

Otila Salazar Torres

Otila Salazar Torres is a lifelong San Jose resident who is passionate for public service and as a community supporter. She won her seat on the board in her first government election by engaging the community and sharing her passionate message “To ensure that the Oak Grove School District is responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of the community.”

She has a long history of work within education especially in the areas of persons with disabilities and the Mexican/Chicano arts. Her work in special education started in a self-contained classroom which grew into a day class and eventually evolved into an integrated/inclusionary site at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Alongside this work, Otila has served on the City of San Jose Disability Advisory Commission and as a Committee Member on the State of California Office of Emergency Services for persons with disabilities. She is currently working with the State Council of Developmental Disabilities and is an IHSS provider for an orphaned individual with a disability.

Otila has worked in the nonprofit sector and engaged individuals in the disability community through work with the California State Department of Rehabilitation. She serves and leads work at faith-based organizations that provide mentorships, clubs and camps. She has played a key role in establishing an integrated youth camp for teens with disabilities and their peers.

Otila and her husband are ordained missionaries for the disabled and at-risk youth at Cryy Out Christian Fellowship. Otila has also co-founded a non-profit serving individuals with disabilities and at-risk youth in Santa Clara County with disability advocacy, mental health, spiritual activities and socioemotional support.

Through her growth in San José, Otila became part of the Aztlan Academy-San José Inc. to learn, teach, dance and perform traditional regional dances from Mexico. Currently, she is a trustee, maestra, and performing arts dancer with this nonprofit. She utilized her knowledge to teach in the community at Sakamoto Elementary, Grant Elementary, Herman Intermediate, Santa Teresa, Oak Grove, Silver Creek, Yerba Buena, Andrew Hill High Schools and City of San José community centers.

Otila appreciates the support of her family with her husband Manuel and rescue pug, Charlie. She is a proud mother to Jonathan and her extended family with his wife Norine and 3 grandchildren with one more on the way!

Otila is blessed, honored and proud to be able to serve her community and work toward shared ideals.