



**CASTELLANO
FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carmela Castellano-Garcia
(916) 218-2221

**CASTELLANO FAMILY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SUPPORTING LOCAL LATINO ARTS,
CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

(San Jose, Calif., June 22, 2017) - The Castellano Family Foundation (CFF) is celebrating 15 years since starting their philanthropic journey to support Latino arts and culture, education, leadership development and diversity in Santa Clara County.

The Foundation will mark its crystal anniversary with a free public celebration at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in East San Jose on Friday, June 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will include a video highlighting some of their grantees and the work they do in the community, the debut of a "Cinco De Mayo" documentary and a traditional "pachanga" with live music by the Chicano Soul Oldies band Q-Vo.

The CFF founders, Alcario and Carmen Castellano, have a long history of involvement in the San Jose community. After winning a \$141 million lottery jackpot in 2001, they established a foundation to support the local Mexican American community and made a splash on the national philanthropic scene as the country's most prominent Latino family Foundation.

The celebration will reflect on the Foundation's mission to support arts, education and leadership development and will celebrate the accomplishments of its grantees, who have been beneficiaries of \$5 million in donations over the past 15 years.

While Carmen Castellano remains a Trustee, Mr. Castellano has transitioned the leadership of the Foundation to his three children, Maria West, Carmela Castellano-Garcia and Armando Castellano. "We want to continue our parents' legacy as ambassadors for Latino philanthropy, promoting the benefits of investing in Latino-serving non-profit organizations" said Carmela Castellano-Garcia, President of the Foundation. "We intend to continue promoting the important issues related to diversity and philanthropy at the national level, but most importantly, we remain committed to continue investing in the local Latino community."

The highlight of the celebration will be the premiere screening of the one-hour documentary "Memories of Cinco de Mayo and 16 of September Celebrations in San Jose 1986-1997," narrated by Mr. Castellano and produced by his daughter Carmela and the Foundation. The film highlights people coming together to celebrate culture, arts, and tradition during the Cinco de Mayo Parades and Fiestas Patrias festivities that were captured by Mr. Castellano on VHS video. Mr. Castellano was a key figure in putting these events together as a member of the San Jose American GI Forum.

WHAT: Castellano Family Foundation's 15th Anniversary Celebration

WHEN: Friday, June 23, 2017, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mexican Heritage Plaza - 1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose, CA 95116

[About the Castellano Family Foundation](#)

Established in 2001 by Alcario and Carmen Castellano, the Castellano Family Foundation has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations that promote Latino arts and culture, education, and leadership development throughout Santa Clara County.

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