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WOMEN'S MARCH ORGANIZERS FORM NEW GROUP WITH ITS FIRST COMMUNITY ACTION

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WOMEN'S ACTION LAUNCHES IMMIGRANT SUPPORT EFFORT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Feb. 10 — A group of Santa Cruz County women who organized two events that drew more than 16,000 people to march in Santa Cruz and Watsonville a day after the presidential inauguration announced has re-established its group to form the Santa Cruz County Women's Action (SCCWA). Members include: Maria Boutell, Maryanne Campbell, Amy Dahlen, Cynthia Hawthorne, and Rachel Williams.

SCCWA in its first action has solidified a partnership with the Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP), which is part of Community Action Board. The fundraising effort is designed help families and students stalled in the visa process. The move comes in response to the heightened risk to vulnerable Santa Cruz County immigrant families and students under an executive order from the Trump administration. Individuals can donate at <https://store.sccwomensaction.com>.

"Our goal is to help keep families together and support DREAMER's in renewing their visas and return to school or their jobs," said Jenny Sarmento, one of the Women's Action founders. "Three out of four immigrants are women or their children. Now is the time for everyone to come together to protect women's rights and help keep families together."

Although the partnership had been under discussion, this week's deportation of a working mother of two American children in Arizona made the partnership increasingly urgent. The arrest of Guadalupe Gracia De Rayos has put a face on the callous disregard for women and families.

"Families, today more than ever, are requesting immigration support due to the current impacts of the political landscape," said MariaElena De La Garza, executive director of Community Action Board.

With guidance from CAB/SCCIP, Women's Action plans to break through the immigration barrier and help families stay together by providing funds to cover federal fees ranging from \$535 to \$1,140 per application. The partnership with CAB/SCCIP will provide immediate, supportive and concrete aid for immigrant women, students, and families who are living in fear.

For more information

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