

Ciudad Nueva Community Outreach

Annual Report

2014



Together...empowering youth, families and the community in El Paso's Rio Grande District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

Edward Howell (Chair)
President - Business Interiors

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former attorney

Margaret Meyer
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**Rev. Clifton Warner (Founder of
Ciudad Nueva)**
Rector - Christ Church (Austin, TX)

Mary Len Stanton
Children and Community Director at
Trinity First Methodist

STAFF 2014

FULL TIME

Sami DiPasquale Executive Director

Joe Gavaldon Family & Youth Coordinator

PART TIME

Lindsey Baker High School Program Coordinator

Bethany Molinar Middle School Program
Coordinator

Jen Kaufmann Elementary School Program Coordinator,
Communications Coordinator

Vero Aldabe Youth Program Assistant

Marianne DiPasquale Office Manager

Ivan Noe Torres Sun City Wolves Soccer Coach and
Tournament Coordinator

Savannah Eaves Border Fellows Director (Spring 2014)

Megan Feuille Border Fellows Director and Marketing
Coordinator (Summer/Fall 2014)

BORDER FELLOWS & INTERNS

Lindsay Goodrich Border Fellow, High School (Spring
2014)

Carmen Thunem Border Fellow, Middle School (Spring
2014)

Tessa Valadez Border Fellow, Middle School (Spring 2014)

Lindsey Harrington Summer Intern

Caleb Rine Border Fellow, Middle School (Fall 2014)

Jessica Renfro Border Fellow, Middle School (Fall 2014)

Jennie Mapes Border Fellow, Elementary School (Fall 2014)

MISSION

Embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ by advancing the renewal and development of inner city El Paso through the **transformation** + **empowerment** of its residents.

VISION

To be a part of a fully vibrant and **transformed downtown El Paso** Rio Grande District with local youth + adults driven by their **faith** to participate at all levels of neighborhood development; a vision of **restored hopes** + **new dreams**; a vision of a **New City**!

VALUES

Christ-centered, relational, holistic, long-term, **empowering**, bridge-building, partnership-focused, geographically-focused (Central El Paso), asset-based, **intentional leadership development**

"Ciudad Nueva is fun. The leaders are helpful and positive. They make us feel like we're special and worth it. I look forward to it every week. My mom doesn't know much English and you guys understand more and are able to help us with school."

-CN Student



"My daughter always has a great time at Ciudad Nueva. Attending has improved her social skills. I am glad that the staff & volunteers take the time to love & care for our kids."

-CN Parent



A Letter From Our Executive Director

How do you respond when you hear Maria's story? Maria is a widow with muscular dystrophy who has little income and no transportation, slowly dying in her apartment, brave yet frightened and lonely? Her debilitating condition makes her so weak that she can't even take public transportation to obtain health care. The food assistance she receives runs out $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through each month, and her young children, her main connection to the outside world, aren't old enough to make any decisions on these issues.

At Ciudad Nueva, we intentionally place ourselves in community, building long-term friendships, listening to our neighbors' stories - their joys and their struggles - stories that we will otherwise never hear, even though we may regularly attend a church, enroll our kids in a school, or frequent a business just a block or two down the road.

Fears and prejudices are challenged as stories are shared. Relationships steadily develop, and we begin the slow and difficult journey of reconciliation. In this journey we listen to each other, and as we listen we begin to develop a deep care for our neighbor, not just one singular disconnected facet of their life, but their entire well being - physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Sometimes we catch a glimpse of how God sees our neighbors, and what God's kingdom should look like in our neighborhood.

Over time, a clearer picture begins to unfold as to how we can best share our resources - our space, time, connections, skills, work opportunities, our finances. We are also motivated to improve the environment, seeking to create opportunities for youth and families to be empowered to make changes for themselves. We walk alongside one another, striving to eliminate obstacles, sharing opportunities, and over time the hope of a brighter future grows and begins to seem attainable.

Leaders from within the community are often in the best position to understand the nuances of what is needed to catalyze change. So we invest in these leaders, nurturing and supporting their growth and confidence. Because of our care for one another, we protect each others dignity and seek to avoid doing for each other what we are capable of doing for ourselves. At Ciudad Nueva, this is how we aspire to practice the incarnational presence of the church in its community, loving our neighbors, and proclaiming and embodying the Gospel.

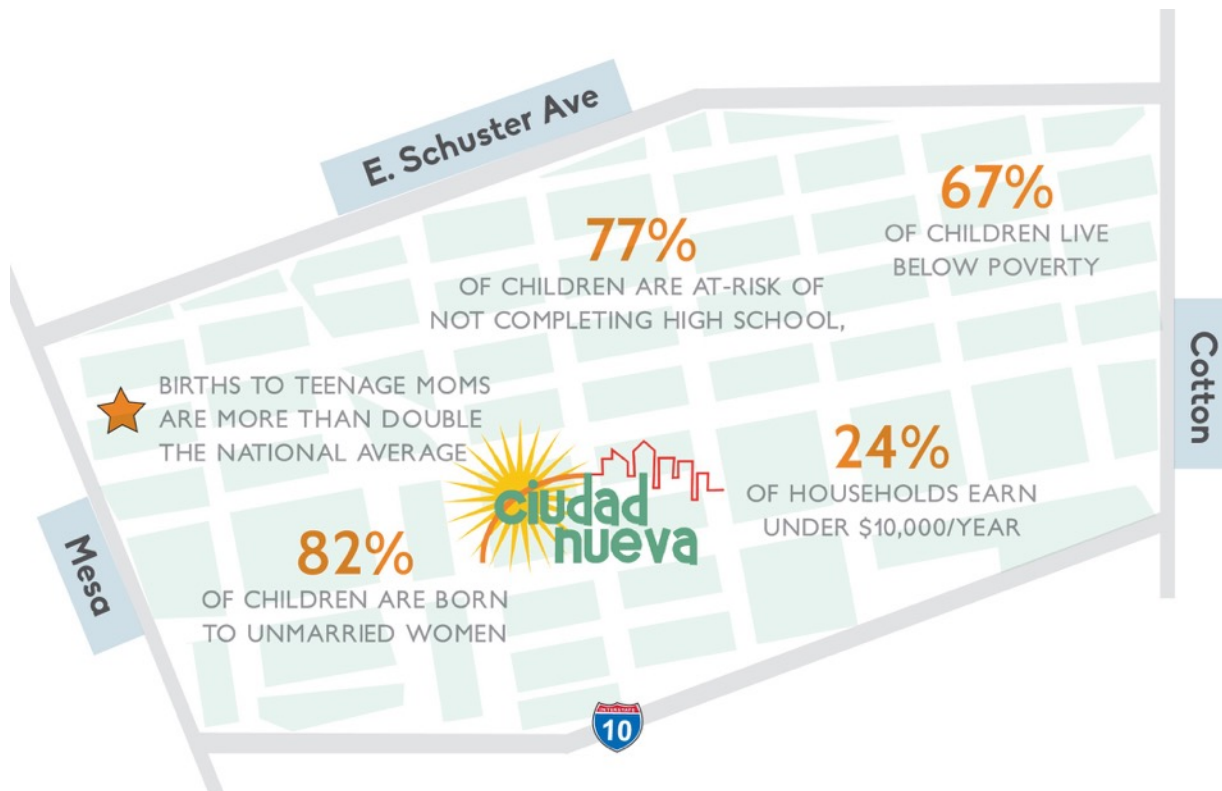
We would never know about Maria if we didn't open our doors to her daughter and other youth through our after-school programs. We would never know about the reality of the struggles this family is facing if we didn't take time to build a relationship with her daughter. We would never meet Maria if we didn't care enough to visit her at home. And now that we know her and hear more of her story we are able to pray with her and ask her how we can be good neighbors. Maybe this will mean mobilizing the community to support her family, assisting with transportation to medical appointments or the grocery store, helping her get linked with available resources, or connecting her with caring members in the community. Maybe all of these things will be needed. Maybe more.

Thank you for the many varied ways that you walk with us through this process. Thank you for your time volunteering, for your donated items, for your relationships, for your financial gifts. And most of all thank you for your prayers as we aspire to foster a healthy community, empowering one youth, one family at a time.

Sincerely, Sami DiPasquale

Our Neighborhood

The motivation for our work



Education: 46% of adults have not completed high school, 77% of children are considered to be at risk of not completing high school.

Income: The median household income is \$16,630/year, usually with extended family living in one household, 24% of households earn under \$10,000/year

Housing: 78% of residents are renters, 58% live in rental units with only one bedroom or no bedroom.

Transportation: 35% have no access to a vehicle, there is no major grocery store within walking distance.

Family: 82% of children are born to unmarried women, births to teenage moms is more than double the national average, 67% of young children live below poverty.

At Ciudad Nueva we envision an alternate future than what the statistics depict. We want to interrupt cycles that ensnare in poverty and despair. We aspire to cultivate hope and an environment where kids, families and the community are empowered to move toward a successful future where these statistics are no longer a reality. In the beginning we started walking alongside just 10 third graders. Eleven years later, we have worked with one thousand youth, hundreds of families and dozens of churches as we ***empower youth, support families, build community and equip leaders.***

What is Community Development and How Do We Do It?

With just 2 full time staff, 7 part-time staff and 6 Border Fellow interns in 2014, Ciudad Nueva recruited 180 volunteers, offering over 650 hours of programs and activities throughout the year, and an additional 800+ hours of involvement with kids, families and the community outside of programs.

Our goal is to see our financial and relational investment catalyze change within dozens of variables: decrease in crime, increase in student performance, beautifying the common spaces, racial reconciliation, increases in neighborhood identity and pride, increased employment, building coalitions among neighborhood stakeholders, advocating housing affordability, partnership among churches, loving neglected and/or abused children, and providing them with exposure and opportunities.

As we empower youth, support families, strengthen community, equip leaders and develop long-term relationships within our neighborhood, the result is transformed lives that build a flourishing community where hope is restored and the future is bright.

"I've been blessed by God in so many ways, and being a part of Ciudad Nueva is one of the wonderful blessings he has given me. This organization has impacted my life greatly. Launch Pad is the place where I knew I fit somewhere in elementary school, Kids Create is where I experienced extracurricular activities I didn't dare to join in middle school and Young Life was my greatest motivation to stay in high school. I am grateful for all the mentors that have taught me throughout the years, to become a kind and loving person, and how they have helped my family and me in the good and bad times."

-Former Ciudad Nueva Student, now studying to become a paralegal



"Ciudad Nueva is changing how we look at our inner city. By its example, it is renewing both attitudes and hearts; building positive relationships among distinct and previously un-connected groups -- central El Paso families, the downtown churches, schools and central area businesses. It is the Gospel message made alive -- through people caring for people, serving and encouraging one another, and in the process, transforming lives and community. A new city is a place and spirit of hope, promise and fulfillment. Ciudad Nueva leads by serving; and challenging each of us to do the same."

-Jackson Curlin; donor, area church member, El Paso businessman

Supporting Families

Empowering adults and families through relational support



"I appreciate the afternoon visits to my home. The love, attention & care the staff and volunteers show my kids is measureless, kind of like God's love toward us." -Ciudad Nueva mom

- Regular home visits, guidance and referral to dozens of local resources/agencies
- Supporting families in crisis (eviction, abuse, assault, trauma, etc)
- Periodic provision of food, household items, furniture and appliances
- Assistance for enrollment in GED and job training programs
- Job search assistance and referrals
- Family Christmas Store
- Connection of youth and families with local churches
- Occasional emergency rent or utility assistance

Building Community

Empowering our community through neighborhood initiatives

- **Community dinners** - every other month for families of participating students
- **Seasonal events** - join others in organizing Fall festival, Christmas Store, health fair, etc.
- **Community Advocacy** - work with neighborhood associations + other groups for neighborhood education, community improvements
- **Downtown Connection** - help coordinate outreach efforts with local churches + organizations (network of 60+) to build relationships, avoid duplication, collaborate on service provision, and foster a healthy neighborhood environment

"I have been reminded, yet again, that Ciudad Nueva and its work testify daily to faith, love, service and hope – for the servers and the receiver...It has been wonderful to see what's been done, but more exciting to see what's ahead for Ciudad Nueva and the Rio Grande District" -Community Member



Empowering Youth

Ciudad Nueva youth programs provide a setting where students can find friends, mentors and a place to call home. These programs are built on a holistic framework aimed at nurturing students physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and spiritually. In 2014 Ciudad Nueva provided over 20 hours/week of structured after-school programs aimed at developing students in all of these areas. Children are connected to mentors and adult leaders who serve as models who support them in achieving their full potential.

After-school programs for elementary, middle and high school students including:

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Crisis assessments and referrals
- Small groups, spiritual and leadership development
- Life skill lessons such as conflict resolution
- Financial literacy, budget training and banking concepts
- Creative arts, cooking, chess, and science classes
- Youth clubs - Young Life and Wyldlife
- Summer adventure camps and day camps
- College prep and financial aid application assistance
- Job readiness assistance and job referrals
- After school boys soccer team
- Sun City Wolves 7x7 soccer tournaments

“Ciudad Nueva is a fun and caring place to be. You can count on help for whatever you need, like homework and advice on what you’re having trouble with at school. It is a second home because it feels comfortable being here. It is a safe place and feels like family.” -CN Student

“Ciudad Nueva makes a difference because I finish my homework, I’m not mean anymore to my family –I used to be mean. I’m not mean to my friends, I’m nice to them. I used to not talk about God, but now I talk about God. I’m happy that I’m here.” -CN Student

*“Ciudad Nueva has taught me to be kind and respectful to others. It has taught me that God is always there.”
CN Student*

*“I’m not depressed anymore. I have more social skills and I have more friends and more people I can trust.”
-CN Student*



Equipping Leaders

Border Fellows

Equipping a new generation for transformational work in struggling urban communities

Three border fellows finished their term in the spring and three more joined us in the fall of 2014 for our 10-month leadership development opportunity aimed at providing experience and training for young adults to:

- empower youth and families through an internship with Ciudad Nueva
- engage some of the most challenging issues facing our border region
- identify the needs and assets of lower-income high risk communities
- gain tools for effective life and leadership in these settings
- build bridges between the church and the marginalized
- grapple with the integration of faith, vocation, and urban community development
- reflect in community on God's direction for their personal and professional lives

How Border Fellows Spend Their Time (hours/week)

Ciudad Nueva Internship -20
Workplace -16
Community & Church -6
Grad School Courses -3

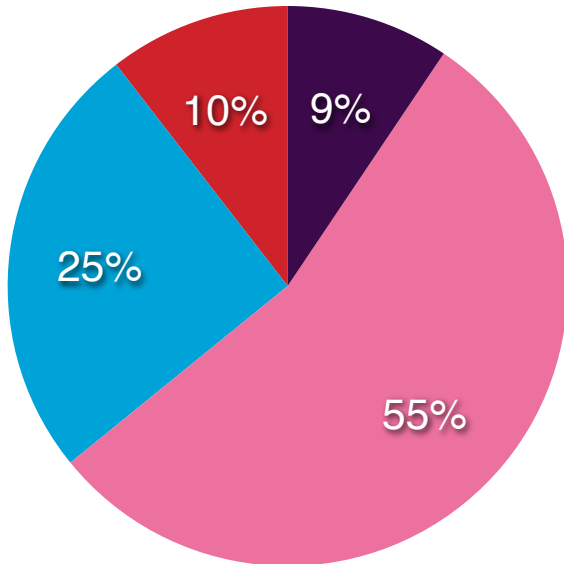
*"This is a program that shows you how to become so in tune with God that Jesus spills out of your own life and into the life of the children here...Border Fellows teaches the basic foundations of how to better become ministers of reconciliation as we are called to be in 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. I thank God for leading me to such a wonderful program."
-2014 Border Fellow*

Mobilizing, Training and Connecting

Multiplying leaders with a heart for developing under-resourced neighborhoods

- Ciudad Nueva (in partnership with La Frontera) led two graduate seminary classes for Border Fellows - and other interested parties - addressing issues of faith, poverty, culture, youth, community development, ethics and contemporary border issues.
- Ciudad Nueva leaders shared about bridge-building and community development work at seminars, workshops and churches in El Paso, Austin, Phoenix, New York and Raleigh/Durham.
- Met monthly as part of the El Paso chapter of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA); co-hosted a training on *When Helping Hurts* curriculum
- Leadership development - College and high school students are reinvesting in the community by helping with middle and elementary programs and mentoring younger students
- Bethany Molinar (Ciudad Nueva staff) coordinated the *No Need Among You* conference of the Texas Christian Community Development Network in Austin, TX
- Sami DiPasquale, Executive Director of Ciudad Nueva, continued his work on the National CCDA Board of Directors
- Ciudad Nueva joined forces with a number of organizations along the border in laying the foundations for a southwest regional chapter of CCDA

2014 Financials



Income

Individuals \$209,222

Churches/Organizations \$97,003

Foundations \$40,110

Corporations \$35,988

Total \$382,323

Ciudad Nueva also leveraged:

- **an additional \$172,532** in donated facilities, goods & service (special thanks to St. Clement's Church & School for extensive use of facilities)
- **180 volunteers** donating over 6,000 hours of their time to empower youth, families and community in our Rio Grande District

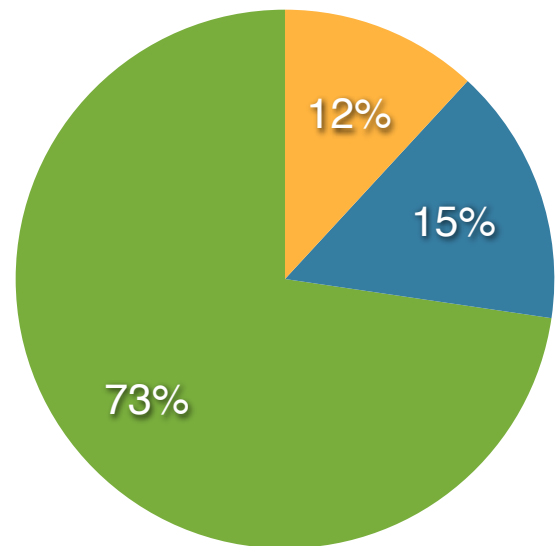
Expenses

Program \$276,451

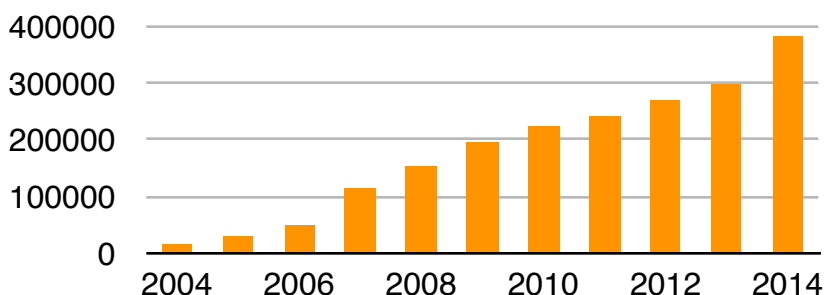
Administrative \$45,107

Development/Marketing \$58,826

Total \$380,384



**Multiplying Impact Through
Increased Investment
Annual Budget Since Inception**



"I give to Ciudad Nueva because I know I'm investing in the lives of vulnerable youth at a critical time in their development. I believe that support in education leads to economic independence, and investment in the spiritual life leads to transformed families and communities from the inside out."

-2014 Monthly Donor

2014 Partners

Church + Organization

Christ Church Austin, Church of St. Clement, Coronado Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, La Frontera, El Paso for Jesus, University Presbyterian Church, Christian Community Development Association, United Way, Missionary Radio Evangelism, Mustard Seed Cafe

Corporate

Lava Asphalt Co. Inc, Datamark, Jack In The Box, Gaddy Homes LP, Western Refining, Lone Star Title Company of El Paso Inc, Baker Glass Ryan LLC, Prime Time Water Supply LLC, Gary Mundy DDS, Jerry W. Miller MD PA, Ripe Investment Group LLC, Capital Bank, Mid-West Textile, Bowling Construction LLC, United Bank of El Paso Del Norte, WestStar Bank, Pat Montgomery CPA, Remcon Self Storage, McClintock Self Storage LTD, Dr. Richard G Lyon, 7930 Mesa LTD, The Growing Concern, Foster and Company, MGAP LLC

Foundation

Braden Aboud Foundation, El Paso Community Foundation, Hunt Family Foundation, Marlene and J.O. Stewart, Jr. Foundation, Wakefield Foundation, Price Family Foundation, Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation, The Dennis and Donna Neessen Trust, The Young Family Foundation

*Individual Impact Partners

Thomas Seay, Laura Hayes, Gregory Carameros, Christopher and Susan Mapes, Maurine Cox, Jim Cardwell, Bert and Lisa Borsberry, JW Rogers, Bo and Judy Mapes, Susan Stowe, Linda Lane, Thomas and Mary Goodrich, Hans and Nancy Thunem, Steven and Patricia Tighe, Susan and Charles Haddad, Ralph Lowenfield, George and Melanie Wayne, Trey and Patsy Burdick, Robert and Michelle Feuille, Connie Glass, Lee and Joan Schuster, R.W. and Cheryl Wiggs, Darren and Maria Woody, James Heslop, Marceline Wright, Clay and Rhonda Lowenfield, Robert and Karen Foster, Bill Appleton, Bruce and Margaret Meyer, Joe and Heidi McLaughlin, Linda Gunter, Frederick Michael and Laura Norwich, John and Jan Foster, Tom and Kathie Beeman, Jerald and Suzanne Hobson, Bruce and Hilda McComas, William H. and Anne Wade, Clay and Cynthia Gallagher, Diane Tatem, Ed and Kathy Howell, Anne Georges, Robert and Susan Anchondo, Anne and John Walker, Brian and Claudia Mosher, Lanier and Kenny John, Brian and Kathryn Sheehan, Ryan and Elizabeth Dozier, Tom and Karen Wright, Charles and Linda Banks, Jim and Karen McVay, Conrad Conde, Janna Bowman, Ritchie Mesa, Sara and Rudy Feudo, Dr. Steven and Blythe Larson, Brandon and Jessica Archer, Gregory and Carlie Pine, Jackson and Donna Curlin, Donald and Linda Ward, Edward and Mary Linda Endlich, Grace Lee, Sami and Marianne DiPasquale, Cliff and Christine Warner, James David Baker, Nina Brown, Oscar and Julie Gereda, Randy and Luann Baker, Cabby Capshaw, Terry and Shelley Speicher, Carolyn Maddox, Arthur Jr. and Catherine Tambur

* Many more individuals contributed to Ciudad Nueva in 2014, but there are too many to list. Those listed here are our impact partners - recognized for their dedicated monthly support or for contributions over \$1000. *Thank you to all who support our work!*

Memorial + Honor

Bruce and Claudia Jones, The DiPasquale Family, Bruce and Margaret Meyer, Gilbert Miltre Vasquez, Virginia Hughey Christie, John Fynn, Wally Lowenfield, Donna Hawkins, Greg and Carlie Pine, Cynthia and Claiborne Gallagher, James Love, Pat and Ouisi Wieland, John and Sally Broaddus, Marsha and Wade Daw, Peggy and Andy Feinberg, John and Jan Foster, Jackie and Bruce Gulbas, Dick and Susan Lyon, Bill and Betty Harrison, Mike and Norma Hunt, John and Lyn McKee



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