

## EBASE is Creating a Place to Belong for ALL

A sense of belonging. At the core of human nature is the desire to be valued, to feel at home, and to have community. Our jobs, our homes, and our neighborhoods should be sanctuaries. Places where everyone's work and contribution is valued. Places where people come together to eat, to love, and to share in life's celebrations and heartaches. And places that embrace our rich cultural and racial diversity.

However, for low-income workers, people of color, and immigrants, our economy is structured to deny us the opportunity to succeed and make us feel that we do not belong. That somehow, there is scarcity, in spite of the fact that our country is so abundant. EBASE is working to create a community that embraces the humanity of all people – honoring our brilliant minds, compassionate hearts, and divine spirits.



Scenes of resistance and inspiration since January 2017: TOP ROW: Praying for sanctuary and liberation by Annette Bernhardt; Ban the Box action at the Port of Oakland by EBASE staff. MIDDLE ROW: Hands around Lake Merritt against hate by Shira Bezele; Collecting signatures to make Concord a Sanctuary City by EBASE staff; Performance at Resistance training for 1,600 activists by Shira Bezele; Protest against the travel ban by Brooke Anderson. BOTTOM ROW: Oakland May Day march for immigrant and worker rights by Annette Bernhardt; Concord May Day march for #RoofAndRefuge by Bob Lane.

# Meet Gustavo: A May Day Striker



When Gustavo Aceituno came to this country from Guatemala in 1986, he didn't know he would become a leader in the Justice for Janitors movement and be striking with thousands of other immigrants this May 1st.

He's been a janitor in Contra Costa County for 30 years and has fought for years to win better wages, benefits, and dignity of the job. **But his current fight is about the unprecedented attack on immigrants.**

Gustavo has papers, but many of his co-workers do not, and he anguishes about what might happen. **"Every day people live in fear and don't know what they will find when they go home,"** said Gustavo. "Will they be torn from their children? Will they be sent to another country? Will they lose everything and have to start over?"

**"We went on strike to liberate ourselves** from what Trump is doing to immigrants. We expressed our anger and sadness about the state of the world and how the country is being divided by hate."

"It felt good to be with so many people who feel the same way. Because we are together, we have strength. **No one should feel they are alone – I believe that if we unite, we will eventually win.**"

Gustavo dreams of a world where there is no hate, and the deportations stop. He said, **"We came to this country to work hard, and I just want all people to be able to live our lives in peace.** Let us work, and then pay us enough so that we don't have to struggle. That's a very simple dream."

Gustavo lives in Pleasant Hill in an apartment with his wife Sheri who drives a school bus, his son Kevin who paves freeways, and his two granddaughters, Mirabella and Alexis. He is an Executive Board member of SEIU-USWW, an EBASE coalition partner.



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