

#SFVPRIDE 2022 PRESS RELEASE

Somos Familia Valle & The Social Impact Center brings visibility to LGBTQ+ people in an effort to create positive change for empowering queer spaces in the San Fernando Valley

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Panorama City, CA - On Saturday, June 25, 2022, the San Fernando Valley will be a gathering place for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer (LGBTQ) adults, youth, and families for a day of celebration, community, and resources. The annual event, San Fernando Valley Pride with the theme "Empowerment Queer Spaces," features local resources, live entertainment, vendors, summer vogue ball, a youth scholarship giveaway, and an opportunity to build community in an area that does not have a lot of support for LGBTQ+ people. This year's theme "Empowerment Queer Spaces" will focus on the building of the valley queer community and embracing the wonderful growth it's taken to get to these moments.

Daniel Rodriguez, the community outreach manager for Social Impact writes "Pride is our liberation, and it shows to the world that we can be unafraid to be who we can become. It would be incredible for folks to not have to go far for wellness resources. They could be able simply look in their community, we need to heal the harm of the past. Part of my role as an organizer of this grassroots Pride is to help heal, be healed, and lead our community to a brighter future." The Social Impact Center brings together government, community and grassroots organizations as well as the people who live in the community.

America Gonzalez a queer youth advocate stated, "Pride to me means being free to express yourself without the anxiety or fear that society may put you through. Empowering queer spaces is so important because it uplifts the voices who have felt shut down by society."

"Pride is celebrating diversity every day, in the San Fernando Valley we celebrate #SFVPride to remind us that we exist, thrive, and are leaders in our communities. LGBTQ+ people exist in our neighborhood, businesses, classrooms, and families throughout the valley. It is important to empower queer spaces across the valley because we lack resources where countless youth and community members need access to services and care. LGBTQ+ valley led support groups, wellness workshops, training, and youth leadership development is what we need. Together we could create endless possibilities." said Kevin Al Perez, President of Somos Familia Valle.

The San Fernando Valley is home to a diverse community of LGBTQ+ people. Despite the large population, the Valley does not have enough resources or community centers to provide for the needs of the LGBTQ+ population, much less the LGBTQ people of color who live and work here. Pushing towards togetherness while connecting our ever-growing community is what will help us not only empower the Queer community but empower all of San Fernando Valley.

Sponsors Include: Aids Healthcare Foundation, Somos Loud, A flying Eagle Home Health, & Columbia Care

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