

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pacific Pride Foundation

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Pacific Pride Foundation Announces their new Chief Programs Officer: Maria Melo

Santa Barbara, CA - Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) is excited to announce the hiring of its Chief Programs Officer: Maria Melo. Melo, who has served for more than a year on the PPF Board of Directors, brings over 20 years of experience working in government and non-profit sectors. Melo's experience working in these sectors will ensure that PPF's programming can continue to meet the needs of our community while also expanding PPF's capacity and reach.

"We are beyond excited to have Maria join the PPF staff," said PPF Executive Director Kristin Flickinger. "Maria's skillset as a community organizer, communications professional, and policy dynamo will help bolster the programs and services that PPF is dedicated to providing in Santa Barbara County. And her experience in leading an immigrant-serving organization will provide critical perspective in PPF's work to serve all members of the LGBTQ+ community in Santa Barbara County."

Maria Melo joins the PPF team from 805 UndocuFund where she served as their Executive Director for 1 year and 7 months. "I am proud to leave 805UndocuFund in a stable place to continue its growth and critical work in a state hit by recurring disasters," said Maria Melo, PPF Chief Programs Officer. "Together, we have formalized the 805UndocuFund as a new 501(c)3 nonprofit, focused on long-term programmatic sustainability, and provided disaster relief during the recent 2023 Winter Storms. "

"As an immigrant and queer woman, I can't wait to join the PPF team under the leadership of Kristin Flickinger. I've experienced first hand how important it is to have strong, inclusive and welcoming local LGBTQ+ centers that provide supportive and empowering spaces for families like mine. As a recent PPF Board member and seasoned LGBTQ+ rights policy professional, I know this is the team and place to get the job done - particularly in these challenging times for the LGBTQ+ community. Onwards!"

To learn more about PPF's programming and services, please visit pacificpridefoundation.org.

Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) is a leading LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving more than 6,000 people each year throughout all of Santa Barbara County. With offices in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, PPF partners with 35 educational and nonprofit agencies to provide a dynamic range of health, prevention, and social service programs, including programs for LGBTQ+ youth and older adults, counseling services, opioid response services, sensitivity and competency trainings, community events and advocacy on LGBTQ+ issues.

For more information or to make a donation please visit pacificpridefoundation.org.