



2022 IMPACT REPORT

PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS
BORDER MINISTRY FOUNDATION



Mural: "Juarense y Poderosa" by El Mac and Dave Grave

TRESRIOSBORDERFOUNDATION.ORG

PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS BORDER MINISTRY FOUNDATION

[1:25 MINUTE INTRO VIDEO](#)

But first, a word of Gratitude



Huellas Leadership Graduation Day | Fall 2022



*Dear Friends
of Tres Rios...*

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH
HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR YOUR ONGOING PARTNERSHIP.
WE THANK OUR SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS, SYNOD OF THE SUN,
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS
WHO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS
BORDER MINISTRY FOUNDATION

**OUR MISSION IS TO
INSPIRE, EQUIP, AND CONNECT PC(USA) CONGREGATION
ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER AND BEYOND**

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS ALREADY MAKING AN IMPACT
IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANT SHELTER LEADERS
ACCOMPANYING ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND DEEPENING OUR COLLECTIVE
DISCIPLESHIP IN THE JESUS WAY OF JUSTICE.

-NATE LEDBETTER

ABOUT TRES RIOS

IN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL MIGRATION IN A POLARIZING WORLD: WE ENVISION JESUS FOLLOWERS WORKING FOR NARRATIVE, SYSTEMS AND PERSONAL CHANGE



Photo: Laurie Smith

TRES RIOS BORDER FOUNDATION IS FOCUSED ON ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION BY FACILITATING **3 CORE AREAS OF ACTION**:

- **BORDER OFFICE SPACE** – PC(USA) IS WORKING AT ABARA HOUSE - ONE OF THE OLDEST CROSSINGS ON THE US-MX BORDER LOCATED ABOUT 15 FEET FROM THE BORDER FENCE. WE BELIEVE PROXIMITY IS CRUCIAL TO INFORM MEANINGFUL ACTION, SOLIDARITY, AND A MUTUAL MINISTRY OF PRESENCE
- **BORDER ENCOUNTERS** – WE INVITE PC(USA) CONGREGATIONS, STUDENTS, AND LEADERS TO ATTEND 3 DAY TRAININGS (AKA "LISTENING TRIPS") WITH ABARA. WE AMPLIFY VOICES ON THE BORDER, INTRODUCE A THEOLOGY OF MIGRATION, PEACE BUILDING, VIST SHELTERS, AND MORE. RESERVE DATES AT HOSPITALITY@ABARA.ORG
- **BORDER RESPONSE** – WE ACCOMPANY SHELTER LEADERS AND PASTORS IN RESPONSE TO PRESSING NEEDS ON THE US-MX BORDER WHILE ADVOCATING WITH THE OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION TO ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS.

PARTICIPANTS + PARTNERS

THE FOLLOWING QUOTES ARE IN RESPONSE TO 3-DAY BORDER ENCOUNTERS
CO-HOSTED BY TRES RIOS BORDER FOUNDATION AND ABARA | BORDERLAND CONNECTIONS
ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER.

"Abara's border encounter experience allowed my college group to take a deep dive not only into the complexities of migration but also into the wide-ranging human responses related to migration. Through personal stories shared, informative presentations, site visits on both sides of the border, and conversations with a variety of local migration stakeholders (all done through the lenses of compassion and kinship), we left forever-changed, hopeful, and empowered to share our experience with those back home."

-**Jeremy Wilhelmi**, University Chaplain at University of the Ozarks

"As a pastor in El Paso, I am grateful for the work of the Presbytery of Tres Rios Border Ministry Foundation. Their efforts help to interpret the important and complex immigration issues. In a recent visit to Juarez, I saw first-hand the positive impact of the Foundation's support with guests who stay in local shelters in search of refuge. Programming in partnership with Abara House provides opportunities for congregations to listen, learn and respond in Christ's name. The La Hacienda property is the perfect location to build community working for wholeness and justice."

- **Cindy Carlisle** | Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church

"I recently led a trip to El Paso for a Border Encounter with Abara. We had a mix of ages, including several kids. The Abara team welcomed us with open arms and led us on an amazing journey. The grace of hospitality was on full display. The enduring element for our team was the shift in narrative all of us experienced. I give thanks to God for these, my friends, who are a face of welcome and grace to those crossing the border."

- **Wally Johnson**, Parish Associate | First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa (as of 12/01 First of Sapulpa)

Metrics

36 + 5 + 18



CO-SPONSORING LEADER CARE BREAKFAST FOR 36 PASTORS SERVING IN JUAREZ, 5 PASTORS FROM JUAREZ RECEIVING REST WITH THEIR SPOUSES, TOUCHING 18 SHELTERS ACROSS THE BORDER
CARING FOR CAREGIVERS



3

PC(USA) BORDER ENCOUNTER GROUPS IN 2022 | IN COLLABORATION WITH ABARA | BORDERLAND CONNECTIONS

20



SUPPORTING A LGBTQ+ MIGRANT SHELTER NETWORK OF AT LEAST 20 NEIGHBORS AND FOOD SUPPLIES ALONGSIDE A NETWORK OF SHELTERS
-
IMPACTING HUNDREDS IN 2022



20+

BORDER ENCOUNTER PARTICIPANTS TO DEEPEN WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP AMONG STUDENTS, PASTORS, ELDERS, AND FAMILIES FROM THE U.S.

"I RETAINED MY DIGNITY WHEN I FLED VIOLENCE IN MY VILLAGE. I HELD MY DIGNITY WHEN I TOOK ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS JOURNEY'S IN THE WORLD. I FELT LIKE I LOST MY DIGNITY WHEN I WAS DETAINED IN THE U.S. FOR SEEKING LEGAL ASYLUM."

— ANONYMOUS CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBOR

Snapshot | Your Impact



OUR FOUNDATION'S FOCUS: OUR BLEND OF FOCUS AREAS ARE DEFINED THROUGH **NARRATIVE, SYSTEMS, AND PERSONAL CHANGE** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER:

CHRIST ON THE BORDER – CHRISTIAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH ON THE BORDER – TRAUMA CARE + RENEWAL, LGBTQ+ REFUGE
YOUTH ON THE BORDER – CHILD DEVELOPMENT (UNACCOMPANIED MINORS)
WELCOME ON THE BORDER – MIGRANT/ ASYLUM SEEKERS/ REFUGEE CARE
BUSINESS ON THE BORDER – SELF-EMPOWERMENT, OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING



SHELTER SUPPORT: PC(USA) HAS A GROWING PRESENCE ON THE BORDER. MORE DETAILS ARE DESCRIBED IN IN OUR FINAL NOTES. AS AN EXTENSION OF TRES RIOS BORDER FOUNDATION, WE'RE GRATEFUL TO PARTNER WITH YOU IN SUPPORT OF SEVERAL SHELTERS SUCH AS DREAM HOUSE - A **SAFE MIGRANT SHELTER NETWORK WITHIN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**, PASOS DE FE - A **CHURCH LED BY PASTOR MIGUEL WHO LEADS A NETWORK OF SHELTERS IN JUAREZ, SUPPORTING FOOD SHELTER SUPPLIES ALONGSIDE A NETWORK OF AN ESTIMATED 20 SHELTERS, CARING FOR CAREGIVERS PREVENTING BURNOUT AMONG PASTORS**, AND MOMENTUM IS BEGINNING TO GROW AS MORE CONGREGATIONS LEARN HOW THEY CAN ENGAGE.



GOAL OF 50/50: OUR LONG-TERM GOAL IS TO KEEP MOVING THE NEEDLE OF OUR ANNUAL BUDGET TOWARD 50% DIRECT SUPPORT AND 50% OPERATING EXPENSES. **IN 2022, THE FOUNDATION PROVIDED OVER \$12,000 IN DIRECT SUPPORT TO LOCAL SHELTERS AS A NEW START-UP (COVER 20% OF ANNUAL BUDGET).**

WE BELIEVE WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP WE CAN DOUBLE OUR IMPACT IN 2023.



SUSTAINING 1 STAFF ROLE: OUR CURRENT PRESBYTERIAN BORDER COORDINATOR ROLE IS PART-TIME. TO SUSTAIN LONG-TERM, WE'RE PRAYING FOR AT LEAST SEVEN NEW CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERS TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER GIVING AT LEAST \$500 A MONTH TO GROW THIS ROLE TO FULL-TIME BY 2024, INCLUDING BENEFITS. HISTORICALLY, PC(USA) HAD UPWARDS OF 14 FULL-TIME STAFF ALONG THE ENTIRE US-MX BORDER AND WE BELIEVE WE NEED AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME STAFF ROLE TO SUSTAIN THE WORK IN EL PASO-JUAREZ, MX.

TRES RIOS ON THE BORDER



A DREAM BEGINS TOGETHER

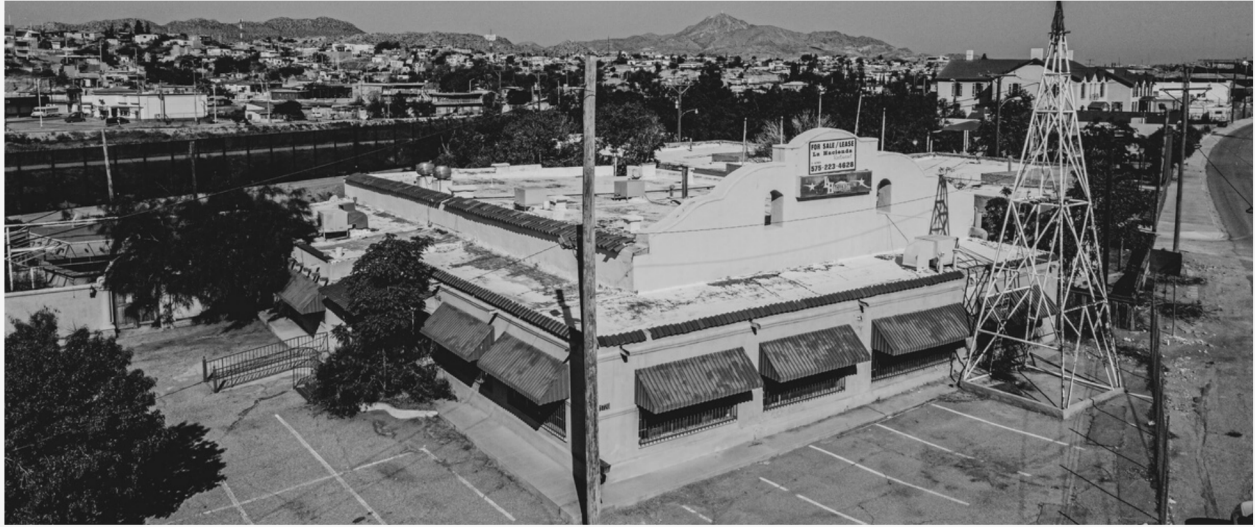
In January 2022, we officially began renting a corner desk in Poncho's Old Bar in El Paso. The rendering above is a dream in the making known as Abara House - a future borderland oasis for reflection and action. This is more than a place. It is a pathway for understanding and change.

The Old Hacienda includes historic markers at Oñate's Crossing and three apartment buildings with 14 units all located on 4 acres at the border fence.

A Master Schedule and Site Plan are underway for renovations in the next few years.

Meanwhile, the Presbytery of Tres Rios hosted The Big Event in the courtyard of the Hacienda, and we plan to host leaders from Synod the Sun to gather here in 2023.

This place is dripping with history, and we would be honored to work-and-worship with you as we practice embodied presence together.



DEVELOPMENT PHASES

STEP BY STEP

WALKING TOGETHER

PHASE 01

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE
BORDER AND WAYS TO ENGAGE

SUMMER 2021-PRESENT

PHASE 02

CONTACT CONGREGATIONS AND
RENT CORNER OFFICE FROM
ABARA HOUSE (ON THE BORDER)

ONGOING PROXIMITY
EMBODIED PRESENCE & SOLIDARITY

PHASE 03

SPEAK IN SERVICES
MISSION COMMITTEES
HOST BORDER ENCOUNTERS

MID 2022-23
HOSTING LEADERS
SUPPORTING SHELTERS

PHASE 04

ENGAGE PC(USA) IN
MEANINGFUL ACTION +
INCREASE CAPACITY TO SUSTAIN
THE WORK

2022-2025
ACCOMPANYING ONE ANOTHER
TOWARD MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION



A final note

A COMMUNITY'S PURSUIT OF TRANSFORMATION TAKES TIME. TRANSFORMATION INCLUDES QUALITATIVE (RELATIONAL) AND QUANTITATIVE (NUMERICAL) OUTCOMES THAT WORK TOWARD INWARD AND OUTWARD CHANGE, NOT EXTERNAL PERFORMANCE.

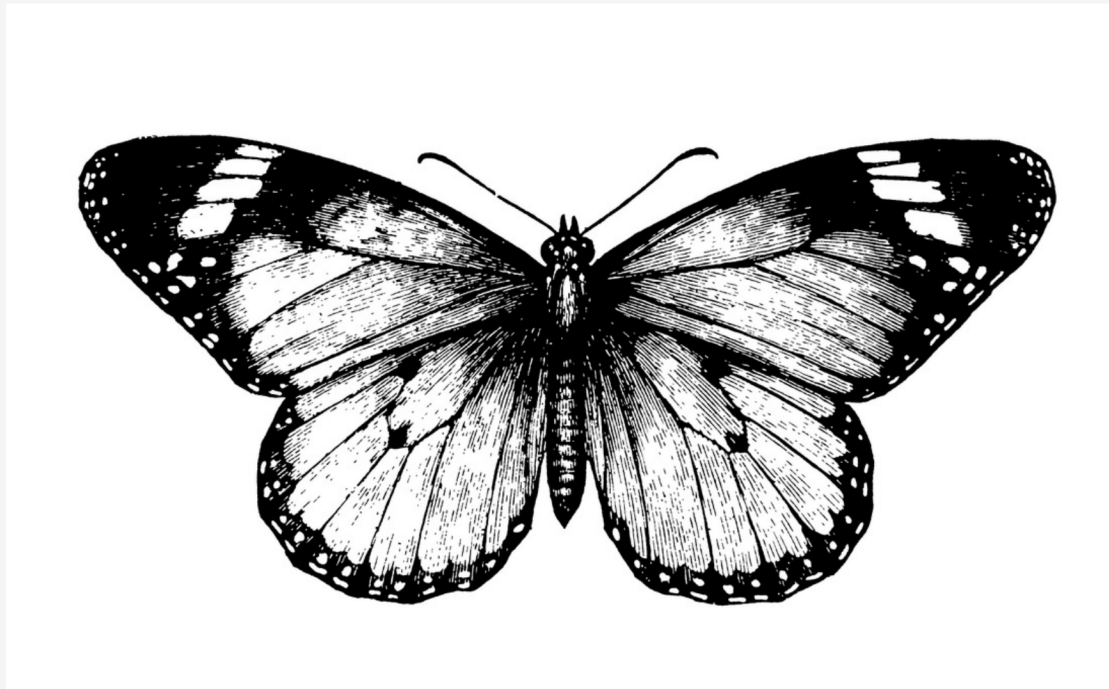
IN ADDITION TO QUANTIFIABLE OUTCOMES, THE WORK OF TRES RIOS BORDER FOUNDATION OFTEN LOOKS LIKE FACILITATING CONNECTIONS, INTRODUCTIONS OR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIGRANT SHELTERS. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO INCLUDE:

- PARTNERSHIPS ARE DEEPENING WITH **SHELTER LEADERS** IN COLLABORATION WITH ABARA.ORG
- MOST PC(USA) BORDER ENCOUNTER ATTENDEES RATED THEIR EXPERIENCE **"EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS"**
- INVITATION(S) ARE INCREASING TO COLLABORATE IN SUPPORT OF **CARING FOR CAREGIVERS**
- SEVERAL PC(USA) CONGREGATIONS ARE CONSIDERING **NEW SUPPORT** IN THIS WORK
- WITH A GOAL OF 50/50, SHELTER SUPPORT IS INCREASING + CURRENTLY **REFLECTS 20% OF OUR BUDGET**

Photo: Louie Smith

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE WITNESSING PERSONAL,
NARRATIVE & SYSTEMS CHANGE ACROSS PERSONAL AND
COMMUNITY DIVIDES.



PEACE OF CHRIST,

Tim Gray. Bea Torres. Matt Miles. Sue Dickson.

Carolyn Miller. John Nelson. Nate Ledbetter

EVERYTHING RESTS ON RELATIONSHIP

PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS BORDER MINISTRY FOUNDATION

1201 W WALL ST MIDLAND, TX 79701
MEMO LINE: TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY

FOR GIVING INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST OUR ANNUAL
BUDGET, PLEASE CONTACT:

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STOCK + MUTUAL FUNDS

IF YOU'RE 70 1/2 YEARS OLD OR OLDER, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO
MAKE A TAX-FREE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA
ACCOUNT TO A 501C3 ORGANIZATION SUCH AS TRES RIOS
BORDER FOUNDATION. TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS FOR STOCK
AND MUTUAL FUND GIFTS ARE PROVIDED TO TRES RIOS BORDER
FOUNDATION VIA STOCKDONATOR.COM WHOSE ACCOUNT IS
HELD AT FIDELITY INVESTMENTS.