

Lupe Anguiano (b. 1929)

Executive Director, Stewards of the Earth

(Stewardship of our Environment, Indigenous People and our Collective History)

Defying any single category of cause or action, Lupe Anguiano, an educator - has always worked for the equality of all people. She is a passionate environment advocate, helping to protect "Mother Earth and all Creatures" from global warming and other destructive environmental hazards. In 1949, she joined Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. As a nun, she worked for fifteen year to improve the social, education, and economic conditions of poor people throughout the United States. Anguiano was a United Farm Workers Volunteer, working under the direction of Cesar Chavez in Delano, California. Then, in Michigan where she successfully lead the grape boycott of 1965.

Nationally, Anguiano is best known for her many years of work advocating changes needed in AFDC Welfare Policy. In 1973, disturbed by the hopelessness of women, single parents trapped in welfare poverty, Lupe Anguiano moved into the San Antonio public housing projects, where in six months she assisted 500 San Antonio women to leave the welfare rolls for jobs--all in the private sector.

She founded the National Women's Employment and Education Model Program (NWEE) and enlisted the support of many San Antonio businesses that provided skills training for the women, along with funding for education, employment upward mobility, child care, transportation and other support services needed to help stabilize the women in gainful full time employment. NWEE became a nationally recognized successful Model employment and education project – implemented in Seven States – where over 5,000 women single parents became gainfully employed.

While working to change Welfare Policy for women single parents, Lupe became involved with the Women's Liberation Movement – 60's and 70's. She participated with outstanding women leaders, Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, and other feminist in the formation and founding of the National Women's Political Caucus and was a leader, helping to bring Catholic support to the Equal Rights Amendment. In 1977, she was elected as a delegate to the first State of Texas nationally funded "Women's Conference" and was also elected as a delegate to the "First National Women's Conference held in Houston in November of the same year – where along with Jean Stapleton and Coretta Scott King, she read the "Declaration of American Women." The "National Women's Conference" became a landmark for women in the United States.

Currently, Anguiano is a daily hard working Steward of the Earth environment and employment developer - working with Rory Cox, Program Director of Pacific Environment and Ratepayers for Affordable Clean Energy; the Oxnard Ormond Beach Task Force; the California Coastal Protection Network; the National Latino Coalition on Climate Change. On the Employment side Lupe is developing a Model Employment and Education Project in collaboration with Mexican Poor Clare Sisters in Chalco, Mexico (close to Mexico City) and the State of Chiapas, Mexico helping poor women develop gainful employment skills, along with computer education that will help them find jobs in Mexico – rather than seeking jobs in the US.