



National Chavez Center Open to Public

Keene, Calif. – In April of this year more than 2,000 labor, political, community and religious leaders from across the country attended the historic unveiling of the Cesar Chavez Memorial and Visitor Center, the first of three facilities that ultimately will comprise the National Chavez Center at Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz, the historic headquarters of the Farm Worker Movement. The National Chavez Center is located 30 miles East of Bakersfield, just 2 hours driving northeast of Los Angeles.



The inaugural event included speeches by Chair of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation's Board of Directors Paul F. Chavez, former Gov. Gray Davis, UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, UFW President Arturo S. Rodriguez, and other dignitaries. Additionally, the two-day celebration included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a religious service, live entertainment, food, and children's activities.



The Chavez Memorial and Visitor Center is now open to the public on a daily basis. The Chavez Memorial, the garden around Cesar's gravesite, includes statues of the Virgin of Guadalupe and St. Francis of Assisi, a sculpture depicting an historic march and a floor mosaic forming the UFW's Aztec-inspired eagle. The Visitor Center, which was built from the renovated wood-frame building where Cesar worked from 1971 to 1993, includes a

The National Chavez Center gift shop has a great selection of specialty gifts, books, music, apparel and toys. Visitors can also purchase merchandise by visiting our online store at http://chavezfoundation.org/www_old/Merchant2/store.htm. Proceeds support the Foundation's year-round programming and are vital to helping us achieve our mission.

The Foundation is now beginning to raise funds for phases two and three of the National Chavez Center. Phase two of this multiyear project, a retreat center, will serve as the hub of the Foundation's programming, offering comprehensive instruction on Cesar's philosophies on a variety of subjects, including leadership, community organizing, nonviolent strategies for obtaining social justice, service-learning, religion and spirituality, and nutrition and personal health. It also will offer student, nonprofit, labor and community groups, businesses, and other interested organizations a facility in which to withdraw for meditation and study.

Phase three of the project will include a state-of-the-art museum and library. The museum will allow visitors to experience, first-hand, Cesar's home of 20 years, the office in which he worked, as well as his personal papers and effects. In addition, it will house an event center, bookstore, gift shop, and gallery.

The Foundation welcomes visitors to La Paz to experience first-hand Cesar's life, legacy, and values. For more information about this multiyear project, please visit <http://www.chavezfoundation.org> or call 661-823-6134.