

Nothing Is Impossible

"For me, it's about empowerment," explains Bertha Naranjo, full-time mother of four and full-time worker-owner and co-founder of Eco-Care Professional Housecleaning, the cooperative launched by WAGES in Morgan Hill.

When we spoke to Bertha, she described the feelings of pride, dignity, and security that have accompanied her involvement in the co-op and with WAGES over the last 10 years. "As a business owner," Bertha states, "you do it [the work] with more passion because you know it is *your* business. And you want to see it succeed."



Bertha's passion for her work has inspired her to support and teach other women. As a New Member Trainer since 2004, Bertha has trained women entering WAGES' cooperatives throughout the Bay Area on how to clean safely and effectively using alternatives to toxic chemicals.

"I feel happy and fulfilled," she says. "It is hard to be a mother, a wife, and to work, too, but now I see nothing is

impossible."

Hear from Bertha directly: watch her story [here](#) on our [YouTube channel](#).

A season for reconnecting and celebrating... A better living. A better life.

For WAGES, the excitement and festivities of the holiday season came early this year with an [amazing celebration of our 15th anniversary](#) on October 27, 2010. The celebration marked an evening in which co-op members, staff, board, and supporters were able to connect and share stories of success.

As 2010 draws to a close, WAGES is using this time of year to reconnect with our families, our friends, and with the network of supporters and partners like you who make our work possible. Most importantly, we are reconnecting with our goals and our passions - what drives our commitment to *protecting the planet* and *empowering women worker-owners*.

For WAGES, our commitment begins with a vision of a healthy environment with stronger communities and a better life for more

Help WAGES create real economic opportunity for women!

Your individual support is critical to help us train low-income women and create jobs with good pay and benefits, while bolstering the green economy.

» **Donate**
to create good jobs for women



The women worker-owners of Emma's Eco-clean are proud of what they have achieved. Their cooperative generates more than \$1 million in sales each year, and workers enjoy fair pay, dignified working conditions, and benefits.

[Make a gift today](#) and be a part of expanding and sharing the benefits of WAGES' work as we launch more co-ops like Emma's!

NEW! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and be the first to get updates from WAGES!

Watch [this short documentary](#) profiling WAGES' work to build green business cooperatives that create healthy and stable jobs for low-income immigrant women.

people. As part of our vision for expansion and growth into 2011 and beyond, we are excited to announce plans to launch 3 new co-ops in the next 3 years in the Bay Area and to begin development of our first co-op in a new region.

We ask you to join in this vision. Be an agent of change with us and [make a donation](#) today to support our work of building worker-owned green businesses, creating healthy, dignified jobs to transform women's lives.

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WAGES staff and members of Home Green Home in San Francisco, our youngest co-op, recently celebrated the upcoming holidays.

Need advice on making the best use of eco-friendly, healthy cleaning products for your after-party? [Check out the tips](#) WAGES' Ivette Melendez shared with [Practically Green](#), a growing consumer education voice, who hailed Ivette as a "Green Cleaning Authority."

For a quote or to find a co-op serving your area, visit our [Eco-Friendly Cleaning Co-Op Network](#).

Best wishes from all of us at WAGES to you and your family for a joyful holiday season in 2010!

[WAGES | Women's Action to Gain Economic Security](#)

1904 Franklin St., Ste. 801, Oakland, CA 94612 | p 510.451.3100 x.207 | f 510.451.3111



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WAGES in the NEWS

WAGES is gaining increasing visibility with our commitment to eliminating poverty, strengthening communities, and transforming women's lives.

An article in [HubPages](#) names [WAGES in "Best of" list](#) as one of the top local Bay Area nonprofits achieving significant impact in eliminating poverty and building economic empowerment for women.

A [San Francisco Public Press](#) article features WAGES as a source of employment - and hope - for low-wage workers during a time of economic woe. Check out the full article [here](#).

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