



## **AMISTADES, INC. RECEIVES USDA FUNDING TO ADDRESS FOOD INEQUITY FOR LATINO YOUTH**

Tucson, Arizona (August 21, 2023): The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded Amistades, Inc. (Amistades) a one-year grant of \$50,000 to address longstanding food inequity in Douglas, AZ, through the *Mayahuel Edible Garden Project*. Efforts by Amistades will include introducing gardening practices and farm to table concepts to youth as early as age 10, incorporating local and seasonal foods into school meals, and re-introducing youth and adults to their indigenous and Latino-relevant foods and historically sustainable farming practices.

“I hope to accomplish something new that will promote some teamwork and build conversations amongst our student community. Amistades has been awesome to our school community and are always looking for ways to educate or bring awareness to our community,” said Oscar Romero, Principal of Liberty Traditional Charter School-Saddleback in Douglas, AZ, where the program will be implemented.

Douglas is a binational community situated at the U.S.-Mexico border across from the city of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Its population is 80% and its cultural roots are mestizo, reflecting Native American and European Spanish ancestry that is commonly defined as indigenous Mexican.

Amistades is a Latino-led, Latino-serving non-profit committed to race and equity issues in Southern Arizona through the provision of culturally responsive services, advocacy for social justice, and community empowerment. Amistades uses a culturally rooted intergenerational family approach to working with Latinos. The agency prioritizes addressing immediate issues, leads efforts that eliminate false narratives about Latinos, and develops system focused strategies that change the conditions that perpetuate inequities.

“We are pleased to be able to provide effective and sustainable programming that uses culturally responsive approaches that honor the history, culture, and values of this unique region,” said Ricardo M. Jasso, Founder & CEO of Amistades.

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