



Monarch Board of Directors Welcomes Rafael Hernandez and Mariana España

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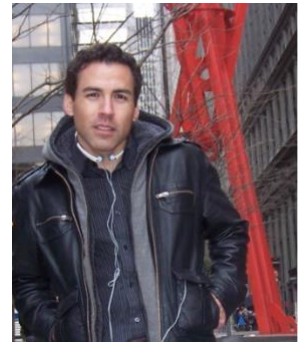
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Overview: The Monarch Services Board of Directors is pleased to welcome two new members, Rafael Hernandez and Mariana España.

Rafael Hernandez

Between community organizing, filmmaking, teaching, consulting work and volunteering, Hernandez has over 20 years of experience working for immigrant and underserved communities in California and abroad. Hernandez has taught at both Hartnell college and Rancho Cielo Youth Campus and supported children's education in the Salinas Valley. He now works on housing policy, education, and advocacy because he views housing as central to people's lives.

Hernandez earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley, and his master's degree in public administration at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. He is an Education Pioneers Fellow, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and speaks four languages. He is an avid practitioner of mixed martial arts, dancing, and he writes multilingual rap poetry. Above all, he is a committed father whose favorite thing in the world is to be with his son.



Mariana España

Mariana España was born in Mexico City, lived in Oaxaca, Mexico in her early childhood and spent part of her adolescence in Spain. From the time of her first arrival in the United States, Santa Cruz has been her first and most lasting home. España began her community involvement as a Recreational Leader in Watsonville. She later worked within the educational system as a teacher's aide and peer mentor to youth. After earning her bachelor's degree in La Raza Studies, she returned to Santa Cruz and worked with Monarch Services as a youth advocate and then as Monarch's Children and Youth Program Manager. España then earned her master's degree in social work with emphasis in children and youth. She was awarded a Title Four Scholarship and placement in Santa Cruz County Family Services. España then worked for San Mateo County Aging and Adult Services for six years, initially as an in-home support services social worker, but then as Program Supervisor. España returned home to Santa Cruz while expecting her first child and is now a stay-at-home mother.



España is bicultural and fully bilingual in Spanish and English. Her volunteer experience is as diverse as it is expansive. She has volunteered helping rescue animals, raising money for research foundations to save our planet, fighting policies that reduce access and rights for individuals with physical limitations, to save our libraries, and to vote in elections. España currently offers low-cost fitness classes to the elderly, sliding scale Zumba dance instruction, organizes book drives and mother's groups, coaches soccer and runs for charities. When taking time for herself, she enjoys making piñatas, dancing, and drawing.

About Monarch Services:

Monarch Services has a 44-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. Monarch Services is the only rape crisis and human trafficking center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost.