

Ciudad Nueva Community Outreach

Impact Report



2022



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

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Bethany Rivera Molinar
M.Div., Executive Director of Ciudad Nueva

Ciudad Nueva started in 2004 with just a few mentors and 10 elementary students from the Rio Grande neighborhood of El Paso, TX. 19 years later, our outreach has expanded beyond youth programs into supporting families, and seniors 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 2022.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello, friends! Believe it or not, 2022 marked the completion of *18 years* of Ciudad Nueva walking with our Rio Grande neighbors and greater community. As we get closer to the 20 year mark, I find myself reflecting on how much Ciudad Nueva has grown in depth and in scope from where we started in 2004- with just a handful of volunteers, ten third grade students, and a desire to love our neighbors well. From relationships that have been formed and deepened, the skills, talents and dreams that have been cultivated, the programs, services, and resources that have been developed for and by the community, and all with the prayers, support, and encouragement of our volunteers and community partners - we are grateful to continue to witness the legacy of “Kin-dom” work that has unfurled through Ciudad Nueva.



"We are grateful to continue to witness the legacy of “Kin-dom” work unfurling through Ciudad Nueva."

In 2022, this unfurling has looked like:

- Empowering youth through after-school programs, intersession enrichment activities, and outreach, and helping students to love God and care for their neighbors, their families, themselves, and their future.
- Equipping leaders through training, developing and investing in youth, family and senior community leaders as well as by hosting undergraduate and graduate interns and providing growth opportunities for staff and volunteers
- Supporting families through resource connections, mental health training and professional help, food co-ops, our Tiendita, elderly neighbor support, and our Community Computer Lab.
- Strengthening community through the Downtown Church Connection, Community Dinners, small business and financial literacy classes, and our monthly Community Advisory Board Meetings.

Through your time volunteering, connecting with us online, relationships, giving financial support, prayer, and encouragement, we are each and altogether thankful for all the ways you have chosen to love and 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

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!

EMPOWERING YOUTH

160+ Youth

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



10 High School

students participated in Catalyst, our college and career readiness program

60+ Students

participated in summer camps and activities including rock climbing, hiking, camping, or visiting colleges

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 neighbors in the Rio Grande neighborhood.

Leadership development is embedded throughout our youth and adult programs, as well as our staff training. 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 transformation happens and thrives.

5 Program Alumni

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

4 Community Members

served as Community Connectors and were equipped to connect their neighbors with vital resources and referrals

4 Master of Social Work

students joined Ciudad Nueva as interns





20 Dedicated Community Volunteers

The Food Co-Op is run weekly by community members, including 20 dedicated community volunteers

3,000 Boxes of Food

distributed to families through the Food Co-Op

Community Leaders in Action

Our Food Co-op is a neighborhood-run program that receives donations of otherwise discarded produce and shelf-stable items from local grocers, produce vendors, and other community partners. Community families and volunteers work together to collect and sort donations, create and distribute food boxes and work together to clean up afterward.

In the past few years, community members have run our food co-op weekly, including 20 dedicated community volunteers. These neighborhood men and women have shown leadership and dedication to their neighbors and Ciudad Nueva and participate in other programs like our Community Advisory Board, art program, and Zona de Desestres.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Holistic relationship building is at the core of how we support families in the community. Our Community Connectors and support team help families through regular home visits, assisting in crisis situations such as evictions, loss of a loved one, financial pressures, 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 AARP. We expanded our outreach efforts to community members 50+ and/or with disabilities. The Community Access Initiative program facilitates therapeutic art classes for adults as well as mental health and wellness workshops for all ages of the community.



300 Home Visits

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

28 People

from youth and adult programs attended mental health and wellness workshops

85 Thanksgiving Baskets



Together with our adult programs and community partner Grace Place, we were able to distribute 85 Thanksgiving baskets to our program participants.

7 Community Advisory Board

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

17 Organizations

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

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.



Small Business & Job Referrals

For the last several years, Ciudad Nueva has worked closely with job seekers and small business owners in the neighborhood to create a referral network. During this process, neighbors expressed the need for small business training, funding, and networking.

In 2022, in response to these requests, Ciudad Nueva hosted its first ever small business incubator program. Through our partnership with LiftFund El Paso, the Freeport McMoran Foundation, and the Small Business Development Center, community members were able to attend once a week classes for 6 weeks to learn more about how to start a small business, how to open a small business bank account, how to obtain funding, and other tools necessary to create and follow a business plan.



6 weeks

of small business classes

8 out of 15

members completed the six week program with perfect attendance.

11

community members graduated from the 6-week learning course

148

small business job referrals made through Ciudad Nueva in 2022



20+ employment and resource opportunities posted on our job board

4 senior adults attended weekly computer classes

15 benefit applications completed

6 people engaged in weekly computer self-study

Computer Lab & Resource Center

Supporting our neighbors' goals means helping them find the resources necessary for success. In 2022, we received a generous grant from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Self Development of People to purchase materials for a mobile computer lab with 15 work stations that was launched in September.

In the computer lab, neighbors learn new skills to help them advance in their everyday lives and future goals. Some of the programs offered include basic computer skills classes, job and benefits application assistance, opportunities for certifications, and much more.



Housing Program & Duplex Renovation

In 2021, Ciudad Nueva purchased a residential property in our service neighborhood at far below market value from a generous nonprofit. In 2022, in partnership with Matthew 25 and two anonymous donors, we secured funding to convert the property into a duplex that will be rented to 2 neighborhood families as part of our Affordable Housing and First-Time Home Buyers' Initiative in 2023.

In addition to the duplex units that will be rented at below market rate as part of a down payment savings program, the initiative will also help 30+ community members learn about first-time home buyer resources, credit consultation, and personalized financial guidance and provides education about home ownership and financial literacy.



2 Duplex Units

each with 3 bedrooms, became available for rent at below market rate after renovations were completed at the end of 2022.

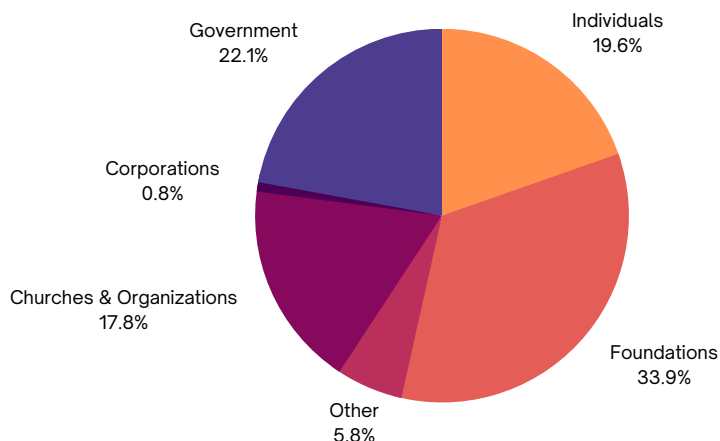
30+ Community Members

expressed interest in homeownership education and financial literacy sessions

2022 FINANCIALS

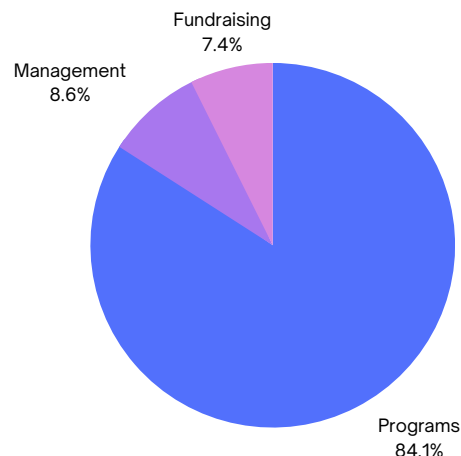
Income

Total: \$541,886



Expenses

Total: \$466,545



OUR PARTNERS

Churches &

Organizations

AJ Chapter PEO, BBB of Metro Houston, Christian Community Development Association, Children's Kingdom, Christ Church Austin, Church of St. Clement, Delashmitt Rd. Baptist Church, Elks Lodge #187, First Baptist Church, LiftFund El Paso, Matthew 25, New Community Covenant Church, Presbyterian Mission USA, Rescue Mission El Paso, Self-Development of People, Servant Partners, Small Business Development Center, St. Clements' School, University Presbyterian Church, Youth Service America

Corporations

Abundant Living Home Health, Amazon Smile, Black Friday's Discount Store, Chuco Relic, Costco, Datamark, David Wilbanks DDS, Discover El Paso Association Inc., El Paso Locomotive FC, Frontera Textile Distributors LLC, Gaddy Homes L. P., GECU, Helen of Troy, Hub International, Lone Star Title Company of El Paso Inc., Mountain Star Sports, MRE/Higher Ground Hosting, National Education Systems Inc., Novotex Mayoreo, OnStrategy, Price's Producers Inc., Quality Foods, Scott Hulse P.C., Sessions Climbing, Steele Consulting, T&T Staff Management Inc., Triam LLC, Tropicana Homes

Foundations

AARP, Blackbaud Giving Fund, BNSF Railway Foundation, Braden Aboud Memorial Foundation, Carl Anderson and Marie Anderson Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Charley's Kids Foundation, El Paso Chihuahua's Foundation, El Paso Community Foundation, El Paso Giving Day, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Fidelity Charitable, Freeport McMoran Foundation, Hervey Foundation, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Stern Family Foundation, Texas Methodist Foundation, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, The Mark and Jill Meyer Charitable Fund, The Sam D. Young Family Foundation, The Stewart Family Foundation

Individuals

182 individuals supported the mission of Ciudad Nueva in 2022. We give a special thanks to our wonderful monthly donors!

YOUR IMPACT

Ciudad Nueva is thankful for the 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 2022:



Volunteers

- 250+ volunteers gave over 11,000 hours
- 50+ community volunteers assisted in Ciudad Nueva programming including youth programs, Food Co-op, research and data management, and special events
- 20 dedicated community volunteers helped run our Food Co-op and together with their neighbors they prepared and distributed 3,000 boxes of food to neighborhood families.

Youth Special Events & Programs

- During Spring Break we hosted Kings Kids with 30 students from across the country who participated in crafts, recreational activities, Bible studies, snacks, and cross-cultural understanding alongside 30 of our program students.
- In July, 8 students attended our annual Catalyst College and Career Exploratory Trip to central Texas.
- In partnership with the St. Clement's School, 105 students in grades K-5 participated in Upward Soccer this fall. 23 were directly tied to Ciudad Nueva, 8 were part of our Launch Pad program, and 20 were Ciudad Nueva volunteers.



Adult Special Events & Programs

- In 2022 Ciudad Nueva held its first-ever senior citizen prom. 75+ neighbors gathered together and ate, laughed, and danced the night away. Thank you to our Community Access Program, middle and high school students, and neighborhood businesses for making this event happen!
- Zona de Desestres was created in partnership with our Community Connectors and Master of Social Work students to provide our elderly neighbors with an opportunity to destress. The "Destress Zone" is where these neighbors engage in activities that bring them joy, cultivating space where conversation is sparked so that their everyday struggles are shared and tools are provided that help bring about physical and mental wellbeing.



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

\$244,550
Gifts In Kind

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

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2023

10+

Microloans of up to \$1,000 will be given to community members with funds from the Freeport-McMoran Foundation to help launch or grow their small businesses.

30+

students will participate in a nutrition education program with Common Threads, a national nonprofit that gives youth the tools to practice healthy eating habits.

2

Neighborhood families will move into our newly renovated duplex units while receiving guidance on saving, budgeting, and purchasing their own home.



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.
- **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.



My favorite thing about Kids Create is that we can do different activities, have fun, and talk about God.

Dilan Olivas,
Middle School student, youth program participant



For me, coming as a volunteer has helped me feel useful and meet Alma and my colleagues. I feel very happy.

Lupe Tenner,
Food Co-Op Volunteer