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PODER Mourns the Passing of Dolores Huerta, a Trailblazer for Workers' Rights, Civil Rights, and Economic Justice

CHICAGO, IL — PODER joins communities across Chicago, the nation, and the world in mourning the passing of Dolores Huerta, the legendary labor leader, civil rights activist, and co-founder of the United Farm Workers, whose life and legacy transformed the fight for dignity, justice, and opportunity for working families.

For more than seven decades, Huerta organized alongside farmworkers, championed the rights of immigrants and women, and challenged systems that denied working people fair wages, safe working conditions, and a voice in decisions affecting their lives. Her enduring rallying cry, *"¡Sí, se puede!,"* Yes, we can, became a powerful expression of collective action, resilience, and the belief that ordinary people can create extraordinary change.

"Dolores Huerta showed us that economic justice is inseparable from human dignity. She understood that working people deserve more than the opportunity to survive; they deserve the opportunity to thrive, to build economic security for their families, and to shape their own futures," said Daniel Loftus, Founder and CEO of PODER. "Her legacy reminds us that lasting change happens when communities organize, invest in one another, and ensure that those too often overlooked have the power and resources to succeed. At PODER, we carry that responsibility forward every single day."

Huerta's legacy is deeply connected to PODER's mission of expanding opportunity and economic mobility for immigrant adults on Chicago's Southwest Side. Through integrated English language learning, digital literacy, financial education, bilingual professional licensing, and career development, PODER works to ensure that immigrant communities can access the skills, resources, and pathways necessary to achieve economic independence and build stronger futures for their families.

Like Huerta's lifelong organizing, this work begins with a fundamental belief: people are not defined by the barriers they face, but by their potential when given the opportunity, resources, and support to succeed.

"Dolores did not simply call for change; she helped build the movements that made change possible. Her life challenges all of us to turn our values into action and to continue building a society where every worker, every immigrant, and every family is treated with dignity and has a meaningful opportunity to prosper," Loftus added. "We honor her by continuing the work, by opening doors, strengthening communities, and creating pathways to economic mobility. Her voice may be gone, but her call to action remains."

PODER extends its deepest condolences to Huerta's family, loved ones, and the countless individuals and communities whose lives were shaped by her courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to justice. As we join the world in honoring her life, we recommit ourselves to the work ahead.

¡Dolores Huerta, presente! ¡Sí, se puede!

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ABOUT PODER
PODER is an immigrant integration center serving Chicago's Southwest Side. Through education, workforce development, digital literacy, and career pathway programs, PODER supports immigrant adults as they build skills, access opportunities, and strengthen their participation in their communities. For more information, visit www.poderworks.org.