

Garibaldi Mexican Restaurant, a family owned restaurant in downtown Madison, has shown me how a business can truly do good for its community. While many people know Garibaldi for its authentic Mexican food and welcoming atmosphere, I have experienced firsthand the deeper impact the restaurant has on the Latino community and on students like me.

I am president of Raza United at Madison East High School, a student organization that supports Latino students and celebrates our culture. One of the family members connected to Garibaldi is also involved with our organization, which helped create a strong relationship between the restaurant and our students. Even though Garibaldi is often busy serving customers, the owners and employees consistently make time to support local youth and community programs.

One of the biggest ways Garibaldi helped our organization was by allowing us to host karaoke fundraising nights at the restaurant. These events gave students a safe and welcoming place to gather, have fun, and raise money for an important cause. The employees did not simply allow us to use the space, they actively participated in the events and created an environment where everyone felt supported. Their kindness and generosity made the nights memorable and successful. The money we raised through these events helped support a community service trip to Mexico for students in Raza United. For many students, including myself, this opportunity was more than just travel. It was a chance to reconnect with our culture, serve communities in need, and strengthen our understanding of our identities.

Although at the end our trip got canceled due to cartel danger and the district denying us to go anywhere in Mexico, we used the money raised to continue improving our annual cultural events. Garibaldi's impact goes beyond financial support. The restaurant demonstrates how businesses can strengthen communities by investing their space in young people. By opening its

doors to students, encouraging cultural pride, and supporting educational opportunities, Garibaldi created a sense of belonging for many Latino students in Madison. It reminded us that our culture is valued and that local businesses can play an important role in helping young people succeed.

Businesses are often viewed only as places that provide goods or services, but Garibaldi Mexican Restaurant shows that they can also build connections and inspire communities. Their support for Raza United taught me that success is not only measured by profit, but also by the positive impact a business leaves on the people around it. Through generosity, kindness, and community involvement, Garibaldi has become more than just a restaurant—it has become a place of support, and cultural pride. The impact Garibaldi has had on me and my community proves that businesses truly can be a force for good. By supporting students and giving back to the Latino community, they continue to help young people achieve goals that once seemed out of reach. Their support inspires me to one day give back to my own community in the same way they have given to ours.