

Collection #  
M 1519  
OM 0772

**GREGORIO CHAVEZ JR. COLLECTION,  
CA. 1976-2011**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 7 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript folder, 2 folders of photographs, 5 artifacts

**COLLECTION DATES:** ca. 1976-2011

**PROVENANCE:** Gift of Gregorio Chavez Jr., South Bend, IN

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Gregorio Chavez Oral History, SC3480

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2021.0193

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gregorio “Greg” Chavez Jr. (November 21, 1932-February 9, 2022) was born in Robstown, Texas to parents Gregorio Chavez Sr. and Aurora Hughes Chavez. Greg’s parents were migrant farm workers in the 1930s and 1940s. Greg had four siblings, one of which being an older sibling from his mother’s previous marriage. During his upbringing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Greg attended South High in Grand Rapids and graduated in 1952. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and completed his training in Texas. While stationed, Greg met and married his wife, Rosa Garza, in 1954. During his twenty-year military career with the Air Force, Greg was stationed in Japan, Korea, Germany, and stateside (with his family) in Roswell, New Mexico.

In 1972, Greg, Rosa, and their children relocated to South Bend, Indiana. Greg’s civic engagement is first documented in 1976 at LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens, where he contributed to their national education efforts, the LULAC National Education Centers (LNEC), their National Scholarship Fund initiative, and as a member of his local chapter, LULAC #5001. From 1976 to 2011, Greg contributed to LULAC as the Indiana State Director (1977), Vice-President of the Midwest (1982), and State Parliamentarian (2002). He also expanded his engagement to include LULAC’s employment program, SER-Jobs for Progress, and the LULAC Youth initiatives. Through his LULAC involvement, Greg partook in voter registration and political action.

In 1980, Greg and other parents in South Bend saw the need for more support systems for the Latino families moving in and advocated for the establishment of the South Bend School Corporation’s Bilingual Department. That year, he was also appointed onto the South Bend Human Rights Commission and evaluated discrimination charges in areas of employment, housing, education, and social identity.

In 1987, he opened his own mill (*Chavez Molino*) with his brother, Marshall Chavez, and started his business *Original Foods, Inc.* Original Foods Inc. manufactured flour and corn tortillas for one year. After, Greg found a position in the South Bend School Corporation’s bilingual department. Over the next 30 years, Greg lent his expertise to community organizations targeting Hispanic/Latino and migrant family support. Many initiatives centered around youth, education, health care, employment, housing, and entrepreneurship were established in his home county of St. Joseph.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

“Gregorio Chavez Indiana Latino History Project Interview.” *Indiana Historical Society*. 6 December 2016.

“Gregorio Chavez, Jr.” *South Bend Tribune*. 12 February 2022.

“Human Rights Commission”. *South Bend, Indiana*. N.D.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains correspondence, political ephemera, newspaper articles, meeting notes, manuals, a cookbook, and photographs relating to Gregorio “Greg” Chavez Jr.’s professional life and civic activities. This includes correspondence relating to Greg’s time with the League of United Latin American Citizens, the South Bend Human Rights Commission, and the South Bend School Corporation. This collection highlights Greg’s efforts to increase access to health care, employment, education, and political impact for Hispanics and Latinos on local, state, and national levels.

This collection also contains five images, three of which include Gregorio Chavez Jr. Two of the images are group photographs of the LULAC youth visit to the Indiana Statehouse.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Life and Local Service**

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Gregorio Chavez Jr. Photographs

Gregorio Chavez Jr. Certificates and Diplomas

Gregorio Chavez Jr. Personal Correspondence

Original Foods, 1987

Politics/Voting, 1981-1988

Politics/Voting, 1992-2011

Event Programs, 1980-1996

Death + Commemoration of Cesar Chavez, 1993-1994

Various Organization Handouts

South Bend Human Rights Commission, 1979-1981

South Bend Human Rights Commission, 1982

South Bend Human Rights Commission, 1983

South Bend Human Rights Commission, 1984-1985

South Bend Human Rights Commission, 1986-1988

South Bend School Corporation, 1980-1986

South Bend School Corporation Bilingual Education  
Department, 1990-1991

South Bend School Corporation "Community of  
Care", 1992

South Bend Hispanic Heritage Week, 1980-1995

St. Joseph County Job Training Program, 1983-1987

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Guitar/Las Mañanitas	Box 3, Folder 4
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SER – Jobs for Progress, 1978-1986	Box 4, Folder 15
LULAC National Education Service Centers (LNEESC), 1976-1979	Box 4, Folder 16
LNEESC Board of Directors Meeting, Nov. 1978	Box 4, Folder 17
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LULAC Central America Hispanic Analysis, 1984	Box 4, Folder 19

LULAC #5001 Radio Station – WSBL LPFM, 2001-2002	Box 5, Folder 1
LULAC #5001 Cookbook	Box 5, Folder 2
LULAC Issues Brief Book, 1983	Box 5, Folder 3
LULAC Membership Record Cards, 1980	Box 5, Folder 4
The LULAC News, 1991	Box 5, Folder 5
¡AVISO!, 1981-1984	Box 5, Folder 6

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Access 2000 Campaign, 1992	Box 6, Folder 1
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By Laws – Tecla Inc. and Mexican American Council, Inc., 1976	Box 6, Folder 3
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Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, 2004	Box 6, Folder 5
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