

# Annual Report 2019



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# Letter from the Board/Co-Directors

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Dear ACT Supporters,

Thank you for continuing to build community with ACT in 2019! This year, reproductive justice faced repeated attacks as nine states passed abortion bans and national legislation targeted communities of color, immigrant communities, womxn, LGBTQ, and gender expansive communities on seemingly daily basis. The support of our neighbors, allies, family, and friends has been critical in continuing to grow a reproductive justice movement at home in the South Valley. It was more important than ever, In 2019, to continue investing in the leadership of young people in our often forgotten part of the State. We have shared tears, laughter, memes, and great food during talking circles and strategy sessions. We are excited to share how this year's programs strengthened concrete leadership pathways and prepared young leaders to take action.

In 2019, young folks at ACT took charge of their narrative and have shared their truth with their neighbors and decision makers across the state. ACT engagement has steadily grown this year as we have reached a base of leaders totaling 454 young people in Tulare County. Our Integrated Voter Engagement team was able to identify 4,348 supporters of reproductive justice in 2019, signifying a brewing shift in the local landscape . We experienced amazing growth this year by launching new programs, bringing on new staff and board members, and celebrated multiple legislative victories at the state level!

One of our biggest changes this year was the transition of our Executive Director, Erin Garner-Ford, who invested 15 years of blood, sweat, and tears into building the foundation of ACT and creating meaningful and powerful relationships both locally and statewide. Erin began doing reproductive justice work in the conservative South Valley when doing the work came with great physical risk. Erin fought on, fueled by her passion to build a social justice revolution in Tulare County. She has served as a mentor to hundreds of ACT Alumni, ACT staff, and numerous organizational leaders in the Valley. Although she will be missed, we know how important her transition is to focus on her family and to continue her next journey in life. We look forward to watching the entire ACT team and young leaders grow their leadership and write the next chapter of the South Valley radical reproductive justice movement.

In Solidarity,

*Gina Rodriguez*  
**Gina Rodriguez**  
Development Director  
Interim Co-Executive Director

*Sarah K Hutchinson*  
**Sarah K. Hutchinson**  
Policy Director  
Interim Co-Executive Director

# Dedication to Erin

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Dear ACT Allies,

My journey with ACT began in 2005. I was a young, freshly graduated activist who returned to Tulare County to make a difference for women. I found Robyn Flores and Lisa Strongin in June of 2005 and learned that they were creating something I had only dreamt about. I was eager to help them work on this budding idea of an organization addressing feminist issues by providing leadership opportunities to women in Tulare County to make social and personal change. Robyn and Lisa saw the passion in my eyes and heard the drive in my voice to support their efforts and invited me to be part of their coalition. I was determined to make my dream of justice come to fruition in what was and still is one of the most conservative regions in our Nation. I believe we are doing just that.



Through this journey, I grew as an individual, but most importantly, ACT grew as an organization. One thing I am most proud of is our ability to adapt and creatively address some of the most pressing social issues of our time through innovative programming for young people and our community. Simultaneously, we impact local policies while running policy at the State level. We shift narratives and make noise when no one else is willing. ACT is brave, unapologetic, and necessary. We do it all on a shoestring budget (even though we deserve so much more!) and our supporters often wonder how it all gets done.

The impact ACT has on young people continues to move me. I think about the work we were able to accomplish in Woodlake, and the work that continues to happen there today. I think about the many young moms we worked with over the years, and the fact that we were at times their only advocate as they navigated parenthood. I think about our leaders, such as Victor Camacho, Rosalinda Guzman, Jessica Reynoso, Lisa Alvarado, Andrea Kelly and so many more who are and will continue to make an incredible impact on our world and community.

I am honored to have “grown-up” in the organization. The opportunities I was afforded allowed me to blossom into the leader I am today. I have been impacted by all of you. Our relationship is far from over. I grew with each assignment and position I held for the organization. Through a fifteen year cycle, my role has come full circle. I started as a consultant, moved into the role of a founding Board member, transitioned into leading Feminist Leadership Academy, eventually becoming the Co-Director, and then the sole Executive Director in 2012. For now, I will continue my role with ACT as a consultant.

Life is often unpredictable. I am beyond grateful to the existing staff, specifically Gina Rodriguez and Sarah Hutchinson who have allowed me the time and space to navigate my current family situation, while holding the organization together and doing a tremendous job of working with staff to meet all of the organizational objectives. They are true leaders. I am also thankful to the ACT Board who has continued to believe in my vision and stood by me through the many years.

I want to thank you all for everything. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for giving me this incredible opportunity. Thank you for allowing me to dream and to dream big! Thank you for being partners in this movement for reproductive justice. I will continue to support ACT and be a strong ally for many years to come!

With love and appreciation,

*Erin Garner-Ford*

Erin Garner-Ford

## Staff and Board:

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### Staff:

Erin Garner-Ford  
Sarah Hutchinson  
Gina Rodriguez  
Briyana Haas  
Michelle Rivera  
Sarah Marquez  
Rosa Merida  
Karina Gallardo  
Dean Jackson



### Board of Directors:

Maritza Alcaraz  
Vanessa Avila  
Jennifer Boteilho  
Nicole Celaya  
Jennifer Espinoza  
Caroline Farrell  
Samantha Ferrero  
Rachel Camacho-Hagans  
Irlanda Ramirez  
Ruby Quezada  
Emilia Villagomez



# ACT's Theory of Change

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## Mission

ACT is a reproductive justice organization building power in our communities through leadership development, community organizing, advocacy, and policy change.



## Guiding Principles

- ➔ Reproductive Justice
- ➔ Gender Justice
- ➔ Racial Justice
- ➔ Liberty & Equality
- ➔ Accountability & Courage
- ➔ Restorative Healing
- ➔ Movement Building



## Audiences

- ➔ Womxn
- ➔ Communities affected by systemic oppression
- ➔ Young people
- ➔ Elected officials and decision makers



## Strategies

- ➔ Center young people and hold physical space
- ➔ Develop leadership
- ➔ Increase access to reproductive health services and resources
- ➔ Build alliances with organizations and movement to advance reproductive justice
- ➔ Build power through community engagement, political education, civic participation and connect to broader movements
- ➔ Educate and inform policies, policy makers and leaders



## Anticipated Outcomes

- ➔ Historically oppressed communities have the equity, access and power to thrive
- ➔ Young people and womxn belong to a unified movement
- ➔ Communities inform and drive policies to dismantle systemic oppression
- ➔ Decentralized personal, social, institutional and political power
- ➔ Freedom and capacity to radically imagine and realize our full selves

## Feminist Leadership Academy



Feminist Leadership Academy is ACT's longest running program. It is an in-depth 8-month leadership academy, for young people ages 16-25, dedicated to developing leaders with a reproductive justice analysis, concrete leadership skills, and hands-on civic engagement opportunities.

Participants attend 2-hour weekly sessions, weekend retreats, visits to the Capitol, and networking events with community leaders. FLA leadership skill training includes topics such as public speaking, community organizing, legislative advocacy, and research. Participants discuss and learn about reproductive justice issues such as intersectional feminism, racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ justice, disability justice and more!

### FLA Highlights

#### Class of 2019 - Jan- June:

- ✔ ACT had the largest and most gender diverse FLA class in the history of our organization in 2018-19 with 32 applicants accepted. Participants represented Pixley, Tulare, Three Rivers, Exeter, Visalia, and Goshen in Tulare County.
- ✔ In February of 2019, 16 FLA participants traveled to the Bay Area for the Annual FLA Retreat. The trip included a scavenger hunt in the Castro District in San Francisco, a picnic at Dolores Park, ice cream at Bi-Rite ice cream shop, and visited the Black Power exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California, where some got to sit in the same famous wicker chair Huey P. Newton once sat. On the final day, the group traveled to Richmond, CA. to visit the Ryse Center for a tour and peer exchange.
- ✔ On March 16, 2019, 4 current FLA participants and 1 FLA alumni presented a Reproductive Justice training at GSA's Expression Not Suppression conference in Fresno, CA.
- ✔ On April 10th, 2019 FLA went on a walking "tour" of the ACT office neighborhood to discuss Financial Justice, predatory lending, and the impact of institutional racism on our communities.

- ✔ On May 9th, 2019 FLA held its annual Leadership Dinner; an evening to connect participants to adult allies in professional fields and justice movements. Allies who attended included The Source LGBT+ Center, Urbanists Collective, The Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, ACT Board Members and Family Services attended.
- ✔ 21 FLA participants graduated in July 2019
- ✔ 6 FLA participants went on to apply and be hired for the ACT IVE team and 1 participant went on to join Project Homeless events in connection with the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance.

## Class of 2020 September 2019 - December 2019:

- ✔ In November of 2019, FLA launched a new cohort with 20 participants to kick off the first day.
- ✔ FLA spent the Fall discussing identity and centering their experience to lay the foundation for political education and building rapport with the team.
- ✔ In November, FLA Alumni and ACT Intern, Amiyah Kiki, presented on Transgender Day of Remembrance and participants painted rally signs for a local TDOR action that they attended.
- ✔ In December 2019, FLA participated in a training on Intersectional Feminism and movements by women and people of color.



## Student Health Awareness for Peer Empowerment

SHAPE is a weekly program in the rural communities of Woodlake and Oroshi, and builds leadership skills through a Reproductive Justice lens at the intersections of health access, racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ-rights, and economic justice. SHAPE is hosted on the high school campuses of Woodlake and Oroshi, and participants attend two hour weekly meetings after school, weekend retreats, legislative visits to the State Capitol, and community events.



SHAPE leadership training includes public speaking, community organizing, legislative advocacy, political education, and building power for rural young folks. Youth discuss and learn about the intersecting realities of Reproductive Justice, such as Intersectional Feminism, Racial Justice, Immigrant Rights, LGBTQ+ Justice, and more!

### SHAPE Oroshi - Spring 2019

In the Spring of 2019, Oroshi students set out to reshape the narrative of mental health in their community. They literally and figuratively painted a new picture of the mental health impact of family separation on students and their families. From this topic, students created nurturing spaces for art and dialogue to take place and address the personal effects of national immigration policy on their school campuses and at home. Students created multiple art pieces to express their feelings, needs, and visions of change.

### SHAPE Oroshi - Spring 2019 Highlights

- ✔ Created an alternative medium for students to reflect on the mental health impacts of family separation through activism.
- ✔ In the Spring of 2019, SHAPE Oroshi held 2 ARTivist Retreats in collaboration with the Urbanists Collective and the TECH Connect program. This event tied the issue of mental health and the impact of family separation on the community of Oroshi; an issue highlighted by SHAPE members.
- ✔ Youth art from the ARTivist Retreats was presented and showcased at multiple events across the Central Valley; Oroshi Unified School Board Meeting, classroom presentations, ACT events, Tulare County Office of Education events, Queens of Style art event in Fresno, the Our Children's Art Show held at the Cutler-Oroshi Family Education Center and the "Our Truth" ACT art exhibit in Visalia
- ✔ Participants collected over 100 surveys from community members to better understand the mental health impact of national immigration policy and family separation on families in Oroshi. In this process, SHAPE student representatives met with their Tulare County Board of Supervisors representative and gained support for their mental health work in Oroshi.

- ✔ SHAPE participants created an 8 point proposal to improve mental health supports for students on campus.
- ✔ On June 20, 2019, SHAPE Orosi participants and ACT staff presented a list of youth recommendations to provide mental health resources and support for students to the Cutler- Orosi Joint Unified School Board and presented samples of their artwork
- ✔ **12 SHAPE Orosi participants graduated from the program in July 2019.**



## SHAPE Orosi- Fall 2019

With the start of the new semester, Orosi High School student members were ready to launch a new campaign and came up with 8 different issues that they saw in their school; inadequate bathrooms facilities, lack of LGBTQ+ inclusivity, unhealthy cafeteria food, cyberbullying, phone use policy, dress code policy, school budget, and undrinkable water. As a group they focused on one issue and began to develop a plan to organize and address school staff and administration to improve matters. SHAPE students landed on addressing inadequate bathroom facilities on their school campus and to improve accessibility, maintenance, and provide students with personal hygiene products. As the SHAPE students built their campaign to make changes to the facilities, their passions ignited and they were empowered to share recommendations with their school administration.

### SHAPE Orosi - Fall 2019 Highlights

- ✔ SHAPE program participants identified their issue, surveyed their peers, gathered information, collected photo research, and compiled their findings of inadequate bathroom facility conditions and access restrictions of those facilities.
- ✔ Through research, students also discovered Assembly Bill 10 (2017) which requires public schools with grades 6 -12 to stock half of the school's restrooms with hygiene products. This legislation was not being implemented on campus. They also researched the history of the Williams Settlement which requires California public schools to provide adequate textbooks/ materials, qualified teachers, and adequate facilities.
- ✔ SHAPE Orosi presented their student based research and resolution for change to the principal and maintenance staff.
- ✔ The school Principal was willing to work with students and move forward with SHAPE student's proposal and recommendations.
- ✔ **10 members graduated from the Spring SHAPE Orosi team.**





## SHAPE Woodlake Spring 2019

SHAPE Woodlake is the original SHAPE program, and now has a developed history in community organizing and continues to have a growing number of alumni who remain connected to ACT and to the Reproductive Justice movement.

### SHAPE Woodlake - Spring 2019 Highlights

- ✔ In the springtime we focused on topics such as campaign and legislative advocacy, voting rights, sexual health education (consent, STI protection and testing, and contraceptives), intersectional feminism, and reproductive justice.
- ✔ In February of 2019, Food Link came in as guest speakers to talk about food justice and how that looks in our communities. They went over what is food justice and sustainability, the stigma and myths around obtaining food help services, and how to volunteer for Food Link.
- ✔ In March of 2019, SHAPE Woodlake invited the ACLU to host a Know Your Rights training for youth on campus. SHAPE members were trained on their student rights to better advocate for themselves and their peers. Topics discussed included LGBTQ+ student rights, cell phone use and privacy, and anti-discrimination laws.
- ✔ In May of 2019, SHAPE Woodlake collaborated with the Urbanists Collective, a local artist collective, to host an ARTivism (activism through art) event at Woodlake High. Over 60 youth completed canvas art pieces in response to the prompt: "How would you use your Vote?" The students created pieces on issues like immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, climate change, and campus environment and bullying. Art creations were used as a source of healing and activism.
- ✔ **21 students participated in SHAPE Woodlake for the Class of 2019 with 11 graduating in June from the program at the All Program Graduation Ceremony**

## SHAPE Woodlake Fall 2019

SHAPE explored Environmental Justice and connected their personal experiences living with pesticide drift in their everyday lives. They connected their individual testimonies to the history of environmental racism in communities of color and the ongoing practices of these systems. SHAPE Woodlake students also participated in training on the topics of Anatomy, Consent, STI's and HIV /AIDS, Destigmatizing Testing, Gender and Sexuality, Birth Control and Contraception, Pregnancy Options, Healthy Relationships, and Local Resources.

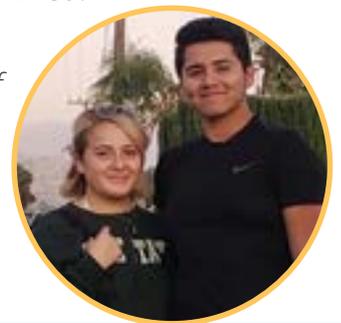
### SHAPE Woodlake Fall 2019 Highlights

- ☉ SHAPE Woodlake and SHAPE Orosi held a joint weekend retreat in Los Angeles. While there, the young people participated in the Women's March LA and visited the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. For most of the participants, this was the first time they had visited somewhere out of their county and it was their first experience at an action alongside thousands of people.
- ☉ SHAPE Woodlake held an ARTivism Day and 15 students attended the event. Their artwork was collected and shown at the ACT "Our Truth Art Show" in Downtown Visalia.
- ☉ In collaboration with the IVE campaign, Woodlake participants (Jovenes Adelante and SHAPE members) conducted volunteer canvassing in Woodlake, targeting all registered voters and educated voters on the importance and power of youth voices and civic engagement.

### SHAPE Youth Spotlight

Neida is a SHAPE Woodlake member who has been involved since her freshman year. When Neida first began in SHAPE, she was a reserved participant who was quiet and hesitated to take on public actions or public speaking opportunities. In the Fall of 2019, Neida became emboldened to take public action for the first time as a canvasser. This experience led to her taking on further public actions. In April, Neida was chosen as 1 of 4 ACT participants to represent the organization at the Latino Policy Summit held in Sacramento. Most recently, Neida signed up as a youth presenter for the official sexual health education refresher courses in collaboration with ACT staff and Woodlake Unified.

*"I considered SHAPE to be a safe place for not only myself but also for my peers. It's where all of us are able to openly be ourselves without judgement. If there's anything I've learned from SHAPE it would be the importance of giving back to your community by being their voice and making sure it gets heard"*  
- Neida, SHAPE Woodlake





Teen Success, Inc. (TSI) is an 18-month peer learning and leadership development program dedicated to supporting young parents to reach their goals, complete their highschool education, and develop strong parenting skills.

Members must be pregnant or parenting young mothers, currently enrolled in high school and under 19 years of age. TSI members meet weekly for two and a half hours for peer learning sessions. Additionally, members meet with an ACT's TSI Program Coordinator who engages members in one-on-one coaching sessions and serves as a personal advocate.

Teen Success peer learning sessions cover a complete array of topics under child development, parenting, healthy relationships, and reproductive health and justice.

### TSI - 2019 Program Highlights

- ✔ Sustained and developed relationships with social services networks and high schools across Tulare County to provide comprehensive referrals for the program.
- ✔ Implementation of individual coaching sessions to best support members and their specific goals.
- ✔ Supported members through individual coaching sessions to complete High School graduation requirements.
- ✔ Organize community donations to center members and their children's needs including, diapers, gift cards, transportation passes, and house essentials.
- ✔ Created intentional incentives like out-of-town trips, outdoor activities, and fun day activities to sustain TSI membership and self-motivation to reach their personal goals.

# TSI - 2019 Member Highlights

## Meet April Curiel

April Curiel is an independent, highly driven, and compassionate young mother, who started the Teen Success program in August of 2018. TSI Program Coordinator, Rosa Merida, worked closely with April throughout 2019 with coaching sessions to develop personal goals and set a plan for long term success. April was committed to weekly coaching and peer learning sessions to keep advancing her personal goals of continuing higher education and pursuing a career in nursing. Our Teen Success program created a specific support network that catered to April's needs for a path of success for her and her child. TSI ensured that April and other members had access to reliable transportation, adequate child care, and mental health support to nurture their personal growth.

April Curiel was determined to enroll at College of the Sequoias, and start her journey of becoming a registered nurse. Through the ongoing support of TSI, April was encouraged to seek out academic resources like EOPS, who prioritize students like herself. During coaching sessions, April would spend time managing school work, homework deadlines, and studying schedules to stay on track with classes and achieve high grades. April learned to take on multiple responsibilities to better navigate college life as a young mother. Since starting college, April has been able to navigate the pressures of school and utilize all the benefits and resources the school offers with skills gained through TSI.



## TSI Sunsets

- ☑ Having an adequate support network and creating a personalized program within TSI is key to meeting young parent's needs in the Central Valley. As of July 2019 ACT's TSI program funding came to a sunset, and we are now building a new program that will support young parents through a reproductive justice leadership development curriculum and a one-on-one coaching model to promote an increase in the graduation rate of young parents and provide a space to build community and build power. We are so excited to re-engage young mothers, to have a space of belonging, and receive the support they are seeking to be the best parents they can be.
- ☑ After the conclusion of the partnership with Teen Success, Inc. in the Summer of 2019, two individual donors and ACT supporters from the community committed a personal donation to continue programming for young parents in the amount of \$18,000. This generous personal funding is a fraction of the cost needed to implement a year-long program, but ACT staff are excited to put the donation toward a scaled-down version of programming to continue to engage young parents. This provided the opportunity to reshape the program to include leadership development, parenting skills, consciousness raising, and young parent activism. ACT wrapped up the year with a young parent focus group, in which alumni began to shape the new program with their personal feedback. We will continue to search for funding opportunities to sustain a year long program that could serve the needs of young parents in Tulare County and provide the space for young parents to speak out for the rights of young families in the Central Valley.
- ☑ To learn more about our new project to engage young parents through a reproductive justice lens that is meaningful to their families, we invite you to reach out to the ACT team. Young parent rights have always been central to ACT's values, and we are committed to fundraising to support the families of Tulare County. We invite the support of more local donors and funders to join us in launching the new program in the summer of 2020!



## ACT Alumni Academy

In the Fall of 2019, ACT launched a new program to re-engage with ACT Alumni from the past 15 years of graduated program participants. This program has been developed to accommodate the need for ACT Alumni to continue their involvement with ACT through movement building, community networking, and leadership development. Alumni from across all programs have been invited to join ACT's Alumni Academy to continue to build a new cohort of multi-generational alumni community and sustain a social justice movement in the Central Valley.

Members of ACT's Alumni Academy are supported through individual coaching sessions and group meetings to set goals, career development needs, and on-going mentorship. Through the Academy, members are also organizing ways to incorporate their individual goals to support ACT's work and continue to engage through ACT programs, events, or outreach opportunities. The Alumni Academy is a program to reinvest in ACT's Alumni and support their personal and professional goals with a Reproductive Justice analysis in mind. As we continue to grow this program, we encourage ACT Alumni to continue to seek opportunities in the community to bring about a unique and relevant Reproductive Justice perspective to the table; whether it's at local government meetings, healthcare centers, or non-traditional Social Justice spaces. ACT Alumni Academy is an incubated space where folks can build community care with like-minded folks.

### ACT Alumni Academy 2019 Highlights

- ✔ Launch of ACT Alumni Academy!
- ✔ Reengaged with 300 ACT Alumni through direct communications, digital outreach, and ACT community events.
- ✔ In the Fall of 2019, individualized sessions supported AAA with resume preparation toward personal career goals.
- ✔ Karla Mendez, AAA participant/Pharmacy Access ACTion Team Alum, has taken on community outreach sex ed presentations, has supported sex ed facilitation, and presented at University Prep High School.
- ✔ Amiyah Kiki, AAA participant/FLA Alum, has been hired by ally organization The Source LGBTQ+ Center to support a joint initiative with ACT to ensure protections for queer and trans community members. Her work with ACT & The Source has allowed the opportunity to lead community actions, speak to media, and co-facilitate with programs.
- ✔ In October 2019, AAA served as curators of the 130 art pieces that were submitted to ACT's Our Truth Art Show, categorized them, created their own reflection art pieces, and supported set up on the day of the event.
- ✔ **Active Alumni Academy members 12**

## Policy

ACT aims to elevate the Central Valley needs in California legislation that advances reproductive freedom for ALL communities in the State - regardless of identity or geography. Our advocacy keeps the needs of rural womxn and youth of color at the forefront. ACT collaborated with partners such as Black Women for Wellness, ACCESS Women's Health Justice, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, ACLU of Northern California, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, NARAL Pro-Choice California, and The Women's Foundation of California. Through our policy advocacy at the State Capitol, and tied to our grassroots base, ACT continues to develop our leadership on a statewide level on the California Reproductive Justice policy advocacy stage.

### 2019 ACT Co-Sponsored Policy Work

- ✔ SB 24 - Student Right to Access Act - (Leyva) PASSED! SB 24 (previously SB 320) was a three-year long process to cultivate votes, organize college students statewide, and build a movement to support getting medication abortion available at CSU and UC health centers. SB 320 was vetoed by Governor Brown in 2018, but Senator Leyva and our co-sponsor team was determined to get it passed! Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 24 in October 2019. Co-Sponsors that led the way: ACLU of Northern California, Students for Reproductive Justice - Berkeley, ACCESS Women's Health Justice, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, NARAL Pro-Choice California, The Women's Foundation of California, and justCARE (Campus Action for Reproductive Equity).
- ✔ SB 464 - to improve black maternal healthcare - (Mitchell) PASSED! SB 464 will mandate racial bias training to medical providers in an effort to improve Black women's maternal health outcomes. Co-sponsors that led the way: Black Women for Wellness, Western Center on Law and Poverty, The California Nurse-Midwives Association, and NARAL Pro-Choice California.

### 2019 ACT Local Policy Highlights

- ✔ ACT Policy Director presented Legislative Advocacy trainings with SHAPE Woodlake, SHAPE Orosi, and FLA. These presentations sparked interest in participants to engage in ACT's ReproPower Happy Hours, community campaigns, IVE, and trips to the State Capitol.
- ✔ ACT expanded its MOU with Woodlake Unified School District to expand our Sexual Health Education training to Woodlake middle and high schools so that schools are in compliance with comprehensive sex ed requirements.
- ✔ ACT began conversations with a local public charter school that is not complying with comprehensive sexual health education requirements. This effort is being co-led by an ACT alum and ACT staff to put pressure on the school, while also offering assistance in implementation.

### Policy 2019 Youth Spotlight

SHAPE Woodlake alumni, Carlos Lucatero (UCSC) and Lucia Gonzalez (UCD), joined dozens of college students from across California in Sacramento constantly advocated for SB 24 and reproductive health services on college campuses. Carlos and Lucia were regular attendees of the justCARE Campaign movement for SB 24.



## Campaign

ACT's youth leaders develop and commit to issue-campaigns that engage voters and their neighbors to create local policy change. By integrating ACT's ongoing advocacy work and grassroots issue-campaigns with voter engagement, we build community power and increase our wins. ACT's IVE Staff is made up of current and alumni program participants across all ACT programs - from FLA and TSI, to SHAPE and ACTION Teams. This model has served as a way to expand on programming and provide a pathway for participants to take action in the community.

### Campaign Highlights

- ✔ The voter turnout for Tulare County young people of color in 2018 increased 293% from the 2014 midterm election. We plan to continue this trend of increased voter engagement in our region regardless of election years!
- ✔ In 2019, IVE phone bankers and canvassers contacted and had conversations with 5,904 voters! ACT's IVE phone bankers spoke with voters of color between the ages of 18-35 to gauge voter opinions on tax equity and abortion access.
- ✔ Our canvassers spoke to Woodlake residents about the importance of youth voice in the civic engagement process and prioritizing residents' needs in city government.
- ✔ ACT IVE staff asked voters specifically about abortion for the first time ever, with a surprising positive-ID rate. 82% of folks who agreed with tax equity also supported access to abortion care without exceptions to circumstance. That comes out to 3,956 voters that support abortion access. We chose to ask this question during the height of the abortion bans / roll backs that were happening across the country. Our script painted the picture of this national moment before asking the question. Our youth and staff were pleasantly shocked by the high positive-ID rate, as we are geographically and politically positioned in one of the most conservative regions in our state.
- ✔ ACT has been apprehensive to ask about abortion directly because our organization has been attacked by the anti-choice movement in the past. At its inception 15 years ago, ACT was unable to find a landlord that would rent to us for our first office. We relied on friends and other organization's kindness during our first year of operation. After finally securing an office location, our office was broken into twice, our computers were stolen, and our office trashed, with anti-choice notes left behind. The act of asking our community about their support of ACT and abortion was a moment of pride for us, and the number of voters who said YES feels unbelievable to us. We remind ourselves that every time we get a bible in the mail, a drop in by a community member that berrates us for teaching comprehensive sex education that is both medically accurate and inclusive of LGBTQ+ experiences, or our youth are verbally assaulted on the street or public transit for adorning ACT swag, that we are doing the good work. But it oftentimes feels insurmountable and exhausting. And every single one of those 3,956 YESES to ABORTION ACCESS was a sweet victory.

### Campaign - The Numbers

- ➔ **52 phone bank volunteer shifts** in which callers called ACT supporters.
- ➔ **3,956** Voters who support abortion access.
- ➔ **6,410** Total Unique Voters Contacted.
- ➔ **494** New Registered Voters.

### IVE Campaign Youth Spotlight

Nereyda Silva

*"Participating in the 2019 IVE program was such an amazing experience. I was able to expand my knowledge on campaigns and propositions. Briyana was always there guiding and supporting us to have a prosperous campaign by answering any questions and discussing the process. Being a part of IVE made me feel more involved in not only my community but my state as a whole."*



## ACTION Teams

ACT's movement building work consists of organizing our communities to build up young leaders with the necessary skills to make social change. Our local campaigns and ACTION teams emerge from our programs and the needs of the young people we work with. Participants engage in ACT's community-based campaigns to use a system-change approach and leverage people power to get local policies passed that will advance access to better health and social outcomes for the Central Valley.

### ACTION Team - Pharmacy Access

- ✔ In order to provide youth and our communities with accurate referrals to unbiased, safe, and accessible pharmacies, ACT has created a campaign to survey and secret shop local pharmacies in Kings and Tulare Counties. Pharmacy Access is one of our longest running campaigns, and continues to address the lack of reproductive health care needed in the Central Valley. 12 community researchers teamed up with pharmacists and researchers from UC Berkeley and UC San Diego to address this problem. On top of participating in this campaign, community researchers were trained and educated on comprehensive birth control methods, create survey criterias, and conduct research. Through this ACTION Team we are raising community awareness regarding birth control and emergency contraceptive access by compiling research results into an annual report card to inform communities. We hope to continue the work in the years to come to continue to create systematic change in reproductive health access.
- ✔ 26 pharmacies received a failing score for accessibility and 38 received passing scores. Only 2 pharmacies, both at Costco Wholesale, offered birth control by the pharmacist out of the 53 surveyed. A report card of the Pharmacy Access data will be released in the Spring of 2020.

### ACTION Team - Jovenes Adelante Summer 2019

- ✔ Motivated by the passion she saw in current SHAPE members and the need for youth input in local decision making, Jessica Reynoso, a SHAPE Woodlake Alumni, returned to Woodlake for the summer and created a summer campaign academy for SHAPE alumni and current members. Jessica wrote a scholarship grant to Stanford University to support her work with ACT in Woodlake, and her grant was accepted!
- ✔ Jessica created all of the curriculum and led facilitation. This SHAPE campaign academy was called Jovenes Adelante (Youth to the Front) and it focused on community organizing, voting rights, and the power of youth.
- ✔ Curriculum topics included voting rights, self-care, power mapping, city government structures, grassroots organizing, public speaking, and campaign strategy.
- ✔ Before the end of the summer, Jovenes Adelante and SHAPE Woodlake participants scheduled a meeting with the mayor of Woodlake to utilize their skills and discuss issues that were important to them. They were met with dismissiveness and push back from the mayor. The experience, however, was an opportunity to understand their right to address their decision makers directly and will continue to push for youth led changes in their city.
- ✔ Since then, 12 SHAPE Woodlake program participants were able to continue on the work of Jovenes Adelante and canvassed Woodlake in the Fall of 2019, and identified 128 supporters for youth civic engagement.
- ✔ **15 current and alumni SHAPE Woodlake members participated in Jovenes Adelante.**

## Events



### 2019 Women's March

- ⊗ ACT coordinated with several organizations in the Tulare County area to bring the Women's March to Visalia's Oval Park neighborhood in 2019. The event featured feminist speakers from every corner of our community and a march from The Oval Park to Downtown Visalia.

### "Repro Power Happy Hour": May 2019

- ⊗ "Repro Power Happy Hours" are ACT quarterly happy hour events to specifically engage adult allies in our policy and campaign work. In our local organizing work, we try to identify issues and moments to get our adult ally base involved in our work and feel connected to our broader community.
- ⊗ During the height of the abortion ban rollbacks, ACT staff decided to host a "Repro Power Happy Hour" to give an informal talk on the laws and threats to Roe v Wade, and what we can do to support organizations in those states. People who attended made new friends, were plugged into volunteer opportunities, and invited to our annual fundraiser!

### #CHOICEstory

- ⊗ In the Spring of 2019 we launched a social media campaign to share the powerful stories of Central Valley folks who have accessed abortion care in our region. This campaign was called CHOICEstory. Our aim was (and is always) to destigmatize abortion and choice in the Central Valley, where access to abortion is limited and shamed.
- ⊗ Folks from across multiple Central Valley counties submitted stories to ACT through multiple outlets, some choose to be anonymous, while others wanted to be unaltered.
- ⊗ **In total we published 4 stories through our social media outlets.**

## Pizza with a Purpose

- ⊗ The Planing Mill Pizza in Downtown Visalia graciously hosted a fundraiser night for ACT in June. Alumni and community supporters from Woodlake to Pixely joined us to pack the house! Thank you Planing Mill for showing us some love!

## All Program Graduation

- ⊗ In July, ACT hosted it's All Program Graduation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The graduation honored ACT program participants that completed a program with an 80% or more attendance rate. The event also recognized interns and volunteers for the year. The evening included a musical performance from FLA graduate, Amiyah Kiki, speeches by staff and youth, and a posole dinner. Friends and family of participants attended as well as organizational allies and local leaders.
- ⊗ 108 people attended the graduation.

## Staff Appreciation Day - Scavenger Hunt in Woodlake

- ⊗ SHAPE Woodlake/Jovenes Adelante program participants organized a Scavenger Hunt in Woodlake for the ACT staff as an appreciation for the hard work, commitment, and support ACT continually gives to Woodlake young folks! Staff were split into teams, were given clues, and needed to find program participants out in popular Woodlake locations (like the Botanical Gardens) for the next clue! To Rosa's dismay, her team lost (if you know Rosa, you know she is our most competitive staff member)!

## Wine.Women.Equality.

- ⊗ WWE is ACT's annual fundraiser and celebrates Women's Equality Day.
- ⊗ This year we took the WWE back to the Cellar Door venue, a well known local music venue, and hosted over 150 people including the Woodlake High Principal, VUSD school board members, organizational allies from multiple counties, participants, family and friends in an event that included awards, wine tasting, music, and a drag show.
- ⊗ The following were awarded:
  - ♥ **Vivian Sanchez** (FLA, ACTION team, & IVE alumni) with Emerging Leader Award
  - ♥ **Victor Camacho** (FLA& IVE alumni & ACT Intern) with Volunteer of the Year
  - ♥ **Fidelia Morales** (community ally and longtime environmental justice activist) with Activist of the Year
  - ♥ **Blanca Lucatero** (Woodlake High teacher, parent of SHAPE alum, and longtime ACT supporter) with Community Leader of the Year



♥ **Christina Jones** (organizational & community ally) with the Person of the Year Award.

- ☉ With the love of our community and support of statewide sponsors, ACT raised \$17,165 to continue building the RJ movement in the South Central Valley with young people of color at the front!

## Our Truth Art Show

- ☉ In September of 2019, ACT collaborated with The Arts Consortium of Visalia, which brings together artists, organizations and art enthusiasts to advocate, promote and provide opportunities to create and celebrate the arts for all Tulare County residents and visitors. ACT set out to hold the “Our Truth Art Show” at the Arts Consortium gallery and did a call out for additional youth art on the topic of LGBTQ+, immigration, reproductive justice, health access, and environmental justice.
- ☉ In the Fall of 2019, a committee of program alumni was developed to curate art that would be displayed at the art show. The committee members then created their own reflections on the submissions that were turned into part of the art show.
- ☉ Over 130 pieces of art from SHAPE Orosi, SHAPE Woodlake, alumni, and Tulare County community member submissions were curated for the art show.
- ☉ In October, 50 people attended the art show from the community. The exhibit allowed visitors to be engulfed in the experience of the youth of Tulare County.
- ☉ Amongst the art was a short film created by SHAPE Woodlake alum, Erica Diaz. Her film titled “Resisting Erasure, Creating Space” was featured in the Our Truth Art Show. Erica stated, “Storytelling is resisting. Storytelling is creating. These are ours..” Her film is available on the ACT Instagram page.



## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

- ☉ We love our volunteers at ACT! They are the heart of the organization and support us in so many ways from events, office duties, and outreach activities!
- ☉ Trans Day of Remembrance: November 25, 2019:
- ☉ ACT Feminist Leadership Academy alumni and intern, Amiyah Kiki, organized her ACT peers to coordinate Visalia’s first-ever TDOR march and vigil in collaboration with The Source LGBTQ+ Center.
- ☉ Amiyah worked with ACT staff to create a press release, connect with partners to invite them out, and host a poster-making party for the march.
- ☉ The local newspaper, Visalia-Times Delta, covered the event.

## Halloween Pumpkin Party

- ⊗ Participants from across all programs, ACT alumni, and community members came together for a carving pumpkin party.
- ⊗ A total of 12 participants.
- ⊗ Pumpkin Patch Day
- ⊗ On October 29, 2019, SHAPE Orosi, SHAPE Woodlake and FLA held a joint Pumpkin Patch trip to build connections across programs. They enjoyed the corn maze in the dark of night, sharing jokes, and trying to scare each other and got to share a night of fun and bonding.

## Holiday Party

- ⊗ ACT staff and interns put on a magical winter wonderland dance party and karaoke night for an all-program holiday party! ACT alum and folks from all over Tulare County enjoyed a night of fun before winter break!
- ⊗ A total of 22 participants joined us.



## Interns and Volunteers:

Interns and Volunteers are a key component to helping move ACT's work forward. We are so thankful for all their time and support, we couldn't do all the work we do without them!

**Interns Total = 5**

**Volunteer Total = 87**

### 2019 Lead Interns

#### Karla Mendez

Karla was a Lead Intern and an Alumni Academy participant with ACT. When she heard about ACT and our mission, she was excited that a progressive grassroots organization exists in her home county. She first got involved with the organization as a member of the 2019 Pharmacy Access: ACTion Research Team. She recently received her B.A. in Women's Studies at Fresno State, and is pursuing her career in community organizing and nonprofit work. Her love-language is food, therefore she loves to go out to eat with friends and family and cook vegan meals in her freetime.



Karla hosted a ReproPower Happy Hour, has co-facilitated sex-ed, and is continuing to develop her leadership role and public speaking.

Congratulations to Karla! Karla has joined the team of a community organization based out in Fresno to follow her dreams! Karla will forever have a home at ACT!

#### Emalee Farley

Emalee Farley is in her last semester at Fresno State, majoring in Women's Studies. She first interned for ACT in the summer of 2016. Since then, she has written curriculum for ACT and intermittently volunteered for us. Now, she is a Lead Intern for ACT focusing on supporting grant reporting and disability justice. ACT stood out for Emalee because of the focus on youth development and highlighting intersectional feminism with the youth of Tulare County. Emalee's favorite thing to do is to go on hikes!



#### Amiya Kiki

Kiki is passionate about advocating for trans rights, and is working with ACT staff to create a deeper dive curriculum for FLA and facilitate the curriculum herself. Kiki is using her time as an intern to gain facilitation skills and improve her public speaking. Kiki lead Visali's first Transgender Day Of Remembrance march and rally in the Fall of 2019.



#### Victor Camacho

Victor began volunteering for ACT in 2017 after hearing ACT staff speak about our programs and the organization at COS. Since then, Victor has been committed to ACT's every campaign, program, and goal. He is an alum of FLA, IVE, ACTion Teams, and was the first volunteer to join our Lead Intern program! Victor received our Wine.Women. Equality. Volunteer of the Year award in 2019! In January 2020, Victor moved to complete his Bachelor's degree at CSU Humboldt. We wish Victor the very best and can't wait for his return to Tulare County!



## Central Valley Alliances:



In 2019, ACT was able to build power with allied organizations, such as but not limited to, 99Rootz (Power California), Loud 4 Tomorrow, and The Source LGBT+ Center. In the Central Valley of California, relationships and alliances are vital to advance power and build our collective movement. Each of the above named organizations strategized and leveraged policy with ACT, engaged in deep cross-sector thought work and support, and applied for joint funding with us to advance our work.

### Alliances Highlights:

- ⊕ In May 2019, ACT participated in Visalia PRIDE hosted by The Source LGBT+ Center. Eight program participants volunteered to table for ACT at the event and many more attended.
- ⊕ In August, 2019, ICE Out of Tulare, a coalition of organizations and community members committed to the protection of immigrant communities and families, held a press conference in response to the "Truth Forum." The coalition decided to hold the conference on why we chose not to attend the forum due to heightened physical danger, the short notice to the public, the lack of information provided in reporting, and the public statement of support by the sheriff.
- ⊕ ICE Out of Tulare County also held community vigils in Visalia and Lindsey in September of 2019 to provide space for healing, discussion and uniting our community. ACT hosted the Visalia vigil, in which attendees created potted rosemary, held a discussion on feelings connected to the current climate for immigrant communities, designed candles, and concluded with a candlelight vigil.
- ⊕ On November 25, 2019, ACT and The Source held a march and rally for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). Approximately 40 people attended and 1 news outlet covered the story. This was the first time that a march was part of the Visalia TDOR.



## Foundation Supporters

### Local:

Tulare Board of Supervisors	\$ 2,500.00
Woodlake Unified School District	\$ 2,600.00
Central Valley Community Foundation	\$ 32,500.00
<b>Total Local</b>	<b>\$ 37,500.00</b>

### National:

Groundswell Catalyst	\$ 40,000.00
Groundswell IVE General	\$ 117,850.00
Robert Wood Johnson (UC Berkeley)	\$ 29,969.21
Grove Civic Engagement	\$ 20,000.00
Hewlett	\$ 100,000.00
Ms. Foundation for Women	\$ 52,000.00
Arcus Foundation	\$ 100,000.00
<b>Total National:</b>	<b>\$ 459,819.21</b>

### State:

California Pan Ethnic Health Network	\$ 5,000.00
Teen Success, Inc	\$ 26,663.75
Yo Cali!	\$ 10,000.00
CV UP	\$ 59,439.00
Teen Success	\$ 19,997.75
Sierra Health Foundation	\$ 20,000.00
Latino Community Foundation	\$ 27,500.00
The Women's Foundation of California	\$ 86,000.00
Power California	\$ 33,637.40
National Day Laborer Organizing Network	\$ 5,000.00
Sierra Health Foundation	\$ 10,000.00
The Ca. Endowment	\$ 50,000.00
California Pan Ethnic Health Network	\$ 3,225.00
Women's Catalytic Fund	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Total State</b>	<b>\$371,462.90</b>

**Total Foundation:  
\$868,782.11**



*Credits to design: Wynonna Lui, Cover Art: Erica Diaz*

