Our life-saving and life-changing programs are possible because of the generosity and passionate involvement of our volunteers and donors. Without you, the future of our “beloved community” will not exist. You are our lifeblood and our partner. Join El Centro de la Raza—give and get involved in your community.

Join the El Centro Network:

facebook.com/elcentro72
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“...the people at El Centro drew me in. I love being part of this community of caring people.”

-H. Kim Smith, Volunteer
The Center for People of All Races

The wisdom and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have been a large part of our principles. Profoundly moved by witnessing the suffering and struggle of people, our founding members dedicated themselves to establishing a just society. We embrace those who are unable to meet life's challenges and assist those who want to fulfill their potential. Our journey to serve humanity began in October 1972 in Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood. While based in the Latino community, our passionate and open heart beats for the human race.

The Center of La Raza provides the following programs:

**Community Building and Development:**
- Child and Youth Programs: Preparing youth for their futures in higher education and leadership through early childhood education, after-school programs, and mentoring.
- Education and Skill-building Programs: Promoting self-sufficiency and empowerment through bilingual programs in financial literacy, ESL and literacy classes, homeownership education, and homeownership counseling.
- Community Development Programs: Civic involvement, grassroots organizing, political and social activism are a few ways we effectively address the immediate needs of our community through direct service and advocacy.

**Human and Emergency Services:**
- Work, housing, and mentoring: Providing crisis intervention, emergency shelter, and employment assistance.
- Health Education: Offering health education and information.

**3 Stories:**

- **Luisa:** A story of hope and resilience.
  - Luisa, fleeing a violent domestic life with three young children, found unwavering help and support.
  - El Centro provided much-needed housing, educational assistance, and employment services.
  - She became a volunteer at El Centro and repaid her gift by becoming a youth program volunteer.

- **Ruth:** A story of transformation.
  - Ruth, a 97-year-old woman, came to El Centro suffering from depression.
  - Involvement in senior activities helped her to heal, and she became a volunteer at El Centro.

- **John:** A story of growth and development.
  - John and his family received support from El Centro when he was a child.
  - Today, he is a middle-school teacher and a member of the board.

Through the unique and vital combination of both services and advocacy, El Centro has been the home to people seeking a better life with dignity, self-reliance, and growth.