

# PRESS RELEASE



**Yakima Valley  
Farm Workers Clinic**

**Date:** Thursday, February 10, 2022

**For more information, please contact:**

Kimberly Diaz, External Communications Specialist

Phone: (509) 314-1013

[media@yvfwc.org](mailto:media@yvfwc.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Corporate Programs Operations Officer Retires After 20 Years with Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic**

*Stella Vasquez leaves a long legacy of caring for the underserved*

**YAKIMA** – Stella's Vasquez, Corporate Programs Operation Officer, has dedicated her life to serving others. From her work with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Community Services Unit to building community programs to help the underserved in Yakima as CPOO, her mission to help others remained unwavering throughout her career. When asked why she came to work for Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Stella stated that "Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic had an excellent reputation, not only for changing lives but saving them." Their mission was in line with what she has always been committed to.

Stella oversaw several programs and services during her tenure, including Northwest Community Action Center, Behavioral Health Services, New Hope Clinic, Nutrition and WIC Services, Community Health Services, Health Education, Medical/Dental Mobile Units, and Planning and Development. Vasquez stated, "My role was to improve program integration, elevating their utilization within the community and our organization. I worked hard to ensure that our programs were contributing to the positive outcomes of our patients and our communities."

Stella went on to state, "Our programs have grown significantly across our network. Getting these programs implemented within the organization and community is due to the hard work my staff and providers have done to build and grow our programs to the success they are now."

When Vasquez joined Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in 2002, she identified the importance of growing the care team. "We had one or two dietitians when I started; now, we have over 30. We had only one or two Behavioral Health Consultants: now we have over 17. Dietitians and Behavioral Health Consultants are in almost all our clinics throughout WA and OR. What other organization offers easy access to nutritional and mental health counseling at no additional cost? Over the years, I would say, this is the biggest impact I had on our system and our community." Vasquez stated.

Throughout her career, Stella has become a mentor for many leaders in the valley and offers this advice to the next generation of leaders, "Whatever you are doing, ensure love and passion for that, as it will make you successful. You can learn the rest, get book smart, learn the management skills, but you can't instill passion. Do something you love, and it will come easier, more naturally, and the time and energy spent won't be just a job."

As Stella prepares for retirement, her plans include spending time with her husband, family, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She looks forward to continuing her civic and community-minded work with her recent appointment by Governor Jay Inslee to the Washington State Health Care Authority's Universal Health Care Commission. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is grateful for Stella's tremendous work over the last 20 years and wish her the best in her retirement.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic** is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest community health centers, providing medical, dental, behavioral health, and social services to more than 171,000 people a year. With more than 60 unique service locations across Oregon (Clatsop, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Yamhill counties) and Washington (Benton, Franklin, Spokane, Whitman, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties), we deliver affordable, comprehensive primary care for underserved populations in our communities. We also extend our network of care through our mobile health units and virtual visit technology, bringing essential care to our more remote patients. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic employs over 1,600 staff in addition to our medical and dental residents, administrative fellows, students, and volunteers. All of whom are dedicated to bringing quality care to those in our communities who need it most. Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization recognized by HRSA, The Joint Commission, and The National Committee for Quality Assurance for our accomplishments in community health care. For more information, please visit [yfwc.com/press](http://yfwc.com/press).