

Estimados Miembros del Comité de NSE:

Mi nombre es Yasmin Mata, madre de Zoé Mata, y soy cuidadora FFN (Family, Friends and Neighbors) y miembro de la comunidad en San José. Desde el año 2023 soy parte del programa FFN, lo cual ha sido una experiencia muy valiosa tanto para mí como para las familias a las que apoyo.

El programa Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) me ha ayudado a fortalecer mis conocimientos sobre el desarrollo infantil, mejorar la calidad del cuidado que ofrezco y sentirme respaldada como proveedora de cuidado en el hogar. Además, FFN me ha apoyado con recursos importantes como un iPad, un dispositivo que no hubiera podido comprar por mi cuenta y que utilizo para capacitaciones, planificación y actividades educativas con los niños.

Gracias a este apoyo, también he podido continuar mis estudios universitarios como asociada de maestra, preparándome profesionalmente para ofrecer un cuidado de mayor calidad. Asimismo, el programa nos brinda oportunidades de participar en actividades recreativas y educativas como visitas al zoológico, parques y museos, experiencias que enriquecen el aprendizaje de los niños y fortalecen la conexión entre las familias y la comunidad.

Este programa es esencial para los niños, las familias y los cuidadores de nuestra comunidad porque ofrece recursos, capacitación, experiencias educativas y acompañamiento que muchas veces no están disponibles para cuidadores informales. FFN fortalece a las familias trabajadoras y asegura que los niños reciban atención de calidad en un entorno de confianza.

Respetuosamente le pido a la Ciudad de San José que continúe financiando y apoyando los programas de cuidado infantil, especialmente FFN, porque este programa impacta directamente el bienestar, la educación y el desarrollo de nuestros niños y cuidadores, que son el futuro de nuestra comunidad.

Gracias por su tiempo y consideración.

Atentamente,

Yasmin Mata

**FFN**

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**From** Mary Carrillo [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 11:51 AM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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I will like to comment on the importance of the FFN program, why is it important, why is beneficial for all our communities.

In this days childcare crisis has become a major issue for working families, there is not enough childcare institutions for our San Jose kids , and the ones that we have some times are way to expensive for families to afford.

Some of this families rely on friends , family and neighbors to provide care for their children. The FFN program provided by the San Jose public library gives child care providers a way to educate and support this regular people with a lot information about how to support children which are under there care , and ensure the children of San Jose have access to the best care available. This friends , family and neighbors have the opportunity to attend different sessions with prepared representatives of child development and learn from them . It is imperative that we continue to support the program that will provide information and education to the families that are willing to help with the care of our children in San Jose .

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## In Support of FFN program funding

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From Bright Sparks Play Lab [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/11/2026 1:52 PM  
To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Katerina,

I wanted to share a few reflections on childcare and FFN care from both my professional work and my lived experience as a parent.

Childcare access quietly decides whether many families can work, grow careers, or run small businesses at all. When care is stable, parents can say yes to jobs and opportunities. When it is not, they scale back, turn things down, or leave the workforce entirely. For many families, especially those building small businesses, childcare is the difference between surviving and contributing meaningfully to our local economy.

FFN care plays a powerful role here. It is often the most culturally aligned, flexible, and trusted option for immigrant families and for parents with nontraditional schedules. Grandparents, aunts, neighbors, and close friends are not just “backup care.” They are the care.

**Programs that support FFNs strengthen what already exists in our community. A little training, connection, and resourcing goes a long way. It increases safety and confidence without taking away the relational heart of this care model. For many families, FFN support feels approachable in a way formal systems sometimes do not.**

I also see FFN childcare as real economic infrastructure. As San Jose hosts major global events like the Super Bowl and World Cup, we rely on a workforce that includes healthcare staff, hospitality workers, service workers, and small business owners. Those adults can only show up if their children are safe and cared for. FFN care often fills the early mornings, evenings, and weekend gaps when centers cannot. In that sense, childcare is as essential as transit or roads. Maybe less visible, but just as load-bearing.

From my own lens as a pediatric occupational therapist and the founder of a community-based early childhood play program, I see how childcare stability lowers parental stress and increases participation in community life. When families feel supported, they invest back into their neighborhoods. The ripple effects are real. Support one caregiver and you often support an entire ecosystem around them.

Thank you for the work you do for San Jose families. If helpful, I am always glad to share what we are seeing on the ground. The tiny humans are excellent data sources, even when sticky.

Warmly,  
Jen Godin

Founder, Bright Sparks Play Lab   
Occupational Therapist (MSOT, OTR/L)



*Because we're raising resilient problem-solvers, one chaotic moment at a time.*

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## Childcare Policy Opportunities

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**From** candy chan [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 1:54 PM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hi Katerina,

Thank you for preparing for tmr's meeting.

My name is Candy and I live in district 9. Communities rely on Family, Friend, and Neighbor childcare for support to go to school, keep jobs, and strengthen San Jose's economy. Please fund these efforts to help the city thrive and ensure high quality early learning and care access for our children.

Thank you.

Blessings,  
Candy

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Reaching Hearts Preschool 延心幼兒學校- a Whole Child Development Bilingual School  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**FFN San Jose Public Library**

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**From** Noemi Lopez [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 1:57 PM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Honorable City Council:

This program has profoundly changed our lives, as a mother, as a neighbor, and as a member of this community. Through this program, I was able to start school and become the first person in my family to attend college, made possible by the incredible support it provided.

Not only were the class experiences incredibly helpful, but we also built a strong, supportive community. This program has impacted hundreds of families by providing reading support, valuable resources, meaningful learning experiences, classroom tools, CPR certification, books, language development support, self-care for caregivers, and so much more. The resources offered for both children and caregivers have made a lasting difference in our homes and throughout our community.

If this program had not been available, I would not have been able to begin my career in early education, discover a new passion, or teach and guide the children in my care - including my own - with the education, values, and support I gained from the library and the FFN team.

This program doesn't just serve families it strengthens an entire community.

Warmest Regards,

Noemi Lopez

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**Please help the FFN program continue!!!!**

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**From** Marian van Ham <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 2:37 PM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc** Marian van Ham <[REDACTED]>

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Dear NSE Committee Members,

My name is Marian van Ham, and I am a FFN caregiver, substitute instructional assistant and substitute Health Clerk at the OGSD. The FFN program has helped me so much. The knowledge I gain through this program is applied on a daily basis and shared with people around me, including people at the OGSD. The program offered free college classes, which I participated in. Now I am continuing my education. The end goal is to earn my AA degree and become a preschool teacher. This would not have happened without the program.

The FFN program is essential to children, families, and caregivers in our community because so many caregivers would like to have more knowledge to offer the best support for the children, and do not know what is available to them. This includes learning about the development of a child (PITC), learning about culture with Dr. Shalek, learning about Delay and Disabilities (Innovations Collaborative), and information about services that are available to them like CalFresh.

I respectfully ask the City of San Jose to continue funding and supporting childcare programs, especially the FFN program, because it has and will reach caregivers who otherwise will not have the opportunity to increase their knowledge regarding children. It also helps caregivers to connect with other caregivers, helping them not feel isolated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marian van Ham

## Written Comment for Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

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From Anakaren Quintero Davalos <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 2/11/2026 4:03 PM

To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Investing in caregivers is investing in children and in that regard, the future of San Jose. Programs like the Family, Friends, and Neighbors Caregiver (FFN) Support Network have given so many people the opportunity to not only be recognized for the labor they provide, which the most common form of child care, but also feel supported and empowered. I have lived it and I have seen it. Through FFN, caregivers have gained access to training, resources, and community that ultimately strengthen the quality of care they provide and improve outcomes for children. It is imperative to continue investing in San Jose's caregivers, children, and future by preserving and strengthening the FFN Caregiver Support Network.

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February 11, 2026

San José City Council Neighborhood Services and Education Committee  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Re: CC 26-023 Family, Friends, and Neighbors Caregiver Support Network Status Report

Dear Chair Ortiz and Members of the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee,

As the co-chairs of the Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa Clara County (LPC), we are writing to respectfully urge the City of San José to reconsider its decision to defund and close the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Support Network Program. As the Status Report demonstrates, this program plays an essential and unique role in strengthening the city's early learning ecosystem – improving childcare quality for families who face the greatest systemic barriers to care, supporting providers on the pipeline towards establishing childcare careers and businesses, and strengthening the Early Learning and Child Care strategic priority of the City's Children and Youth Services Master Plan.

For families, the FFN Support Network directly benefits low-income women of color, who disproportionately rely on FFN care because of cultural familiarity, language alignment, cost considerations, and the need for flexible arrangements that accommodate nontraditional work schedules. San José experiences a chronic lack of access to childcare for the youngest children and for care out of normal business hours – exactly the kinds of care that FFN providers often provide. Without reliable childcare, parents, especially mothers, are unable to maintain stable employment or advance in their careers. This causes direct harm to the local economy - lack of access to childcare is estimated to cost our county over \$2 billion per year in lost productivity. The FFN Support Network helps stabilize the childcare infrastructure that supports San José's workforce and local businesses.

For providers, the FFN Support Network provides training, support, and a peer network to improve the quality and sustainability of their services, helping them to provide better care for children. For some, it serves as a critical first step toward a career in early childhood. Almost 100 of the program's participants have completed the post-secondary education requirements needed to work in licensed preschools. For others, the program can provide a pathway to licensure as a family childcare small business. The Network's workforce development outcomes compare favorably to the City's other investments in this area, benefiting both the participants and the broader community.

Members of the LPC and local childcare providers were pleased to participate in the development of the City of San José Children and Youth Services Master Plan and are ready

to support its implementation. The Master Plan identifies Early Learning and Child Care as a strategic priority, emphasizing the need for safe, inclusive environments that support children's development. The plan states that "The City intends to support existing initiatives and efforts that align with CYS Master Plan strategic priority areas" and the City Council has approved \$10.5M in spending to support implementation. Maintaining the Network - with expert and experienced staff, demonstrated benefits, strong partnerships, and a clear focus on equity – not only benefits children, families and the community but also demonstrates the City's commitment to implementing the Master Plan.

For these reasons, the LPC respectfully requests that the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee and broader City Council:

1. Reconsider the decision to close the FFN Support Network Program in the light of the significant benefits described in the Status Report;
2. Restore and protect funding for this essential early learning resource during the ongoing Budget development process; and
3. Continue its partnerships with the SCCOE and its broad coalition of community partners to maintain support for FFN caregivers and the broader ECE community to benefit the children, families, economy, and community of San José.

Thank you for everything that you do to support San José's children, families, and caregivers.

Sincerely,

Cathy Boettcher and Melissa Roth, Co-Chairs  
Local Early Education Planning Council of Santa Clara County



Wednesday, February 11, 2026

San José City Council  
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Re: CC 26-023 Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) Caregiver Support Network Status Report

Dear Chair Ortiz and Members of the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee:

On behalf of FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, I write to express our strong support for the continuation of the City of San José's Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) Caregiver Support Network Program. We respectfully urge the Committee and the full City Council to reconsider the proposed closure of this program and to restore funding as part of the FY 2026–2027 budget process.

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County has been a long-standing partner in strengthening San José's early learning infrastructure. We have supported the work of the San José Public Library's FFN program for years and have seen firsthand its impact on children, caregivers, and families, particularly those facing the greatest systemic barriers to licensed care.

In addition, FIRST 5 played a leadership role in the development of the City of San José's Children and Youth Services Master Plan. I had the privilege of serving as Co-Chair of the Early Learning and Child Care Workgroup, where City departments, County partners, and community stakeholders came together to develop a strategic roadmap for strengthening childcare access and workforce stability.

The adopted Strategic Priority Area for Early Learning and Child Care establishes the following goal:

Children and families can access affordable, quality early learning and care experiences that promote optimal growth and development. Within that framework, the plan explicitly calls for:

- Alignment with and support of the City's Family, Friends, and Neighbor Caregiver Support Network;
- Ongoing personalized support for informal caregivers offering childcare within families and communities;
- Expansion of high-quality licensed and licensed-exempt childcare options, including FFN care; and
- Strengthening the early education workforce and career pathways across diverse settings

The FFN Support Network is not ancillary to this strategy, it is a core component of it.

As outlined in Councilmember Campos' February 9, 2026 memorandum, the City has reaffirmed its commitment to affordable childcare and strengthening childcare infrastructure as part of its economic development strategy. Maintaining the FFN Support Network directly advances those commitments.



The program:

- Stabilizes childcare access for families working nontraditional hours and those seeking culturally and linguistically aligned care;
- Serves as a workforce entry point for caregivers interested in licensure or early childhood careers;
- Expands the mixed-delivery system by strengthening licensed-exempt providers as part of the broader childcare continuum; and
- Supports economic participation by enabling parents, especially mothers, to remain in and advance within the workforce.
- Intentionally and measurably improves the quality of these early care sites by providing access to trainings, college credits, and quality improvement grants.

Furthermore, the FFN Support Network complements the broader early childhood ecosystem. Together, these investments create a pipeline, from informal caregiving to licensure to professional workforce development, that strengthens San José's childcare supply and overall economic resilience.

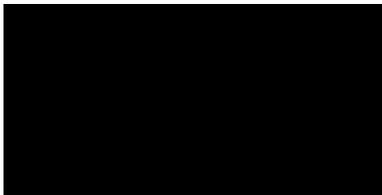
The Children and Youth Services Master Plan identifies Early Learning and Child Care as a strategic priority area and aligns it with the City's Children and Young Adult Bill of Rights, including access to education, safety, support, and family stability. Discontinuing the FFN Support Network would run counter to both the spirit and the explicit strategies of the Master Plan. For these reasons, FIRST 5 Santa Clara County respectfully requests that the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee and the full City Council:

1. Reconsider the decision to sunset the FFN Support Network Program;
2. Restore and protect funding for this program in the FY 2026–2027 budget and beyond; and
3. Continue strengthening cross-system partnerships that recognize FFN caregivers as essential contributors to San José's early learning and economic infrastructure.

We remain committed to partnering with the City, SCCOE, community-based organizations, and families to ensure that San José's childcare system reflects the equity, access, and workforce goals the City has thoughtfully articulated in its Master Plan.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to children, families, and caregivers across San José.

Sincerely,



Trena Hudson  
Executive of Early Learning & Care  
Interim Executive of Family & Health Strategies  
FIRST 5 Santa Clara County



## Apollo FFN

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**From** maria valencia [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 5:47 PM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Buenas tardes mi nombre maría valencia escribo mi carta en apollo para los programas de desarrollo FFN me a brindado una educación profesional para ejercer mi trabajo como cuidadora de la primera infancia , sin el apollo profesional que nos brindan estos grupos de apollo FFN no pudiéramos dar un cuidado de alta calidad . Muchas gracias atentamente maría valencia .

Enviado desde mi iPhone

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(No subject)

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From Sofia Gutierrez - [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/11/2026 6:53 PM  
To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Espanol: Ejemplo de carta para los miembros del comité

Estimados Miembros del Comité de NSE:

Mi nombre es CARMEN SOFIA GUTIERREZ MORENO \_\_\_\_\_, y soy \_\_\_\_\_

(padre/madre /

cuidador(a) FFN / proveedor(a) de cuidado infantil / miembro de la comunidad) en San

José.

1. El programa Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) me ha ayudado al  
\_conocimiento y entrega como cuidadora infantil el progeama nos es de mucho apoyo para seguir en  
el camino como cuidadora infantil. \_\_\_\_\_.

Gracias a este apoyo, he podido

Lograr mis metas de tener una capacitacion y un mejor conocimiento para poder ser una mejor  
cuidadora infantil y poner en práctica lo q e estado aprendiendo porque el ser un cuidador infantil es  
entregar amor y comprensión para los niños y los padres es nuestra mejor forma de apoyo para ellos  
q necesitan un lugar de confianza paradejar a sus hijos por eso yo estoy poniendo todo lo mejor de mi  
para q los niños y los padres se sientan con seguridad. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Este programa es esencial para los niños, las familias y los cuidadores de  
nuestra comunidad porque

Si seguimos teniendo los recursos y el apoyo de los miembros para q sigamos adelante nuestros niños  
seguiran teniendo un lugar seguro donde sus padres los puedan dejar porque el cuidado infantil  
siempre ha sido uno de los programas q siempre sean necesitando para el apoyo de las familias y de  
todas las comunidades\_ sin esto no podrán lograr\_sus  
necesidades. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Respetuosamente le pido a la Ciudad de San José que continúe financiando y  
apoyando los programas de cuidado infantil, especialmente FFN, porque

Sin su apoyo muchas FAMILIAS nos quedariamos sin tener un lugar para nuestros niños y gracias a el  
programa de FFN,hemos tenido los recursos para lograr tenerlo yo en lo personal les agradezco de  
todo corazón por todo el apoyo q me han brindado para seguir adelante con mis metas y lo q he  
logrado hacer es gracias a ellos por que siempre estan ahi para brindarme su apoyo incondicional

lluvia de bendiciones para cada una de las personas q nos brindan su apoyo.\_\_\_\_\_.

Gracias por su tiempo y consideración.

Atentamente,

CARMEN SOFIA GUTIERREZ MORENO

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## FFN Program Support

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**From** Mayra Gonzalez [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 2/11/2026 7:51 PM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Cc** SJPL FFN Caregiver Support Network Program <FFN@sjlibrary.org>

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Dear Honorable City Council Members,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to continue funding the FFN Library Program. This program has made a meaningful difference not only in our community, but in my own life.

Through the FFN Library Program, I was given the opportunity to take Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes at community college at no cost. The program also supported me with access to technology, which made it possible for me to fully participate in my coursework and complete my classes successfully. Without this support, continuing my education would have been extremely difficult.

In addition, all of the staff members are welcoming, respectful, and incredibly supportive. They are always available to help with guidance, resources, or encouragement whenever needed. We also have weekly workshops that provide valuable learning opportunities, and the program offers free field trips for families to attend. These activities help families connect, learn together, and build stronger relationships within the community.

Because of this opportunity and support, I gained confidence in my teaching skills, upgraded my teaching permit, and was able to apply for a teacher position in a Head Start program. This program did not just support my education — it helped me advance my career and better serve children and families in our community.

The FFN Library Program is an investment in people. It strengthens families, builds a more qualified early childhood workforce, and creates pathways for professional growth. Losing funding would mean fewer opportunities for individuals like me who are working hard to improve their skills and give back to the community.

I respectfully ask that you protect and continue funding for the FFN Library Program so that others can have the same life-changing opportunities that I did.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Mayra Harms



Sent from my iPhone

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## Family Friend and Neighbor Caregiver Network Support San Jose King Library

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From Nadchieli Davalos-Martinez [REDACTED]

Date Wed 2/11/2026 8:59 PM

To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hello

For me as a grand mother this program represents the light that guides my path to acquire formal education to develop my knowledge. And I know that it will be reflected in the positive impact on the lives of children I take care of and those around me . Please keep the support for our program it is for our community and for our children, our future. Thanks 🙏

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**Childcare Opportunities Status Report Family, Friends, and Neighbors Caregiver Support Network Status Report.**

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From kathy Davalos [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/11/2026 10:23 PM  
To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Ms Tubera,

Please allow me to share a little of my perspective and personal life experience with the FFN program and childcare in my life .

Access to affordable, reliable childcare is not optional for working families like mine it is essential infrastructure that allows parents to remain in the workforce and provide economic stability for their children. Without dependable childcare, many families are forced to reduce work hours, turn down job opportunities, or leave employment entirely, which deepens financial hardship and limits long-term economic mobility.

My mother is the primary caregiver for my children, ages 2 and 4 , including one child of special needs (whom I wouldn't trust with anyone else in the world) & because of that I am able to work and support my household with peace of mind. When families have access to trusted caregivers, children receive consistent, nurturing care while parents can contribute to their communities and the economy. Investing in accessible childcare is an investment in working families, child development, and stronger, more stable communities.

Programs like Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) are critical community resources that strengthen families from the ground up. My mother has participated in FFN for several years, gaining training, education, and ongoing support focused on helping young children . especially those under age five grow socially and emotionally. As the sole caregiver for my children, including my child with special needs, the knowledge and resources my mother has received through FFN have directly improved the quality of care my children receive every day. Just as important, FFN

has created a network of support that ensures caregivers are not isolated or overlooked. The program empowers caregivers with tools, confidence, and a sense of belonging, allowing them to provide safer, more enriching environments for children. Continued investment in programs like FFN is essential to uplifting caregivers, strengthening families, and ensuring that children regardless of background have access to nurturing, informed care that helps them thrive.

Thank you for your time

Kathya Herrera Davalos



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## SJPL FFN Caregiver Support Network

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From LALA Miao [REDACTED]  
Date Wed 2/11/2026 11:08 PM  
To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hi Katerina,

I want to share my experience about how FFN supported my journey. I will be present at the meeting at City Hall tomorrow as well. I am excited to see you and the FFN team there.

All Best,  
Maria W.

Dear NSE Committee Members,

I am Maria Wong. As a committed parent, FFN caregiver, student, and enthusiastic advocate for caregivers—especially those supporting children with special needs—I am actively involved in the San José community. I connect with individuals who share my interests and help them advocate for themselves, their friends, and their families.

The FFN program has been crucial in my journey. The free classes offered at Mission College, along with ongoing support, have helped me regain my footing and learn from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

This assistance has motivated me to return to college, something I once thought was impossible. My educational path started at DeAnza College in 2013 while I worked full-time, but I had to pause my studies due to different challenges. In 2021, I encountered another significant hurdle when I was diagnosed with breast cancer while caring for my two young children, ages six (autistic) and eighteen months. I remained committed to my dream of returning to school after finishing my treatment. After six surgeries, I received an email from the San José Public Library introducing me to the FFN program, which became a pivotal moment in my life.

In 2023, after I inquired about the FFN program, I had an enlightening conversation with Lisa G. when I registered for orientation, as I was unsure what to expect. I was surprised by the large turnout, with many eager individuals looking to learn and advance. That day, I met Professor Willy Kwong from Mission College. The opportunity to access four free FFN classes in Early Childhood Education, totaling 12 units, was transformative; I eagerly committed to it. I have now completed all available Early Childhood Education courses through FFN and have accrued 24 units in the field. I am determined to further my education, with the goal of obtaining my Master Teacher Permit by the end of Spring 2026 and completing my associate degree by the end of this academic year. I aim to transfer to San José State University to become the first person in my family to earn a college degree.

The FFN program plays a crucial role for children, families, and caregivers in our community. I genuinely wonder whether I would have returned to school without FFN's support. Their exceptional assistance has been a driving force behind my success, allowing me to regain my independence and pursue my educational and career goals.

I strongly encourage the City of San José to continue funding and supporting childcare programs, especially the FFN initiative. Many individuals, like me, benefit significantly from this essential support. My dedication to advancing my education and contributing to our community relies on ongoing funding. It is vital that we can achieve our goals and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Wong

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Estimados Miembros del Comité de NSE: Mi nombre es Veronica Molina soy madre de familia y cuidadora de mi nieto, en la comunidad de San José

El programa de familia, amigos y vecinos (FFN) me ha ayudado a la capacitación de clases para el cuidado infantil y aprender tantas cosas que pongo en práctica el día a día con mis hijos y nieto. El aprender la importancia que tienen los primeros años de vida para cada niño y hacer que exploten toda su imaginación y que al cultivarnos de información podemos hacer la diferencia en la crianza y la enseñanza de cada niño. Al igual Estoy tan emocionada de haber tenido la oportunidad de saber de este programa, ya que en lo personal me ayudó a cumplir un sueño que jamás imagine sucediera. El darme la oportunidad de ser elegida para poder tomar clases a nivel de Colegio me hizo sentir bendecida, el sueño de regresar a la escuela y sentirse como un adolescente que fue aceptada a un colegio no tiene precio. No les puedo explicar la emoción que se siente. Solo puedo decir mil gracias por la oportunidad y el apoyo recibido.

Respetuosamente le pido al Ciudad de San José que continúe financiando y apoyando los programas de cuidado infantil, especialmente FFN.

Gracias por su tiempo y consideración.

Atentamente : Veronica Molina

## Support for the FFN Program – February 12 Meeting

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From Koyal Pal [REDACTED]  
Date Thu 2/12/2026 6:20 AM  
To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Honorable Members of the San Jose City Council,

My name is Koyal, and I am writing to express my strong support for the FFN (Family, Friend, and Neighbor) Program.

Although I am unable to attend the meeting on February 12, I respectfully ask that my letter be included in the official record. The FFN Program has made a meaningful difference in my life and in the way I care for children.

Because of FFN, I received many materials and resources that helped my child grow and learn. The program provided support that I would not have had otherwise. The training helped me understand child development and safety more clearly. I learned better caregiving skills, including how to support children's emotional growth, learning, and overall well-being.

FFN also taught me about proper nutrition and healthy food choices for children. This knowledge has helped me provide healthier meals and better care. The support, education, and community built through FFN are extremely valuable for caregivers like me.

FFN is not just a program — it is support, guidance, and opportunity for families and caregivers. I respectfully urge the City of San Jose to continue funding and protecting the FFN Program. Investing in FFN means investing in children, families, and the future of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Koyal

San Jose, CA

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## Personal experience with FFN (Kelin Sierra)

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From Kelin Sierra [REDACTED]

Date Thu 2/12/2026 7:14 AM

To Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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### Personal Experience with the FFN Program

Participating in the FFN Program has been a meaningful and transformative experience for me. Through this program, I gained valuable knowledge and practical skills that have strengthened my ability to support children and families in my care. The program have helped me better understand child development, age-appropriate activities, and the importance of creating a safe, nurturing, and structured environment. I have learned strategies to encourage positive behavior, promote early learning, and build strong communication with families. One of the most impactful aspects of the FFN Program is the support and resources it provided. I fell empowered knowing I have guidance, educational materials, a network of professionals and other caregivers to learn from. This experience increased my confidence and motivated me to continue growing as a caregiver.

Overall, the FFN Program has helped me improve the quality of care I provide, strengthened my relationships with families, and inspired me to continue pursuing professional development in early childhood education.

Sincerely,  
Kelin Sierra

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## How FFN has transformed the lives of many people

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**From** Pailina Carreón [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu 2/12/2026 7:32 AM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hello, my name is Paulina Carreon, and I would have loved to attend today to show my support for this wonderful program, FFN. I am a childcare provider, and I started a few years ago thanks to the incredible support of this team. I didn't know much about resources, classes, or other aspects that would support my work as an FFN, and they helped me. Today, I have a home daycare license and am studying at the UCSC Silicon Valley Extension, all thanks to the wonderful support of FFN. Do I believe this great program should continue? Absolutely, helping to empower this great community of childcare providers. Enviado desde mi iPhone

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Hace algunos años, mi hijo fue diagnosticado con autismo.

Como muchos padres, pasé por un duelo... tristeza, miedo y la sensación de perder el rumbo.

Mi vida se llenó de terapias, citas, reportes y reuniones.

Pero al mismo tiempo, yo sentía que me estaba quedando sin propósito.

Un día conocí el programa FFN.

Y no solo me ofrecieron información... me ofrecieron un camino.

Ahí descubrí que mi historia no era solo una carga, podía convertirse en una herramienta.

Aprendí, me capacité y conocí una comunidad que jamás habría imaginado conocer.

Por primera vez sentí que no solo estaba sobreviviendo, estaba creciendo.

Hoy sigo siendo madre de un niño con discapacidad.

Pero también soy una cuidadora que acompaña a otras familias, especialmente a aquellas con niños con autismo.

Estoy estudiando para ser asistente de maestra y mi sueño es convertirme en maestra de educación especial.

Un sueño que antes del FFN ni siquiera sabía que podía tener.

Gracias por ayudarme a transformar el dolor en propósito.

Maria Ines Legglew Cruz

Some years ago, my son was diagnosed with autism.

Like many parents, I went through grief, sadness, fear, and the feeling of losing direction.

My life filled with therapies, appointments, reports, and meetings.

At the same time, I felt I was losing my purpose.

One day I found the FFN program.

They didn't only offer information, they offered a path.

There I discovered my story was not just a burden, it could become a tool.

I learned, I trained, and I met a community I never imagined I would be part of.

For the first time, I wasn't just surviving, I was growing.

Today I am still the mother of a child with a disability.

But I am also a caregiver who supports other families, especially those with children with autism.

I am studying to become a teacher's aide and my dream is to become a special education teacher.

A dream that before FFN I didn't even know I could have.

Thank you for helping me transform pain into purpose.

Maria Ines Legglew Cruz

Jenny Li

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**From** Jenny Li [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu 2/12/2026 7:59 AM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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To FFN

I participated in the FFN Family and Caregivers Program. I gained a lot of knowledge and made good friends. Especially during the epidemic, when I couldn't go to school, I was able to study online. I am very grateful to the FFN staff for creating this learning opportunity for us to get together.

The FFN staff also arranged outdoor activities for us. We visited and studied at the fire station, and I worked at a daycare center. I have made a lot of progress through the FFN program. It was safe and convenient to study there. I hope FFN's courses can continue to help others in need.

Thank you,  
Jenny Li

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**FFN Program**

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**From** Liliana Mireles [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu 2/12/2026 8:49 AM  
**To** Tubera, Katerina <Katerina.Tubera@sanjoseca.gov>

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Buenos días Katerina,

Espero que esté teniendo un excelente día, mi nombre es Liliana Mireles, le explicaré un poco sobre mi participación en el programa de Familiares Amigos y Vecinos (FFN por sus siglas en inglés) que pertenece a la Biblioteca de San José. Yo he estado participando en este programa por un par de años, a través de estos años he tenido la oportunidad de tomar muchas capacitaciones sobre el desarrollo socio emocional de los niños en la primera infancia, clases de CPR y actualmente clases en la Universidad de Santa Cruz, además de la oportunidad que nos dan de aprender y ampliar nuestros conocimientos, nos proveen con mucho material didáctico que nos permite trabajar mejor con los niños y sus familias a los que les proveemos cuidado infantil. También nos dan la oportunidad de participar en las actividades y paseos que organizan para enriquecer aún más nuestra experiencia y al mismo tiempo de esta manera todas las participantes de FFN podemos compartir y convivir como la gran familia que somos. Yo personalmente estoy inmensamente agradecida con el programa y con las personas que lo dirigen porque he crecido bastante tanto académicamente como personalmente. Les pido desde el fondo de mi corazón que consideren seguir apoyando y no retiren fondos económicos para el programa. Muchas gracias por su atención a mi petición!

Sinceramente  
Liliana Mireles

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