

Ciudad Nueva Community Outreach

# Impact Report

2021



Together, cultivating hope and walking alongside youth, families, and the community in Central El Paso's Rio Grande neighborhood.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From Our Executive Director.....	02
Empowering Youth & Equipping Leaders.....	03
Supporting Families & Strengthening Community.....	04
Financials.....	05
Your Impact.....	06
Looking Forward.....	07



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Christ Church (Austin, TX) – Rector

### **Bethany Rivera Molinar**

M.Div., Executive Director of Ciudad Nueva

Ciudad Nueva started in 2004 with just a few mentors to 10 elementary students from the Rio Grande Historic District of El Paso, TX. 18 years later, our outreach has expanded beyond youth programs into supporting families and adults in the community. We follow an asset-based approach, meaning we make decisions based on what resources the community already has and what they have voiced as needs. Through community partnerships and participation, our outreach continued to grow in 2021.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the years I've watched as Ciudad Nueva has steadfastly leaned into our mission: to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ by advancing the renewal and development of central El Paso's Rio Grande neighborhood through the empowerment and transformation of its residents. Every day that programs and activities outside of programs are happening, we believe that every person in our community -from the youngest child to the oldest neighbor- wholly bears the image of God and that God is passionately and actively pursuing each and every one of them. We also believe that each and every person has gifts that God can use to bring shalom to our community and that our community bears within it a wealth of assets and resources that can help them collectively thrive.

Throughout 2021, we witnessed the fruit of partnering with God for 17 years in the good work God has been doing in the lives of our neighbors and community. In 2021, this looked like:

- **Empowering youth** through our holistic after-school programs, helping students to love God and care for their neighbors, their families, themselves, and their future.
- **Equipping leaders**, including community youth and adults as well as undergrad and master's students to lead well, serving as staff, interns and volunteers.
- **Supporting families** through resource connections, mental health training and professional help, food co-ops, targeted elderly neighbor support, and our Tiendita.
- **Strengthening community** through the Downtown Church Connection, Community Dinner, and our monthly Community Advisory Board meetings.

Through your time volunteering, connecting with us online, relationships, giving financial support, prayer, and encouragement, we are so grateful for all the ways each of you choose to walk with our neighbors, honoring their resources and coupling them with your own to help our Ciudad Nueva community thrive.

With love,  
Bethany Rivera Molinar,  
M. Div., Executive Director



"We believe that every person in our community -from the youngest child to the oldest neighbor- wholly bears the image of God..."

## Our Mission

To embody the gospel of Jesus Christ by advancing the renewal and development of central El Paso's Rio Grande neighborhood through the empowerment and transformation of its residents.

## Our Vision

A thriving Rio Grande neighborhood with residents participating at every level of neighborhood transformation to cultivate restored hopes and new dreams...a new city!

## 160+ Youth

were served in youth programs and non-program activities, including healthy meals served through a partnership with Children's Kingdom



## 14 High School

students participated in Catalyst, our college and career readiness program

## 60+ Students

went to summer camps and experienced rock climbing, hiking, camping outdoors, or visiting colleges



## EMPOWERING YOUTH

Ciudad Nueva's youth programs are built on a holistic framework aimed at nurturing youth physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Students in grades 3-12 receive weekly academic and spiritual support, healthy meals, consistent mentoring, and spiritual formation at youth clubs or one-on-one visits, and experience continuous enrichment activities in the summer.

Youth enrichment activities at our youth programs include learning life skills, creative arts, cooking, photography and sports, financial literacy, budgeting/banking, college and career readiness, and traveling within and outside of El Paso.



## EQUIPPING LEADERS

We identify, empower, equip, and mobilize student and adult leaders who have a passion for walking alongside the youth and families in the Rio Grande neighborhood.

Leadership skills are embedded throughout our youth and adult programs, as well as our staff's professional development. Throughout the year at local and national conferences and workshops, our staff continues relevant education that is centered around bridge-building and asset-based community development.

By equipping those who are committed to community development in our neighborhood, we believe true neighborhood transformation happens and thrives.



## 4 Student Alumni

and high school students returned to Ciudad Nueva as staff or interns in our youth programs

## 3 Community Members

served on staff as Community Connectors and/or program coordinators and were equipped to connect their neighbors with vital resources and referrals

## 3 Master of Social Work

students joined Ciudad Nueva as interns

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Holistic relational support is at the core of how we support families in the community. Our Community Connectors, Community Access Coordinator, and Buen Vivir Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator help families through regular home visits, assisting in crisis situations such as evictions, loss of a loved one, financial loss, etc., addressing nutrition and food insecurity through our Food Co-Op, job search and placement assistance, and more.

In 2021, the Community Access Initiative was started through a partnership with Texas Methodist Foundation and we expanded our outreach efforts to community members 50+ and/or with disabilities. The Buen Vivir program facilitates therapeutic art classes for adults as well as mental health and wellness workshops for all ages of the community.



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

We facilitate opportunities for residents and advocates of all ages from our neighborhood to come together at events like Community Dinner, Community Advisory Board meetings, and coordinate outreach efforts with local churches and organizations to build relationships and avoid duplication of services in the neighborhood.

In our programs like the Food Co-Op, Community Advisory Board, and Tiendita, participants are encouraged to take ownership of how the program is run, emphasizing that through their own organization and leadership skills, they are able to make an impact with their neighbors.

### 250+ home visits

and resource referrals given by our Community Connectors that helped families find jobs, housing, financial, and medical assistance

### 2,690 boxes of food

distributed to families through the Food Co-Op

### 25+ People

from youth and adult programs attended mental health and wellness workshops



### 110 Thanksgiving Baskets



were distributed to neighborhood families and 25 families were served at Community Dinner

### 7 Community Advisory Board

meetings held by and for Rio Grande neighborhood residents to discuss the needs, plans, and visions for their community

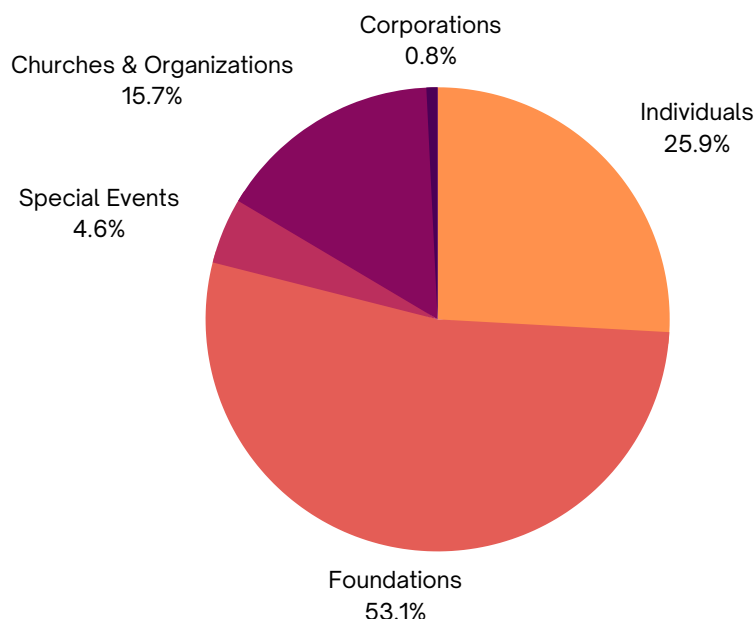
### 28 Organizations

or churches involved in the Downtown Church Connection to coordinate outreach efforts in Downtown El Paso

# 2021 FINANCIALS

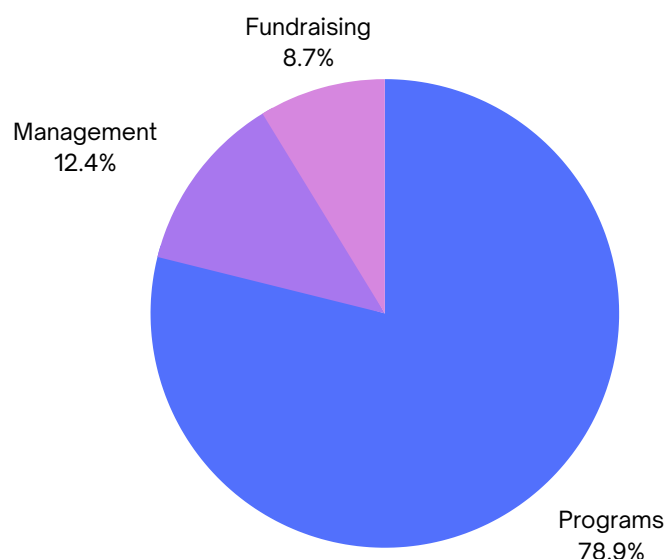
## Income

Total: \$521,862



## Expenses

Total: \$421,155



## OUR PARTNERS

### Churches & Organizations

AJ Chapter PEO, Christian Community Development Association, Children's Kingdom, Christ Church Austin, Church of St. Clement, Delashmitt Rd. Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, New Community Covenant Church, Prescott United Methodist Church, Rescue Mission El Paso, Royal Baptist Church, University Presbyterian Church

### Corporations

Amazon Smile, Black Friday's Discount Store, Datamark, David Wilbanks DDS, Discover El Paso Association Inc., Frontera Textile Distributors LLC, Gaddy Homes L. P., GECU, Helen of Troy, Hub International, Lone Star Title Company of El Paso Inc., MRE/Higher Ground Hosting, National Education Systems Inc., Novotex Mayoreo, OnStrategy, Price's Producers Inc., Quality Foods, Scott Hulse P.C., T&T Staff Management Inc., Triam LLC, Tropicana Homes, United Bank of El Paso Del Norte, Western Refining

### Foundations

AARP, A Community Thrives, Blackbaud Giving Fund, BNSF Railway Foundation, Carl Anderson and Marie Anderson Foundation, Charley's Kids Foundation, El Paso Community Foundation, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, El Paso Giving Day, Fidelity Charitable, Freeport McMoran Foundation, Gannett Foundation, Hervey Foundation, Hunt Family Foundation, Mighty Cause Charitable Foundation, Paso del Norte Community Foundation, Paso Del Norte Health Foundation, Stern Family Foundation, Texas Methodist Foundation, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, The Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, The Mark and Jill Meyer Charitable Fund, The Sam D. Young Family Foundation, The Stewart Family Foundation, White Harvest Charitable

### Individuals

**177 individuals** supported the mission of Ciudad Nueva in 2021. We give a special thanks to our wonderful monthly donors!

# YOUR IMPACT

Ciudad Nueva is thankful for the various partnerships with mentors, volunteers, organizations, and donors who use their time, talents, and resources to help cultivate hope with our neighbors in the Rio Grande neighborhood. Here are some additional highlights made possible through your partnership in 2021:



## Volunteers

- 150+ volunteers gave over 5700 hours valued at over \$160,000
- The Food Co-Op was run weekly by 20 community resident volunteers and together they prepared and distributed 2,690 boxes of food to neighborhood families

## Special Events

- 60+ students participated in summer enrichment activities and traveled to Big Bend, Austin, San Antonio, Taos, and Ruidoso, NM
- Youth in K-6 participated in the first-ever soccer clinic and families enjoyed Ciudad Nueva Night soccer game hosted by the El Paso Locomotive FC



## New in 2021

- 2 on-site Covid-19 vaccine and testing clinics were held at Ciudad Nueva
- 1 new van was purchased for programs through matching funds from the Carl Anderson and Marie Anderson Foundation
- The Church of St. Clement and Ciudad Nueva came together for a Community Clean-Up surrounding our shared buildings



A special thanks to the Church of St. Clement and St. Clement's Parish School for the extensive use of their facilities year-round.

**\$109,644**  
**Gifts In Kind**

Donated through professional services, goods, and facilities from partners.

# LOOKING FORWARD IN 2022

## 20

neighborhood business owners will participate in a year-long cohort to help grow their business through our Small Business Incubator and Microloans Initiative with funds from Freeport-McMoran Foundation

## 50+

art pieces created in reflection workshops and 20 oral history interviews, collected as part of the Migrant Narratives Project in collaboration with our sister nonprofit Abara, can be accessed at [migrantnarratives.com](https://migrantnarratives.com). Stay tuned for public exhibition dates!

## 50+

new community members who are 50+ and/or have a disability will be connected to community resources through the Community Access Initiative



## GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to partner with Ciudad Nueva:

- **Pray** for the love of Christ to be revealed, safety in programs and events, needs to be met, and the community's growth through empowerment.
- **Volunteer** as a mentor, tutor, coach, or a creative arts class teacher.
- **Donate** new or used items for our youth "stores," school supplies, athletic supplies, or everyday essential items for our Tiendita.
- **Give** a one-time donation or monthly pledge. Secure online donations can be made at [ciudadnueva.org/donate](https://ciudadnueva.org/donate).
- **Honor a loved one** on their birthday, at Christmas, or for other special events by making a gift in celebration of their life.
- **Connect with us** on Facebook @CiudadNuevaElPaso or Instagram @CiudadNueva, or sign up for our email updates at [ciudadnueva.org](https://ciudadnueva.org).



"The environment is positive at Ciudad Nueva and it helps to be around positive people."

**Lizbeth Gonzalez,**  
High School + Catalyst student,  
youth program participant since  
3rd grade



"The Food Co-Op has a special place in my life because I feel loved and appreciated, and I can also help others in the community."

**Lupita Murillo,**  
Food Co-Op Volunteer  
since January 2021