

DOLORES HUERTA

April 10, 1930 - Present

Dolores Huerta is an activist who built a union of farm workers. She grew up in Stockton, California, where her mother Alicia ran a restaurant and hotel, often welcoming farm worker families for free. Her kindness and compassion made a lifelong impression on young Dolores, who became a teacher. But she said, "I couldn't tolerate seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."

She worked with Cesar Chavez to organize farm workers, and they famously led the Delano grape strike in 1965. One of the key tactics was a grape boycott. Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez traveled the country to raise awareness of their cause, organizing consumer pickets at grocery stores and enlisting the help of mayors of major cities. As a result of the boycott, the entire California grape industry signed a union contract with the United Farm Workers in 1970. Dolores Huerta has received many awards for her activism, and has been honored in songs, murals, and films. She continues to fight for civil rights and worker rights.

