



CHULA VISTA - During the pandemic, many have been challenged in different ways. Heroes and changemakers have risen to the top. **Community Through Hope** has strived to be a place where all are welcome to serve their community and receive help during these trying times. A mural has been created to inspire volunteers, partners and the community at large to challenge themselves to be the change and make a difference in a global way.

This mural, created by Ray Vasquez, a Chula Vista native features the following prominent individuals: Laverne Cox, Cesar Chavez, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Michelle Obama, Mother Teresa, Colin Kaepernick, and Greta Thunberg.



LAVERNE COX, LGBTQ+ ACTIVIST AND ACTOR

Off-camera, she's making sure no one forgets all the ways **LGBTQ+** people are in danger of losing their rights. When we spoke with her, the Supreme Court was deliberating a Title VII case that could legalize discrimination against **LGBTQ+** people in the workplace. "Because I'm a black trans woman," she says, "I'm at the center of a culture war." Cox has been instrumental in that battle. Sometimes she's standing on the steps of the Supreme Court; other times she's behind-the-scenes doing the work. Earlier this year, she executive-produced a documentary, **Disclosure**, that chronicles the representation of transgender people in media. "We are at an unprecedented moment of trans visibility," she says, "where trans people are being cast in roles that are not just trans and where our stories are being told with such humanity."

CESAR CHAVEZ, LABOR RIGHTS ACTIVIST

A true American hero, Cesar Chavez was a civil rights, Latino and farm labor leader; a genuinely religious and spiritual figure; a community organizer and social entrepreneur; a champion of militant nonviolent social change; and a crusader for the environment and consumer rights. Cesar's dream was to organize a union that would protect and serve the farm workers whose poverty and powerlessness he had shared. He knew the history of farm worker organizing was one sad story after another of broken unions and strikes crushed by violence. He knew that for 100 years many others with much better educations and more resources than he possessed had tried, and failed, to organize farm workers. He knew the experts said organizing farm workers was impossible.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Ruth Bader Ginsburg became the second female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Born in 1933 in Brooklyn, New York, Bader taught at Rutgers University Law School and then at Columbia University, where she became its first female tenured professor. She served as the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union during the 1970s, and was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1980. Named to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, she continued to argue for gender equality in such cases as *United States v. Virginia*. During the 1970s, she served as the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), for which she argued six landmark cases on gender equality before the U.S. Supreme Court.

MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST LADY, PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATE

LET'S MOVE! was a public health campaign in the United States, led by Michelle Obama, wife of then-President Barack Obama. The campaign aimed to reduce childhood obesity and encourage a healthy lifestyle in children.

The initiative had the initially stated goal of *"solving the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight."* **LET'S MOVE!** sought to decrease childhood obesity to 5% by 2030. **LET'S MOVE!** advocates healthy eating habits to be promoted by families, schools, and communities. The initiative also provides guidelines for parents to set up and promote healthy eating habits for their entire family.



BLESSED MOTHER TERESA, OF CALCUTTA

Newly canonized Saint Mother Teresa has had a significant social impact on the world. She is a renowned and respected figure, often regarded alongside the likes of other impactful leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela. Her acts of kindness and selflessness has had a tremendous influence worldwide. Her legacy, as noted by Franciscan Media, showcases the tremendous just a small list of Saint Teresa's accomplishments on this planet: 69 years in service; 4500 missionaries of Charity Worldwide; 124 awards earned; and Awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Called "**BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA,**" she is most remembered for her selfless charity in working with the poorest-of-the-poor in India.

COLIN KAEPERNICK, CIVIL RIGHT ACTIVIST

Four years after Colin's non-violent and silent protest of taking a knee during the National Anthem, the effects of Kaepernick's activism can be put into better context, and the simple conclusion is this: It worked. Kaepernick's protests not only stoked passion and awareness in the public consciousness; they went beyond that within the Black community. According to a study of political behavior among Black Americans, Kaepernick was *"a powerful mobilizing force"* who directly inspired nearly one-third of Black people polled to donate to a political cause, attend a protest or boycott the NFL. More than half of respondents said Kaepernick inspired them to vote in a local or national election. Colin Kaepernick has inspired activism, awareness and Seattle athletes to speak out against racial injustice.



GRETA THUNBERG, ENVIRONMENTALIST

Thunberg has been thinking about climate change – and the lack of action to curb it – since age 8. She has said she didn't understand why adults weren't working to mitigate its effects. By age 11, Thunberg said, she became depressed by the seemingly impossible task of saving the planet. In May 2018, Thunberg won a climate-change essay competition for the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. That was the genesis of her activism career. She started the **SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE** effort three months later and launched her first protest three months after that. *"This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced,"* she told UN secretary general António Guterres before that conference started. *"First we have to realize this and then as fast as possible do something to stop the emissions and try to save what we can save."*