



We are Fathers & Families of San Joaquin. We are Stockton.

We show love and give our folks a reason to live with purpose.

When people hear about Stockton, they think about violence, poverty and despair. In 2011, we were named the most miserable city in America and went through the largest municipal bankruptcy in the United States. Yet our community came up in a meteoric rise as youth, community and new political leadership brought about a renaissance, revitalizing our city's hope, vision and power. Youth and community leaders are pioneering community justice reinvestment models, such as *Healing Justice in Schools*. *Healing Justice in Schools* is a youth-led campaign focused on improving academic success, school climate and youth wellbeing through the reallocation of school funding toward restorative justice programs, trauma informed services and advocacy for students and families exposed to trauma and violence. We know that a different Stockton is possible, and the civil rights movement of our time will be lost or won in our city as we are the epicenter of global diversity, innovation and social change policy. Stockton is on the rise and now recognized as a place of first choice, not of last resort.

Fathers & Families of San Joaquin works every day to reclaim our destiny by healing through culture, organizing with hope, and building people power. We know that all life is sacred, everyone has intrinsic worth and, together, we can be instruments of peace.



Fathers & Families of San Joaquin's story is one about love and trust. In a society that teaches us to hate ourselves, learning to love ourselves is a revolutionary act. We welcome everyone with open arms especially those who feel forgotten and give folks a reason to live with purpose. We feel their pain and we celebrate their triumphs, because we believe in redemption and multiple chances. Love and La Cultura Cura is medicine for the pain, trauma, and violence that our communities have faced for generations.

Our proximity to that pain means we are also closest to the solutions. That's why our work in Stockton has become a national model for how to interrupt cycles of violence and reduce recidivism through cultural empowerment, family strengthening and positive youth development.

FFSJ staff come from the same walk of life and show a lot of carnalismo, love and wisdom. With their help, I got 16 misdemeanors and 2 felonies expunged from my record. This is my second family. They help with driver's licenses, job fairs and tattoo removals. FFSJ is a dream come true.

—Francisco Javier Gonzalez Jr.,
AB109 Participant

Our practices are rooted in indigenous teachings that allow us to find our strength.

Our work transforms our community and our people through:



Intergenerational Healing. We welcome our elders first to the table and listen and learn from their stories that transcend generations.



Family Strengthening. We don't see our people as felons, but as fathers. Not just prisoners, but parents. We connect parents to their children and back to the community providing holistic support, advocacy and reentry services that help people rebuild their lives and the connections that can sustain their success. In fact, we have the lowest recidivism rates in the entire state.



Organizing youth to be advocates for racial justice. We build environments that are healthy, inclusive, and safe for children and their families giving them opportunities to build their leadership and participate in important rites of passage to sustain their growth. We offer participatory defense and legal advocacy support to humanize youth targeted for criminalization and help divert our children from adult prisons.



Health Justice. We work to achieve our vision for accessible green spaces and healthy neighborhoods across Stockton. We are reclaiming our heritage as stewards and protectors of the land, water and resources within our communities.



Healing and Reconciliation. At our **Stockton Trauma Recovery Center**, survivors of violence and trauma are welcomed to engage in healing and reconciliation. Our integrative model focused on mental health treatment and traditional and cultural healing to address the needs of survivors of trauma and violent crime.



Systems Change and Equity. We run and win policy initiatives and advocacy campaigns through participatory people engagement and cultivating authentic partnerships. We are a trusted anchor of the Boys and Men of Color movement across the country and are proud of our policy wins at local and statewide levels.



Our shared struggle connects us all. We protect children, honor women, and respect our Elders as we create an inclusive movement with room for everyone. You can count on Fathers & Families of San Joaquin to show up, to hold space and to speak the truth.



Can we count on you to help transform Stockton?
Please join us! www.ffsj.org