

JESSICA GOVEA
6 Stuart Terrace
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

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By FAX 415-824-7874

Fred Ross SENIOR
c/o Neighbor to Neighbor
San Francisco, CA

Dear Fred,

I have a very fond and clear recollection of the first time that I met you. It was the summer of 1954, you were the CSO organizer (a tall man who wore plaid shirts and khaki pants!), my mother was a shy, Chicana, ex-farm worker homemaker raising three young children, my father was a Mexican immigrant working at Santa Fe Railroad, we were living in a tiny one bedroom house at 1510 Padre Street in the Little Okie in Bakersfield, and I was a seven year old about to enter the third grade. You honored us by having dinner with us that night. It was such a special event for us that my mom remembers what she cooked!

That was the beginning of a wonderful ribbon of childhood memories that revolved around you and CSO work. Work that you, as the organizer, helped to shape and that profoundly affected the direction of my family's life. Memories that included...

...you working with my mom, Esther Martinez, Ernestine Salazar and other "CSO ladies" and teaching these shy women to be aggressive service center advocates.

...my dad teaching you Mexican "dichos".

...the jam-packed monthly CSO membership meetings that the whole family attended where my parents and people like them did their "business" in a respectful and effective way.

...going door-to-door with my dad doing CSO work.

...meetings in our living room where my dad and mom, Henry and Esther Martinez, Gilbert and Ernie Salazar, the Burciagas, the Nuñez and other officers of the chapter struggled with important issues and made good and tough decisions for action.

...fights with the local powers that CSO won!

Fred Ross SENIOR
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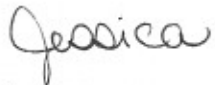
Being a "CSO kid" helped me to grow up with hope and a belief in myself and my worth and led me to what is now nearly 27 years of organizing work.

Fred, you are the "purest" organizer I have ever known. I hope that I can thank you for what you have taught me over these many years by passing some of it on to others.

You are loved, admired, and respected in the Govea home and have been since that day in 1954 that you came to our door.

Thank you.

Con mucho cariño,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica".

Jessica Govea