, murals, a DJ, and more. It is the least to say that their event was a huge success as many of the alumni from the early years made an appearance, learned about the growth and success of the organization that supported them in their teens.

Trina Ramsey, Chief Development Officer says, "It is really

powerful to be a part of an organization that has this impact. Working with parents from the students' elementary stage and helping families believe that it is possible for either kids to go to college. Even more important, we stick with them to ensure that they graduate, and even support them into their early career phase."

Through their hard work they have accomplish the following this past year:

100% of seniors completed their financial aid applications

100% of seniors applied to at least one university and

accepted the offer by May 1st

81% of seniors applied to at least 2 scholarships

65% of seniors got into a UC

100% of seniors got into a CSU

The seniors raised a total of \$857,000 over 4 years in scholarship money.

Persistence rates:

68% of college students graduate within 4 years. 89% of college students graduate within 4-5 years.

As their 50th Year celebration continues, make sure to take part in their grand Annual Fundraiser, Food for Thought. This will take place in the month of October at various Mission Businesses and Restaurants. Learn more about Mission Graduates at [missiongraduates.org](http://missiongraduates.org).



## THE PROMISE COMMITTEE

*From left to right: Alejandro, Karla, Aarón and Celina. Our mission is to share stories of students, families, and partner organization accomplishments and stories across our network. The Promise newsletter will be published quarterly, so the next one will be in Fall 2023. If you have an idea or would like to share your story, contact Alejandro at (415) 857-2834 or [abautista@medasf.org](mailto:abautista@medasf.org).*