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PUBLIC FORUM ON IMMIGRATION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Local volunteers convene experts on how the national debate hits home.

(Santa Clara, CA) Bay Area experts on immigration will convene at the Santa Clara Main Library on Monday, June 19 at 7 PM to help local residents make sense of how changes in national immigration policy might affect their communities. The panel was organized by a group of local volunteers participating in a service-learning project at Hands On Bay Area called *TeamWorks 201: Immigration, Cultural Diversity & Community*.

"For me, knowing more about what I can do to support recent immigrants has given me a real sense of empowerment," explained Maryanne McGlothlin a resident of Menlo Park and a Hands On Bay Area volunteer. "Through this panel, our team is taking what we've learned to a broader audience and giving the community a chance to ask questions, hear from experts and delve deeper into the issue."

Local residents are invited to hear a panel of experts discuss the issue and respond to questions. Confirmed panelists include Olivia Mendiola, CEO, Mexican American Community Services Agency; Robert Yabes, Director of Immigration Legal Services, Catholic Charities; and Marilyn Lacey, Refugee Services Director, Catholic Charities, Larisa Casillas, Policy Director, Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN). The event is free and open to the public.

"At Hands On Bay Area, we work to give people a way get involved in their community and effect change," explained Hands On Bay Area's executive director, Jim Pitofsky. "Sometimes getting involved means serving food at a soup kitchen or cleaning up a park - and sometimes, like with this event, it means gathering with your neighbors to ask questions about pressing community issues. "

Hands On Bay Area is a nonprofit that organizes over 100 volunteer projects per month. Thirteen volunteers from the South Bay and Peninsula are participating in *TeamWorks 201: Immigration, Cultural Diversity & Community* by volunteering at agencies that serve the immigrant community of Santa Clara County, talking with the agencies' staff members and clients, and holding ongoing group discussions.

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Hands On Bay Area

Hands On Bay Area (Hands On) creates social change by mobilizing our communities, through volunteer management, leadership development and issues education. Hands On creates, manages and leads volunteer projects for individuals and corporations that benefit more than 300 nonprofit agencies. Each month, Hands On coordinates and manages more than 100 community service projects that engage 10,000 volunteers each year. For more information, please visit www.handsonbayarea.org.

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