

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear WAFA Members:

We dedicate this program to Ernie Flores, Retired Executive Director of CVOC, and Chris Paige (deceased), Retired Executive Director of CHD, two individuals who have been instrumental and committed to farmworkers all of their adult lives. They have given WAFA of their time, their money, their talent, and most of all their sincere care for the mission of WAFA and its purpose.

Twenty-seven years ago a group of visionaries decided that in order to preserve and protect farmworkers' programs it was important to formalize and organize an alliance of advocates that were committed to the service of farmworkers. Thus, they created the Western Alliance of Farmworker Advocates (WAFA), which has successfully advocated for funding for the National Farmworker Jobs Program, year after year, for nearly thirty years. WAFA is one of five regional alliances within the national organization that forms the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP).

What is amazing and beautiful about the livelihood of WAFA is that it has been made possible with sheer grassroots ganas and determination. WAFA is not funded by government or any private entity. Its funds are derived from members' dues and annual training conferences. In addition, member leaders and staff support the efforts of advocacy with raffles, auctions, and personal donations.

We are proud of WAFA members and the work they have done for twenty-seven years, and we salute Ernie and Chris for their part in making WAFA a living example of advocacy. We thank all member organizations and their staff for their commitment and dedication to farmworkers and their families, and we challenge all of us to continue the struggle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hermelinda Sapien".

Hermelinda Sapien, Chair
President/CEO, Center for Employment Training

Quality of Life 2017 Award



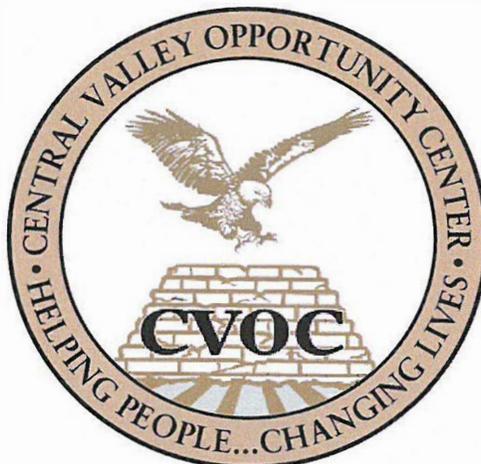
Ernie Flores retired as the executive director of Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC), based in Winton, CA on March 3, 2017. He served in that capacity since October 1994. CVOC is a 501 c 3 private not for profit corporation governed by a 12 member board of directors.

Ernie has been involved in not for profit management for over 37 years, as both a controller and executive director.

Ernie served four terms as President of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs Board of Directors (Washington DC) between October 1998 to September 2016, and also served as member and past president of the La Cooperativa Campesina de California (Sacramento), member of the Western Alliance of Farmworker Advocates (Sacramento), a member of the Stanislaus County Alliance and the Merced and Madera Workforce Investment Boards. He also served as vice chairman of the State of California/ Department of Community Services and Development LIHEAP advisory board. He is currently a member of the PG&E Community Advisory Council and served on the PG&E/ Greenlining Partnership for 6 years. He also served on the Board of Regents for the California School of Professional Psychology. He is also the founder and treasurer for the Western Alliance of Farmworker Advocates (WAFA) PAC.

Ernie is an alumnus of Fresno City and Fresno State colleges in Business Administration/ Organizational Management and Development.

Ernie is married to Angie and they have two children, two grandchildren. He is an honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran and served as a medic in Viet Nam with the 4th Infantry Division. Ernie's hobbies are travel, golf, politics and computers.



Quality of Life 2017 Award

Christopher Paige served as the Chief Executive Officer for California Human Development. Chris joined CHD in 1975 as a Program Planner in the CETA 303 Program. In 1979 Chris became CHD's Chief of Operations with responsibility for all CHD programs. Chris served as Deputy CEO under the organization's only two CEOs prior to being asked by the Board to step into this role.



California Human Development now serves over 15,000 clients in 31 Northern California counties in the five broad areas of employment and training, housing, criminal justice, disability services and community services.

Chris had a long-standing interest in justice for farmworkers dating back to the end of the Bracero Program and early job training efforts to assist farmworkers under the War on Poverty.

Chris was actively involved in La Cooperativa Campesina de California since its inception, providing leadership in the planning and program development relating to disaster assistance, dislocated workers, immigration reform, health care, and equity for farmworkers in the Decennial Census counts of 1990 and 2000.

Chris was recognized for his volunteer activities by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, in particular their Human Race fundraiser. Chris could be found at the end of the original and only centipede. Additionally, he was active on the Board of Sutter Care at Home formerly Sutter VNA and Hospice, the Sutter VNA and Hospice Foundation and the Redwood Arts Council. He was an active participant the Workforce Investment Boards of Sonoma and San Joaquin Counties, and the North Central Counties Consortium. Chris was also recognized by the Central Valley Opportunity Center in 2005 with the Dolores Huerta Lifetime Achievement award.

He was a past Board member and past President of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) and is a member of their Farmworker Hall of Fame and won their President's Award for exceptional contributions to improving the lives of migrant season farmworkers.

Chris's efforts were actively supported by his wife Bettina (Tina), daughter Maggie Blumenfeld, son Matthew Paige and grandchildren Caleb, Melia and Devon.