

## **Resilient Communities Team**



### **Administrative Assistant**

#### **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.



### **Food and Community Response Specialist**

#### **Maria Albuja**

Maria Albuja joined NMCS in September 2014. She started as a driver and kitchen assistant before becoming the Head Cook for the Child Development Program. Maria shares that her passion for cooking is rooted in the strong belief her grandmother teaches her, "food brings family and people together." In 2022, Maria shifted her focus to community engagement with roles focusing on climate change education and community outreach. Now, as Food and Community Response Specialist, Maria draws on her deep knowledge of the local community and a passion for ensuring people have the tools they need to be resilient in a changing world. Maria emigrated from Ecuador 19 years ago and lives locally.