

In my neighborhood, the majority of the faces you see around are Latinx. Our people live in this society where a resolution for immigration is becoming hard to discern, which prevents us from being informed about the opportunities undocumented people receive in this community. Gaining knowledge about such a sensitive topic should be exposed in high school before students go onto the real world. Due to the change of politics and laws, my community gathered up and decided to create an organization that would help undocumented people to receive their fundamental needs. The club Si Se Puede was created back in 2018 by a pair of students who both come from immigrant families. Si Se Puede is a club that raises awareness in the community about the opportunities undocumented people have at Richmond High. We have brought lawyers and hosted informative events about immigration where we discuss the rights undocumented people have in the United States. Clubs like Si Se Puede are capable of creating supporting webs for undocumented students, increasing awareness about opportunities and creating a safer environment for discussion around such a sensitive topic.

Si Se Puede brings truth and benefits to our community. When you grow up in a society that never brings up the opportunities for immigrants, people don't know the truth of what is available for them academically, as well as financially. Even though I am a citizen of the United States, I had to leave this country at a young age with my mother because she was deported; 12 years later we moved back to the United States. She had two children to raise, so she accepted whatever jobs were out there for her, but watching her suffer made me feel useless because I was attending school but I did not know any knowledge about labor. Families who emigrate from their country to the U.S usually take low paying jobs with poor conditions just to survive; this can be proven by seeing the poverty in Richmond CA, where Latinx are the most common racial

group with 34.5%, living below the poverty line in 2017 ([DATAUSA](#)). Even though there are many companies that are willing to support undocumented people and offer them a fair paying wage, such as Chevron, the community quiet frankly, does not seem to be aware of any of this and does not take advantage of it. I wanted to find a way to support not just my mother, but my entire family who seemed to be struggling with low paying jobs. People who come from an immigrant family or know anyone who is undocumented should gain knowledge about immigration because this knowledge could benefit people by learning to ameliorate ways to live, specially undocumented people, they can seek better paying jobs with the right amount of information.

Si Se Puede brings fairness to the community. By acknowledging the opportunities for undocumented people, it will create a fair path for immigrants to know what is out in the community to help their situation. According to Mr. Zaragoza, a teacher from Richmond High School:

“For a long time the word ‘immigration’ had made me think of someone hiding or getting away from those men dressed in green. ‘Not getting caught!’ Migration on the other hand, makes me think of endless opportunities for anyone willing to take the leap and risk it all. Being undocumented didn’t really mean much to me until the semester before graduating from high school. Suddenly having to leave the comfort of my sheltered education and stepping into the real world left me completely exposed. Not having papers meant not being able to access a lot of what I always wanted and intended to reach. I couldn’t get a driver’s license, lawful employment, nor could I pay for higher education. That semester after Pacifica High School was quite depressing for me. However I had the right people that kept me going. “Si se puede,” they’d tell me. I had good people on my side that in some shape or another, guided me through my 10 year journey to get to and through UC Berkeley” (Zaragoza).

As Zaragoza stated, growing up in a society where you are only taught about academic needs leads to the lack of fairness towards undocumented people for when they go off to the real world to face the real problems. It is important for everyone especially in our community to be

aware of all information about immigration because knowing what to do to improve one's situation leads to many open doors.

Si Se Puede creates goodwill as well as better friendships. By creating safer communities on campuses, especially high schools, it could lead to building goodwill as well as better friendships. I, Jennifer Diaz Lopez, the vice president of Si Se Puede, with the help of my team, assigned ground rules to treat every member of the club the same and with respect, with no judgement and be supportive as well comprehensible; we are a community in where we support every student in Richmond High who doesn't get a safe place to talk about their status or situation. Si Se Puede was formed in order to build a connection where students don't feel isolated, not only for undocumented students but also students who feel connected to immigration. Students who are either undocumented or know anyone who is, should be part of a community where they feel safe by having clubs on campuses who support them.

Si Se Puede is the right way to change a society's structure. Surely, people in my community live with poor knowledge about immigration. People who emigrate do not know where to get resources about the help undocumented people receive in the United States and rather live with whatever is given to them. Even students get affected by not knowing how important it is to be aware of the help they can get, until they are exposed to the real world. Si Se Puede fills this gap.

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