

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910960282803321
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Titolo	The making of a civil rights leader / / Jose Angel Gutierrez
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Houston, TX, : Pinata Books, c2005
ISBN	9781611926668 1611926661 9781611922158 1611922151
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (133 p.)
Disciplina	976.4/437063/092 B
Soggetti	Civil rights workers - Texas - Crystal City Mexican Americans - Civil rights - History - 20th century Mexican Americans - Civil rights - Texas - Crystal City - History - 20th century Mexican Americans - Texas - Crystal City Political activists - Texas - Crystal City Crystal City (Tex.) Biography Crystal City (Tex.) Ethnic relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Table of Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- The Three Me's -- Learning -- Cooking -- Professor and Lawyer -- Travel -- Reading and Writing -- Migrants and Immigrants -- Politics.
Sommario/riassunto	Born in 1944, Jose Angel Gutierrez grew up in a time when Mexicans and Mexican Americans in Texas and the Southwest attended separate schools and avoided public facilities and restaurants that were designated "Whites Only." Despite the limits of segregation and rural culture in Texas, the passion to learn and to educate others, as well as to undo injustice, burned in his belly from an early age. Gutierrez offers portraits of his early influences, from his father's own pursuit of knowledge and political involvement, to his Mexican pre-school teacher's dedication to bilingual-bicultural education which did not exist in public schools at that time, and to his mother's courage and

persistence, taking up migrant field work to provide for her family after the death of young Gutierrez's father. In this intensely narrated memoir, Gutierrez details his rise from being beaten down by racist political and agricultural interests in South Texas to his leadership role in the Chicano civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Complemented by photos from his personal archives, Gutierrez recalls his struggle for education, his early baptism in grass-roots political organizing, and his success in creating one of history's most successful third party movements, La Raza Unida Party. Along the way, Gutierrez earned college and law degrees, as well as a Ph. D. in Political Science. He was elected or appointed to school boards, commissions, judgeships and party chairmanships, all with the single-minded purpose of extending equality to Mexican Americans and other minorities in the United States. Through his tireless efforts, he crossed paths with African American and Native American civil rights leaders, Mexican presidents, and other international figures.
