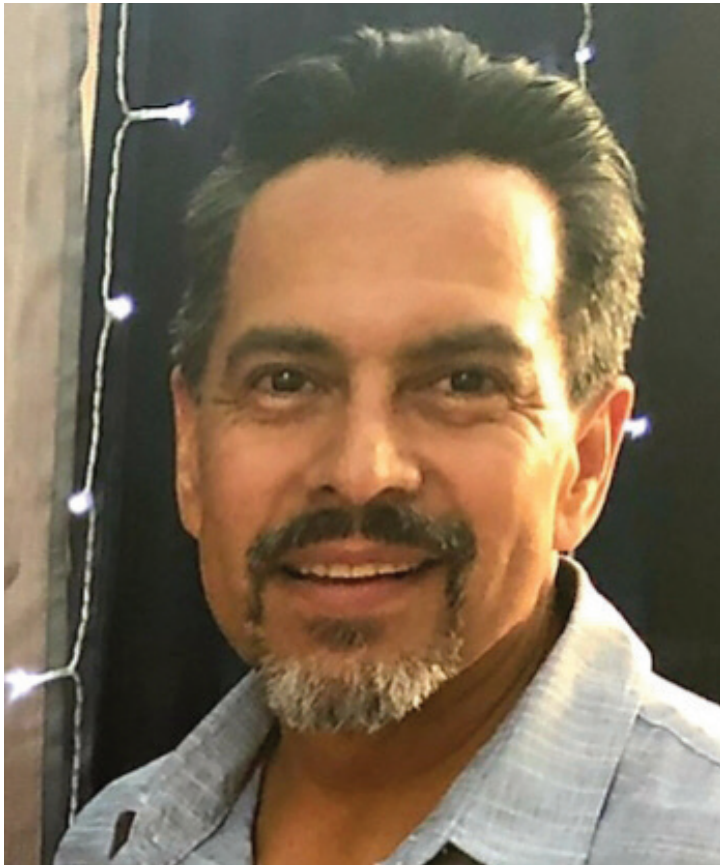




Palo Alto Store Partners with Local Nonprofit to Help Families Flourish



Jess Moreles | Palo Alto Store Palo Alto, CA

Jess has been with Whole Foods Market for nearly five years and is currently an Associate Store Team Leader. He believes, “Nonprofits provide **crucial services** and support to communities in need that would otherwise go without. I have always held the belief that a society’s ability to **bolster all its citizenry** is a clear indicator of its health.” He understands how imperative healthy food access is to the community as a whole and that it is a key to proactive preventative healthcare. He has been working with Valley Verde for a couple of years as a volunteer and patron. As Valley Verde works to build **healthy, resilient communities**, Jess is hopeful the Community First Grant can help support the organization’s **growth and longevity**.

Valley Verde valleyverde.org

Valley Verde serves low-income, multi-ethnic families living in food insecure communities in San Jose and Gilroy. The organization works to create access to healthy and culturally appropriate food and the opportunity to **build resilient communities around food**. Their programs teach gardening, nutrition and healthy cooking; encourage physical activity; foster community; and **raise awareness of health and environmental issues**. Their Home Gardening program provides the supplies and infrastructure for families to grow and maintain their own healthy organic vegetable gardens. The Community First Grant will fund materials needed to build raised beds for participating families to install in their backyards. Whole Cities Foundation prioritizes food access work done by **locally driven nonprofits** like Valley Verde which reflect and **engage the communities they serve**.



Whole Foods Market Team Members can nominate a local nonprofit increasing access to fresh, healthy food or nutrition education for a \$5,000 grant.

WholeCitiesFoundation.org