



Dear Participant,

Saturday, May 4th was truly a day of celebration! It was so inspiring to join with you, nearly seventy HEAL neighborhood and school leaders, to discuss transforming communities into hubs for *healthy eating and active living*. We know why you came - because you refuse to accept that your children will be the first generation in two centuries to live fewer years than their parents. We know you understand the urgency of this issue, and are committed to taking action for change. We thank you for coming to spend the day with us in Los Angeles.

We were so pleased to feature resident leaders as speakers. Our keynote, Baldwin Park's Herminio Escalante, invoked the critical importance of his family as the reason why he has worked to build biking and hiking trails, strengthen school wellness policies, and push the City Council to prioritize health equity! The family theme echoed continuously through the day's activities, bringing home the importance of family in everything you do.

Transforming the environment where your families live will require plenty of hard work - but resident leaders made it clear that progress has already begun:

- María Pérez and other residents refused to accept "no" when pushing for a new neighborhood park - and now the park will be inaugurated for West Ventura families!
- Ontario's María Alonso has a similar dream - of an urban farm providing quality, affordable, organic produce to families throughout the neighborhood. Through their partnership with the City's planning department, we expect that we will soon see family backyards and empty lots transformed to produce gardens!
- Lemon Grove schools' parent activists like Shelene Lopez and Rosa Carney are determined to ensure that "wellness policies" result in truly meaningful changes in the way their children eat and move!

We hope that you continue to invoke the spirit of community transformation that was so present at the Resident Convening. The event photos and materials are now available online:

- [**Photos**](#)
- [**Agenda, Presentations, and Handouts**](#)
- [**Newsletter Article**](#)

Keep in touch and keep up the HEAL spirit!

Warm regards,
Judy Harper, Arpiné Shakhbandaryan, and Joanna Galeas

Community Partners
1000 North Alameda Street, Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-346-3200

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Community Partners | 1000 North Alameda Street | Suite 240 | Los Angeles | CA | 90012