

## Community Outreach & Education Team



### Promotores Program Coordinator

#### Silvia Albuja

Silvia emigrated to the U.S. from Ecuador in 1990. She has a B.A. in Business Administration from Universidad Central del Ecuador. While working for NYC, Silvia was the School Linked Services Coordinator at Hill Middle School for 9 years where she advocated for immigrant students and their families - connecting them to the school system and other community resources. Silvia has also facilitated Parent Project parenting classes for parents of teens and Abriendo Puertas parenting classes for parents of young children. She was also a co-facilitator in the Teen Moms program, has worked with Kinder Academy and helped facilitate playgroups. In addition, she has many years of experience working as an interpreter and translating materials into Spanish. Silvia has been the Promotores Coordinator for the past six years.



### Community Outreach & Education Assistant Manager

#### Maria Albuja

Maria Albuja joined NMCS in September 2014. Maria started as a driver and kitchen assistant, and in June 2015, she transitioned into a new position as the Head cook. Maria shares that her passion for cooking is rooted in the strong belief her grandmother teaches her, "food brings family and people together." Most recently, Maria served as NMCS's Climate Action Coordinator. She wants to use her passion, motivation, and share her beliefs on *climate change* with the community. She states "We can work together to have a good and sustainable life, reducing our footprint over the World and leaving a legacy for our children and future generations." Maria emigrated from Ecuador 15 years ago; she lives locally with her daughter.



### **Youth Outreach & Education Coordinator Venessa Rodriguez**

Venessa joins the NMCS team as our Bilingual Latine Youth Wellness Coordinator. Having recently relocated to the Bay Area from San Luis Obispo, CA, Venessa brings with her enthusiasm and a passion for community engagement. Originally born and raised in Southern California, Venessa's passion for supporting diverse communities stems from her own upbringing. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Health and Society from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Venessa's dedication to community service was evident in her previous role as the CalFresh Outreach Manager at the SLO Food Bank, where she assisted low-income families in learning about the CalFresh program. In her free time, she enjoys trying new foods, spending time with friends and family, and relaxing at home with her cat, Raya. Excited to bring her personal, professional, and educational background to NMCS, Venessa is fulfilling a long-held aspiration to work in the mental and reproductive health field, specifically for young adults.



### **Promotores Team**

Core to the Latine Programs team are the Volunteer Promotores. This is a NMCS volunteer program that trains and engages Latine natural communities leaders who are trusted and embedded in the existing community infrastructure. This program model is a powerful way to bridge the English- and Spanish-speaking communities. Currently we have 21 Promotores who serve in Novato, San Rafael Canal area and West Marin. 90% of our Promotores represent 8 Latin American countries - Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and El Salvador.