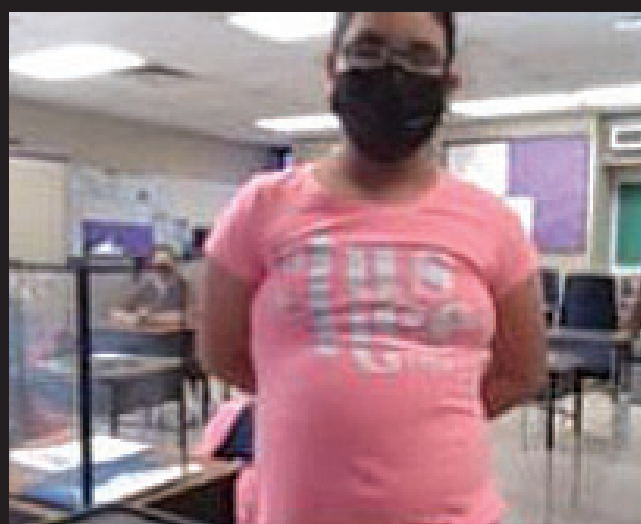
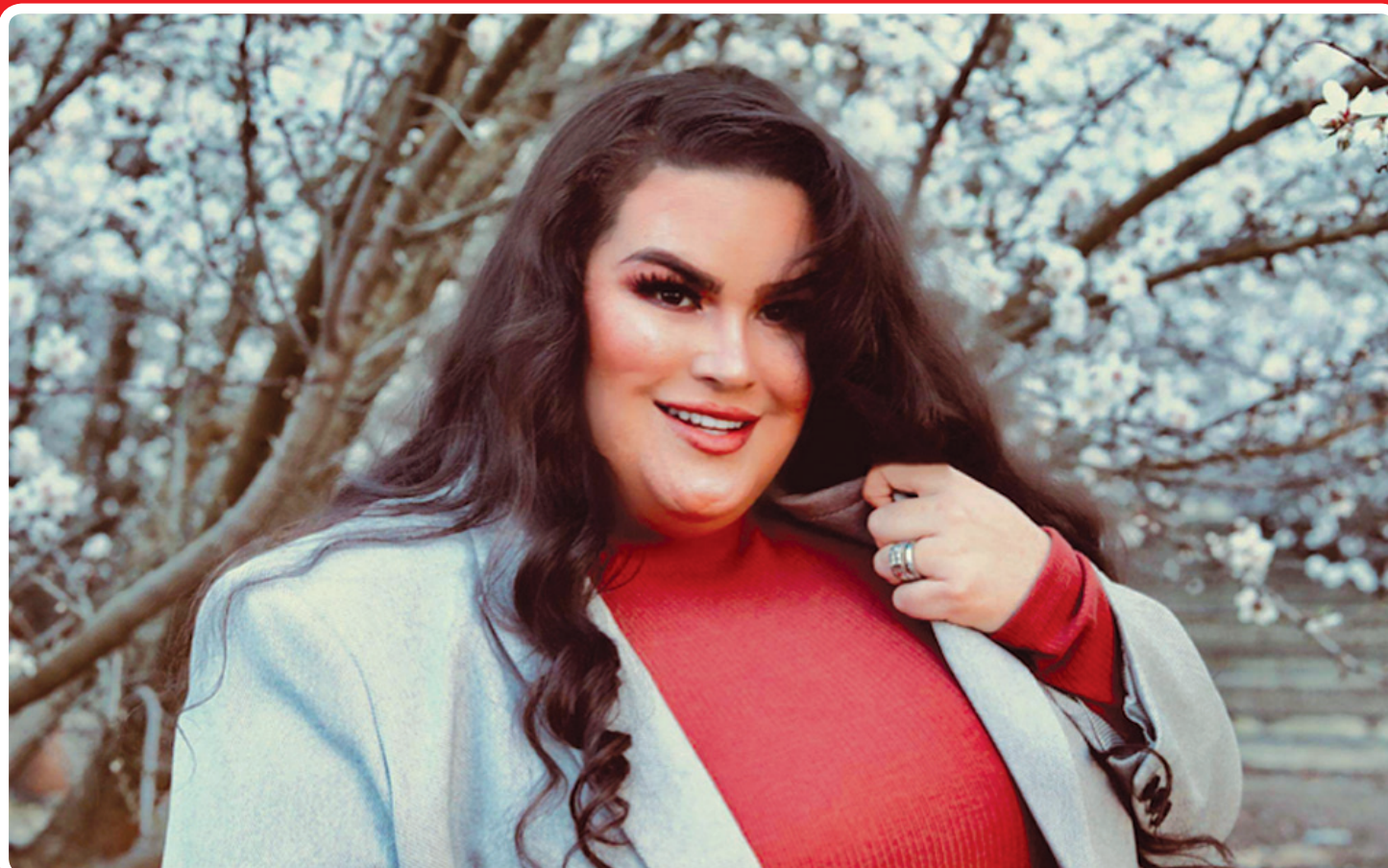


## Community Support

The theme for this year's Migrant Voice was "Community Support: How We Come Together When There Is a Need." Through the pandemic we have turned to our communities and schools to support students, instruction, and safety. In collaboration with our teachers and staff, our students from the Journalism [Writing] Program were encouraged to look within their communities to seek leaders and agencies. This prompted them to learn about how their presence has impacted our communities in Tulare County. I am so proud of all of the migratory students who participated in the interviewing and writing process through our extended-day program.



Eddie Valero (Left) Top Row: Yaretzi Soto, Julieth Barrios, Sandra Avila. Second Row: Jasmine Barrios. Cindy Murillo

## Earlimart School District: Earlimart Elementary Eddie Valero: A Voice for Change

By Sandra Avila, Miriam Avila, Cindy Murillo,  
Yaretzi Soto, Jasmine Barrios, Julieth Barrios

On November 29, 2021, the migratory students in Earlimart Elementary School interviewed Tulare County Supervisor Eddie Valero, through Zoom, to learn more about how he helps communities.

Mr. Valero is from a city in California called Orosi. While in high school he worked hard in order to be successful. Mr. Valero went to Cornell University and graduated. He was inspired by his town of Orosi to come back and make a difference in the community. Mr. Valero wanted to become a voice for the commu-

nities. He wanted to see change across the county.

Mr. Valero now oversees about \$1.6 billion and represents the northern part of the county. He is one of five county supervisors who helps his community. Mr. Valero runs for office every four years and must knock on doors to get people's support.

Mr. Valero helps to make sure that communities get the support they need. One of Mr. Valero's many jobs is making sure that special projects get done. He helps to bring different businesses to an area. An example of what Mr. Valero has created is an inside water park

called the Wolf Lodge. Mr. Valero also wants to create more water projects. For example, he told us that he

helps bring clean water to communities that don't have clean drinking water. He told us that he loves to help his community.

Mr. Valero taught us how we can bring special projects to our community. One way we could start to help people is to be vocal. We learned that there will be water projects here in Earlimart to help our community continue to grow. He also shared how to contact our area supervisor so that we can bring more resources to our community of Earlimart.

Mr. Valero is a great role model to follow because he helps make a difference in our county.



# A Student Becomes a Farmersville Leader



By Heriberto Lopez Ortiz

Should community leaders be called superheroes? On January 20, 2022 the fourth-grade journalism class at Freedom Elementary had the privilege of interviewing a former migrant student, Maria Carbajal. We learned how she became a leader for the community of Farmersville, and also, how she helped in bringing many programs to our community.

Ms. Carbajal never intended to become a community leader, but somehow a counselor at Freedom Elementary felt she would benefit from attending the program “Leaders for Change.” This program aims to teach parents how to make a change within their community. She realized the community had a huge need and the community members could benefit from change.

One of the needs she felt her community needed and would benefit from was bailoterapia. She was introduced to bailoterapia while working with a nonprofit group which had a group of parents who came together once a week and were asked, “What would you like to see for our community?” Several parents mentioned

that they would love to have a Zumba group.

It all began by putting Zumba videos on a projector and projecting them on a wall. Lupe Flores, the Family HealthCare Network supervisor, became aware of Zumba videos and offered at no cost to certify people to be bailoterapia instructors. So Ms. Carbajal took

advantage of the certification and started her community classes.

The classes are held at the Boys & Girls Club center in Farmersville from Monday to Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. Currently, 15 to 25 of the participants are women. Baile Terapias is a music exercise that helps with mental health and weight loss that can bring family and friends together. Despite the pandemic, she continued with the classes outside. It helped her and the community deal with anxiety and depression.

She is grateful for Vision y Compromiso, a non-profit organization, and Family HealthCare Network that helped fund bailoterapia and other classes. These classes include nutritional and finance classes that our community needs. Ms. Carbajal, in the near future, hopes to bring mental health classes.

Ms. Carbajal’s greatest inspiration is her community. She had the privilege to have a great mentor, Billie Shaw. She helped her lead the classes. Ms. Shaw believed in her and saw how they could improve the community. According to Ms. Shaw, “We live in a wonderful community! Everyone is kind and so willing. When you have a community like that, you bring the resources to them, they will absorb them.”



# The Rotary Club in Earlimart

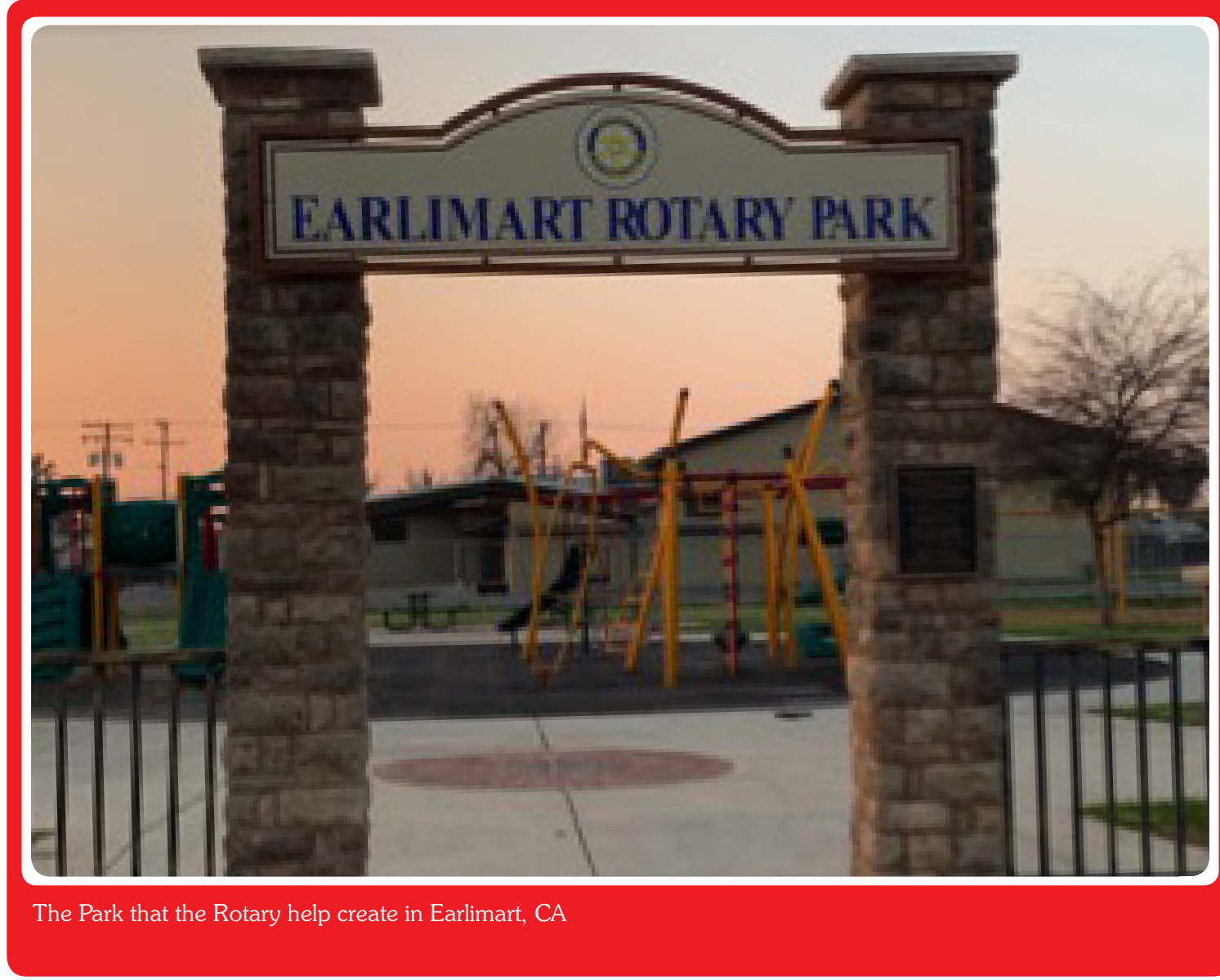
By Cindy Murillo, Yarezi Soto, Ulises Quintero, Isiah Chacón

On January 13, 2022, the Journalism Club of Earlimart Elementary, interviewed Mrs. Imelda Ureno to learn how the Rotary Club helps the community of Earlimart.

Rotary is a big organization that helps locally, nationally, and globally. In the Earlimart Rotary Club, we have teachers, district workers, and even community members that are members of the club. The Rotary Club is a big

family that helps to make a difference in somebody’s life. Rotary is always looking for volunteers to help accomplish its goals.

Rotary Club is a big organization that helps the community. For example, in Earlimart, the Rotary Club cleans streets, removes junk from houses, and paints



The Park that the Rotary help create in Earlimart, CA

over graffiti. According to Mrs. Ureno (current Rotary Club member), they are making a new baseball field. They also help by donating food once a month to the community. In addition, the Rotary Club raises money by selling chocolates, selling tickets to events and even car washes. So, whenever we see a Rotary Club selling

chocolates or tickets, we should definitely support them. As Mrs. Ureno said, we should continue to support the Rotary Club because they support the community here in Earlimart.

According to Mrs. Ureno, everyone is welcome to join the Rotary Club. Mrs. Ureno also said that you can join the Rotary Club and volunteer for their events. There is a fee to pay every month, but the club can help you pay

the fee if you are unable to pay. Community members need to get involved to continue to help the Earlimart group.

At the end of our interview, we learned how strong the presence of the Rotary Club is in our community.



# A Leader to Follow

By Keira Flores, Eberardo Lopez,z Juan Valdez

On December 7, 2021, we interviewed Ms. Rosalba Marquez at Alila Elementary to learn more about how the Migrant Program helped her and what the Mini-Corp Program does to help migrant students.

Ms. Marquez’s story starts when she arrived from Mexico as a young girl. She was placed in the Migrant Program for three years. Ms. Marquez has nine other siblings that were also part of the Migrant Program. They would work in the summers on packets and would get books. They had a teacher that would also visit them. Thanks to all of their hard work, they all became successful.

Ms. Marquez wanted to become a teacher when she was a little girl. She started teaching kindergarten in Lindsay, California. Later, she received her administration credential and decided she wanted to help other students to become teachers. Ms. Marquez said, “I feel my experience can help others be successful.” She is now a leader for other teachers to follow. Ms. Marquez has come a long way since being a migrant student.

On December 7, 2021, we also interviewed Ms. Marquez about the Mini-Corp Program. Ms. Marquez is the program coordinator. She works for the Mini-Corp Program supervising tutors who want to become teachers. The tutors work with migrant students in the classroom. They sit with students during



class and help explain things. The tutors also help after school during journalism. Ms. Marquez’s main job is to provide training for students to become better teachers.

From talking with Ms. Marquez, we learned that being in the Migrant Program is great. We also learned we can one day be successful – thanks to the Migrant Program – just like Ms. Marquez.



## Keeping Our Community Fed

By Gerson Ayala

We have seen that even though our community has struggled with COVID, we still help each other out when there is a need for help. I’m really proud of my mom because she still goes out there even though there is COVID. She goes to earn money and to keep us healthy.

On Wednesday, January 19, 2022, this reporter had the opportunity to interview Margarita Elizabeth Valencia Ayala-my mother. Our interview was conducted in a room of our house. The purpose of this interview was to find out how my mother’s job has helped with the community coming together during the pandemic. My mother Margarita Valencia has been working in the field since I was a little boy. She has dedicated two years to cutting grapes throughout the city of Delano.

My mom tells me she loves her job because she can bring grapes to the house and eat them. Even though there was COVID she was still going to work, she was an essential worker. An essential worker is a person who has an important role in keeping the community healthy. During the pandemic I saw my mom working hard with her coworkers to help keep the community fed.

## Mantener Alimentada a Nuestra Comunidad

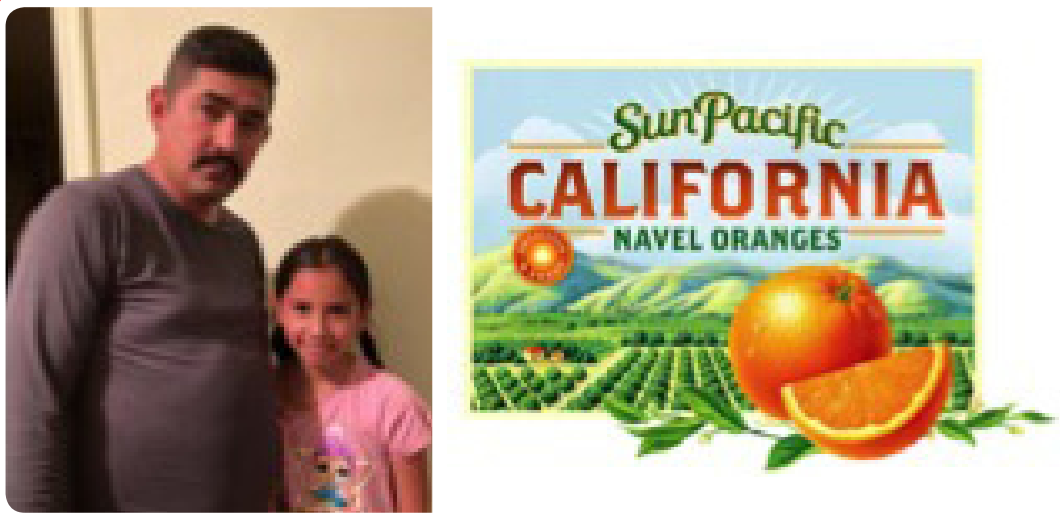
Por Gerson Ayala

*Hemos visto que a pesar de que nuestra comunidad ha luchado con COVID, todavía nos ayudamos cuando hay necesidad de ayudar. Estoy muy orgullosa de mi mamá porque ella todavía sale a pesar de que hay COVID y va a ganar dinero para mantenernos saludables.*

El miércoles 19 de enero de 2022 este reportero tuvo la oportunidad de entrevistar a mi madre, Margarita Elizabeth Valencia Ayala. Nuestra entrevista se llevó a cabo en la habitación de nuestra casa. El propósito de esta entrevista fue averiguar cómo el trabajo de mi madre ha ayudado a la comunidad a unirse durante la pandemia. Mi madre, Margarita Valencia, ha estado trabajando en el campo desde que yo era un niño pequeño. Ha dedicado dos años a cortar la uva en todo delano. Mi mamá me dice que le encanta su trabajo porque puede llevar uvas a la casa y comerlas. A pesar de que había COVID, ella todavía iba a trabajar, era una trabajadora esencial. Un trabajador esencial es una persona que tiene un papel importante en mantener saludable a la comunidad. Durante la pandemia vi a mi mamá trabajando duro con sus compañeros de trabajo para ayudar a mantener alimentada a la comunidad.

Aunque en el trabajo mi mamá todavía tiene que usar una máscara y mantener su distancia de 6 pies de otros trabajadores, todavía se considera afortunada de trabajar en un lugar que la trata bien y que la apoya a ella y a sus compañeros de trabajo.

Cuando le pregunté a mi madre cómo había visto a la comunidad unirse en el trabajo, me dijo que cuando terminan su trabajo y ven que alguien más todavía necesita ayuda para terminar el suyo, van a ayudar manteniendo la distancia. A pesar de que hay COVID, veo a mi mamá salir a ganar dinero para mantenernos saludables. Realmente disfruté entrevistar a mi mamá porque llegué a saber cómo mantienen alimentada a nuestra comunidad.



## Keeping Our Community Healthy

By Valerie Sanchez

On Wednesday, January 19, 2022, this reporter had the opportunity to interview Arnulfo Sanchez Ruiz - my father. Our interview was conducted at the dining table in our home. The purpose of this interview was to find out how my dad’s job has helped with the community coming together during the pandemic.

My dad has been working at Sun Pacific for two years. He is a machine operator. He also worked at SunView Vineyard in Earlimart and Wonderful Pistachios.

My dad has been an essential worker throughout the pandemic. Without my dad going to work we would not have oranges that provide us with our essential vitamin C. Even though my dad has gone to work since the pandemic started he still has to wear a mask because of COVID-19 and still has to be six feet apart. During the pandemic my dad has seen that people are more willing to come together and help each other out. For example, if my dad is out sick he has coworkers that are willing to go into work for him and help him get his job done.

The pandemic has been really hard on all of us, but people are showing their kindness to one another and to their community more and more. Sometimes if my dad has to do another job at work someone is always willing to come and help him finish his other job, this shows how our community continues to come together and help each other.

I’m so proud of my dad, and no matter what happens, he still helps the community and does so much for us.

## Manteniendo Nuestra Comunidad Saludable

Por Valerie Sanchez

*El miércoles 19 de enero de 2022 este reportero tuvo la oportunidad de entrevistar a mi padre, Arnulfo Sanchez Ruiz. Nuestra entrevista se llevó a cabo en la mesa del comedor de nuestra casa. El propósito de esta entrevista fue averiguar cómo el trabajo de mi papá ha ayudado a la comunidad a unirse durante la pandemia.*

Mi papá ha estado trabajando en SunPacific durante 2 años. Él es un operador de máquina. También ha trabajado en Sun View Vineyard en Earlimart y Wonderful Pistachios.

Mi papá ha sido un trabajador esencial durante la pandemia. Si mi papá no fuera a trabajar, no tendríamos naranjas que nos brindan nuestra vitamina C esencial. Aunque mi papá ha ido a trabajar desde que comenzó la pandemia, todavía tiene que usar una máscara debido al covid-19 y todavía tiene que estar a 6 pies de distancia. Durante la pandemia, mi papá ha visto que las personas están más dispuestas a unirse y ayudarse mutuamente. Por ejemplo, si mi papá está enfermo, tiene compañeros de trabajo que están dispuestos a ir a trabajar para él y ayudarlo a hacer su trabajo.

La pandemia ha sido muy dura para todos nosotros, pero las personas muestran cada vez más su bondad entre sí y con su comunidad. A veces, si mi papá tiene que hacer otro trabajo, alguien siempre está dispuesto a venir y ayudarlo a terminar su otro trabajo. Esto muestra cómo nuestra comunidad continúa uniéndose y ayudándose unos a otros.

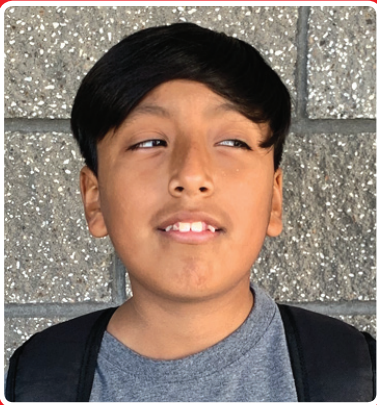
Estoy muy orgullosa de mi padre y, pase lo que pase, sigue ayudando a la comunidad y hace mucho por nosotros.



# Meet Our Journalists



## Alila Elementary and Earlimart Elementary



Eberardo Lopez  
Grade 5



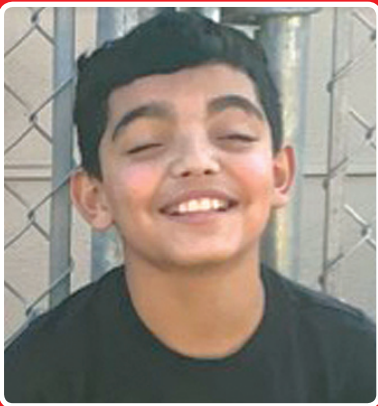
Juan Valdez  
Grade 4



Keira Flores  
Grade 4



Cindy Murrillo  
Grade 5



Isiah Chacon  
Grade 5



Jasmine Barrios  
Grade 4



Julieth Barrios  
Grade 4

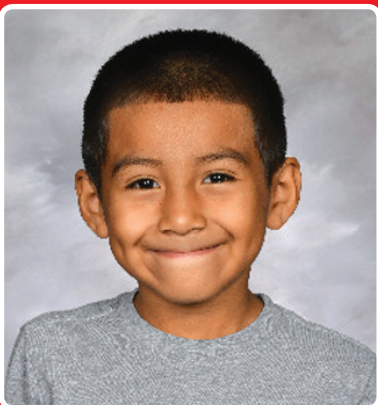


Sandra Avila  
Grade 4

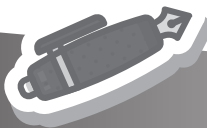


Yaretzi Soto  
Grade 5

## Freedom Elementary



Heriberto Lopez  
Grade 4



## Pixley Elementary



Ashley Figueroa  
Grade 5



Gerson Ayala  
Grade 5



Romina Sanchez  
Grade 4



Valerie Sanchez  
Grade 4



# Acknowledgments

It takes a huge effort to implement new educational projects such as the Journalism Writing Project. We couldn't have done it without the support of Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools; Earlimart School District, Farmersville Unified School District, Pixley Union School District; resilient teachers, patient and understanding interviewees, parents, and other dynamic support staff. This project was invaluable to migratory children and we believe that it was a success.

Our migratory children thank all of you and appreciate you taking the time to lend a helping hand. As a result of everyone's efforts, we may see these students as future journalists.