

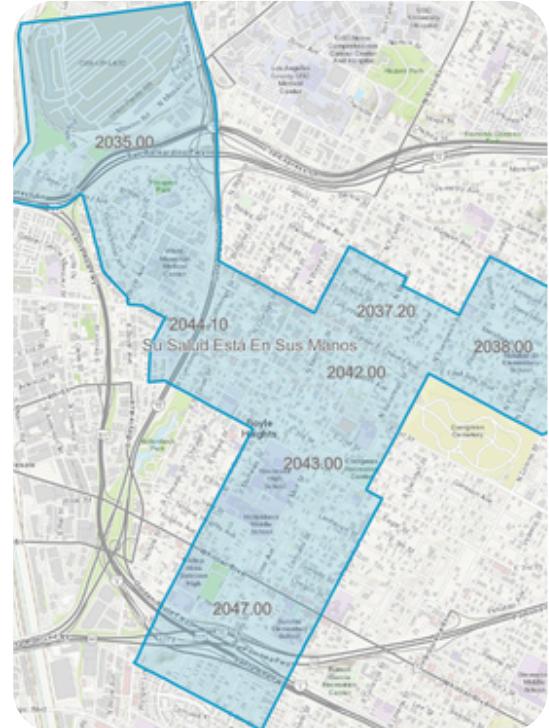
NONPROFITS UNITE FOR BOYLE HEIGHTS

WITH SU SALUD ESTÁ EN SUS MANOS

By Monsi Portillo

Boyle Heights is a neighborhood with deep roots, celebrated for its vibrant culture and strong community resilience. However, it is also a place where the community faces many health disparities, and access to quality healthcare and essential services is often limited. These challenges are exacerbated by financial stress and housing insecurity, making everyday life a struggle for many. As a result, Boyle Heights residents often turn to community-based organizations for support.

Margarita is one of the many community members navigating these difficulties. *Su Salud Está en Sus Manos*, a Community Public Health Team in Boyle Heights, learned the extent of her struggles while conducting household assessments at Salesian Family Youth Center. The youth-serving local nonprofit is one of the team's ancillary partners and Margarita frequently brought her children there for homework help and other programs. Yet, behind her participation, she was experiencing a quiet struggle. As a single mother and the sole provider for her family, she had to make the impossible choice of buying a mattress for her children or paying rent to keep a roof over their heads.



The team connected Margarita to rental assistance, alleviating her immediate financial burden and allowing her to focus on other necessities. They also helped her purchase a bed for her children, giving them a comfortable place to sleep. In addition, *Su Salud Está en Sus Manos* provided information about educational workshops, childcare options, and other opportunities to ensure she had ongoing support. After receiving permission from Margarita, the team shared her story with the director at Salesian Family Youth Center, who offered further assistance. She no longer felt alone in her struggles and was grateful for all the help that had made such a difference in her life.

This intervention was not just about providing immediate financial assistance; it was the result of the personalized care and attention Margarita received from *Su Salud Está en Sus Manos*. Through this comprehensive approach, the team took the time to understand her unique challenges and needs and connect her with the right resources.

Families struggling to make ends meet often don't know where to turn for help. Margarita's story highlights the importance of projects like Community Public Health Teams, which create community partnerships and a network that has capacity to provide comprehensive support to anyone in times of need.

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