

Adelante Mujeres

“Who We Are”

Our ultimate aims (Box A)

These ideas are about our conscience and our resolve, about how we want to be present and engage in the communities we serve. In all things,

We will model hope and justice in everything we do, acting courageously.

Premises that guide us (Box B)

We hold fast to a set of fundamental ideas as the underlying rationale for our work. These ideas are our conceptual foundation, our starting point, our guideposts. These are the *ideas to which we are dedicated*:

We believe that a healthy, vibrant Latino community strengthens our society.

The influence of the Latino community on our whole society is immeasurably significant. When there is strength and vitality throughout the Latino community, the perspectives, values, culture, and commitments of Latinos improve the experience of everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or social status.

We believe that the empowerment of women is essential for a thriving community.

The influence of women on our communities is inestimable. Women provide strength, resolve, nurture, leadership, guidance, presence, structure, and nourishment to all of us in countless ways. For a community to thrive, women must be empowered to fulfil their potential.

We believe that all people have an innate capacity for growth and transformation.

Possibility is within everyone. All people can develop themselves. Everyone can improve. Transformation is not just the privilege of a few, but the capability and right of all people. Even when people have experienced significant obstacles the potential for growth is still within them.

We believe that learning leads to a flourishing life.

Learning, in all of its forms, unlocks a future worth living. Whether through formal education or informal mentoring, the experience of discovery and the commitment to acquiring and applying knowledge is a catalyst for a better life. Learning is critical for all of us to flourish, but is especially important during the years of childhood and youth.

We believe that a strong community requires the inclusion of everyone.

We are stronger when we can depend on others, learn from others, and be stretched and informed by others, particularly when the perspectives of others include those unlike ourselves. A rich human ecosystem strengthens the resilience and amplifies the potential of a community.

We believe everyone has a responsibility to cultivate a peaceful community and a healthy planet.

The responsibility for seeing a quality of people, place, and planet belongs to everyone. Our world depends on the care and intention of all people.

The impact we intend (Box C)

Our ideas about intended impact are the areas of the change we would like to effect and of how our children, families, and communities will be different because of Adelante Mujeres. We will design and implement strategies *in service to*:

- 1. Latino women are empowered to lead.**
- 2. Latino children are equipped with the tools for social, emotional, and academic success.**
- 3. Latino families live with compassion toward one another and the earth.**
- 4. Latino families have a strong economic foundation.**
- 5. Latinos mobilize positive change in the community.**

The ways we engage others (Box D)

We believe that every organization is guided by a set of commitments not just about the “why” and the “what,” but also the “how,” the ways we are committed to engaging those we serve. All that we do will be characterized by these ideas of “how”:

A holistic approach to the individual, family, and community

We interact with people and their experience not in parts, but as a whole. We value all the facets of the human experience. We see individuals in the context of their family, friends, and colleagues. We recognize that true human progress results when the whole person is engaged.

Engaging the strengths of people

We work with what is strong within people and their situations. This strength-based approach allows us to respect people, their stories, and their progress. It helps us maximize the potential of each person we work with.

Meeting people where they are, then taking steps forward together

We connect with people at their point of current need and present opportunity. We don't expect people to be perfectly put together. We join them in identifying a vision for their lives, and then support and guide their way forward.

Deep cultural understanding and solidarity

Our approach is informed by the riches of cultural awareness, appreciation, and sensitivity. This allows us to engage our people, families, and communities appropriately and with nuance and verve. We also work from a position of identification, and approach our mission from a posture of oneness with those we serve.

Seeking participation and collaboration with others

Our vision for impact is significant and ambitious. We cannot accomplish it alone. We must work closely with others and seek partnerships with people and agencies dedicated, as we are, to accomplishing our vision for community impact.