

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING THE RAÍCES Y CARIÑO FAMILY CENTER

WHEREAS, the mission of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in our community by increasing positive awareness of queer youth leadership and increasing safe and welcoming environments at home, at school, and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award is given annually to honor an organization that has made significant contributions to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, established in 2022, the Raíces y Cariño Family Center has become a vital part of the Pajaro Valley community, offering a welcoming and affirming space where LGBTQ+ youth and families are supported and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, the Raíces y Cariño Family Center, or RC Fam as it is known, proudly displays LGBTQ+ affirming signs, provides culturally responsive support in Spanish, and collaborates with organizations such as TransFamilies, The Diversity Center, and the Rainbow Defense Coalition (RDC) to host inclusive meetings, trainings, and events; and

WHEREAS, staff from RC Fam are regularly invited to schools and agencies to share knowledge and raise awareness around culturally representative LGBTQ+ issues, helping to foster understanding and inclusivity across the region; and

WHEREAS, RC Fam has also opened its doors to PRISM, a bimonthly Gay Straight Alliance community for queer, trans, and ally students, and to the Rainbow Playgroup, a monthly bilingual gathering for LGBTQ+ families with elementary-age children; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, RC Fam hosted its first bilingual Drag Story Time, where drag artists read picture books and celebrated joy with local families, and when the event was met with an anonymous hate letter, RC Fam responded with courage, modeling how to stand with the LGBTQ+ community through compassion and education; and

WHEREAS, the Raíces y Cariño Family Center has created a lasting legacy of love, resilience, and cultural pride, helping to build a more inclusive and affirming Pajaro Valley for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby honor and recognize the Raíces y Cariño Family Center as the recipient of the 2025 Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

May 10, 2025

Date