



Each year, the Comunidad committee selects an individual who has tirelessly worked alongside us and supported the mission of Comunidad within our community. This year, with great pride and excitement, we are thrilled to have selected one of *our own*. Ray, you are the brightest example of dedication, love, and passion for all those you've touched with your service. And today, we celebrate you like never before.

Darlings, when we speak of true elegance, grace, and service, there's only one name that comes to mind: Ray Ramirez. This isn't just about honoring someone; this is about paying tribute to a *force of nature* who, frankly, has changed the game. Ray didn't just show up—he *arrived*.

For years, Ray has left his mark on the sacred spaces of St. Matthew's Church, Casa Guerrero, and Comunidad, bringing a level of sophistication and service that is, frankly, unparalleled. As a teacher for the citizenship classes at Casa Guerrero, he didn't merely teach; he *forged futures*, one at a time. He made sure every student knew they were worthy, seen, and capable of anything. *That* is the kind of impact one rarely encounters.

But let's talk about the *real magic*: Ray is not only the architect of unity in our community, but also a tireless servant of the church and the greater good. At St. Matthew's Church, Ray has served on the Pastoral Council, in the Peace and Justice Ministry, as a Church Fiesta Coordinator, usher, and Eucharistic Minister—truly living out his faith in action. In a world where divisions can feel endless, Ray brought the impossible together. Spanish and English-speaking communities? Not a problem. His ability to transcend barriers and ensure that everyone—feels included, valued, and celebrated is not just admirable, it's *extraordinary*. From his work as a member-at-large to his PR genius and his party-planning expertise, Ray made sure that no event was just a gathering. It was an *experience*. It was an *affair*.

Ray has been recognized time and time again for his unwavering commitment to service. He has received countless awards and honors from the State Senate, City Hall, and now from Comunidad, where he has served selflessly. These accolades reflect his incredible dedication, but they only scratch the surface of the lives he has touched.

Ray, you've redefined what it means to serve, to connect, to empower. You didn't just change lives; you *elevated* them. You made each of us feel like we belonged to something bigger, something *beautiful*, and all while being the epitome of grace, wit, and style. In a world that can often feel cold and indifferent, you've been our unwavering warmth—making sure everyone knows that in Comunidad, *every single person* is welcomed with open arms.

And now, we gather to honor *you*, Ray. Not just for your dedication, but for the *immense joy* you've brought into all of our lives. Your contribution is not only appreciated—it is forever embedded in the heart of our community.

It is my privilege to present this Service Award to my brother in Christ, Ray Ramirez.