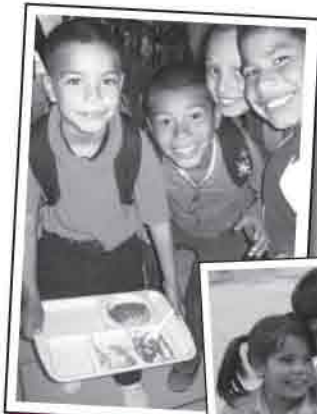


THE Casa

Where education creates empowered and sustainable community



Children's Food Security

The Children's Food Security Program provides safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate meals every day to the poorest children in the neighborhood. It is the only program like it in all of Mexico. The program is led

and sustained by parents who volunteer and also take workshops at the Casa about topics such as nutrition and gardening. An on-site community garden serves as both a teaching tool and a source of community building. At the Casa, kids get more than a meal, they and their families learn to be leaders who

build healthy and just communities where everyone has equal opportunity for a full and dignified life.

Families learn how to start and maintain a home garden.



"Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

—UN Global Forum on Food Security and Nutritional Policies and Strategies

Changing the name to fit the **VISION**

Casa de Misericordia
(HOME OF MERCY)



Casa de Esperanza
(HOME OF HOPE)

History: In the 1980s, Hope and Jose Torres opened a community kitchen in their hometown of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. For years they served hundreds of children a hot meal daily. In 1998 the Torres' retired and sold the property to BorderLinks, which committed to keep feeding kids while adding a new component: transformational education. As BorderLinks listened to the community, the Casa added a day care center and a safe space for youth to gather and play sports.

Today: BorderLinks Mexico Casa de Misericordia provides the only Children's Sustainable Food program in Mexico and the only Early Childhood Development Program in the area. Hundreds of adults participate in community education classes and the Women's Cooperative. The Casa is currently 100 percent supported with funds from BorderLinks U.S. and as a result has not been able to achieve tax-exempt status in Mexico.

Future: The Casa plans to reincorporate as the Casa de Esperanza (Home of Hope) in early 2010, and apply for tax-exempt status in Mexico. This will allow the Casa to become more autonomous by seeking contributions from individuals and corporations in Mexico. Casa programs will remain the same, and the new name will better reflect the work they are already doing. BorderLinks will continue to raise funds and work in partnership with the Casa.

Contact BorderLinks at (520) 628-8263 or visit www.borderlinks.org



Early Childhood Development Center

The Casa's Early Childhood Development Center goes far beyond daycare to include a comprehensive program of healthy development for children, their families, and the community. The Center especially supports mothers who are most at risk for immigration—



mothers who would otherwise have to take their children to work or stay home because they couldn't afford childcare. The children receive the stimulation needed to develop their whole selves—physical, cognitive, language, and social. The Center incorporates educational principles that include non-violence, self-sufficiency, respect, and that promotes the active participation of parents.

The Community Education programs raise awareness and inspire action around the issues that are most relevant to the lives of the people in Nogales, Sonora. As the community identifies what it needs to live more empowered and sustainable lives, classes are formed to meet those



Creates community and empowerment

requests. The community gathers at the Casa to learn small business skills, study the English language, and work toward vocational certificates and educational goals. Lately, many more adults are attending Grammar and High School Equivalency classes as they seek tools to help them find work. The Casa also provides a safe space for youth and adults to organize together for positive social change within the community.



Women work in solidarity to create art and economic security through the Women's Cooperative. The women craft necklaces that express their desire to stop the deaths of migrants along the border. While they work the women also organize for

Support the Casa by purchasing a medallion. Contact BorderLinks for more details

Women's Cooperative



positive social change, forming a community that helps them cope with and resolve challenges they face associated with poverty and gender. The collective is run democratically. All profits are divided equally with a portion contributed to the Casa.



With your help, the Casa can continue to serve the community, but under a different name.



Check out the poster on the other side of this brochure and hang it on the wall at your home or office!



BorderLinks envisions a world in which people within and across social borders, respect and care for each other, value and celebrate differences, and build healthy and just communities where everyone has an equal opportunity for a full and dignified life.

Caminamos Juntos: We Walk Together

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT or promote the work of the Casa in Nogales, Sonora, please contact BorderLinks. We can arrange for someone to speak with your group or we can mail you a promotion packet to help you share the story of the Casa.

CHECKS CAN BE MADE TO "Casa Transition Fund" and mailed to: BorderLinks, 620 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

SECURE ONLINE DONATIONS can be made through Network for Good on the BorderLinks website, www.borderlinks.org, where you may designate your gift to benefit "Casa Transition Fund."

Thank You.

DONATE NOW! Call BorderLinks at (520) 628-8263 Or visit us online at www.borderlinks.org