

**To: Friends & Colleagues**

**From: Veronica Valero, Novato Healthy Food Coalition (NHFC)**

**Date: June 12, 2006**

**RE: My Resignation from the NHFC Steering Committee and my new direction**

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Since the inception of the Novato Healthy Food Coalition (NHFC) two years ago, my vision and direction have expanded to include the concepts of sustainable living, such as: organic gardening and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices at schools and in homes, reuse & recycling programs, "green" living, and the health and safety of our community. After much thought and consideration, I have decided to resign from the Novato Healthy Food Coalition Steering Committee—doing so will also allow me to combine various programs under one umbrella.

I have formed many friendships and partnerships on this journey, and I value and appreciate all the collaborative work and encouragement given by Novato Healthy Food Coalition members, Novato Mothers Club members, healthy food advocates, community partners, and others who have helped us on the various NHFC projects.

I will continue to collaborate with those that I have been working with in order to expand the projects I've developed, specifically The School Food/Lunch Buddies Program and the Novato Eat Well Festival. As the Novato Mothers Club gave birth to the NHFC, so now will the NHFC give birth to this new organization which many are passionate about forming with me. We will be looking into forming a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, in order to allow us to apply for grant monies for various projects in Novato. In the coming month we will also have a website and will maintain an email list informing those who are interested in our projects. When we are ready, we'll inform our community officially of our new organization. If you are interested in learning more, you can reach me at [v4valero@comcast.net](mailto:v4valero@comcast.net) or 415-897-2302.

I am very honored of the role the Novato Healthy Food Coalition has played in bringing healthier food choices to Novato. And, I value that the coalition has inspired more citizen participation and dialog on community issues. I will continue to support the Whole Foods-Mixed Use Project to its completion. And, I look forward to attending the Whole Foods Grand Opening with you all!

Live Well, Be Well!

***Veronica Valero***

**Founder of the Novato Healthy Food Coalition**