

Ciudad Nueva Community Outreach

IMPACT REPORT



2023

www.ciudadnueva.org

Together, walking alongside youth, families, and older adults in Central El Paso's Rio Grande neighborhood.

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2023 Board of Directors

James Feuille (Chair)

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First Baptist Church of El Paso,
Minister of Missions and Evangelism,
Former Attorney

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Abundant Living Home Health,
Payroll and Billing Coordinator

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EPCC – Professor of Psychology

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Wells Fargo
Vice President, Strategy + Planning Leader

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Retired Army Colonel & Associate Professor at
UTEP School of Nursing, Retired

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Church of St. Clement,
Senior Associate and Contemporary Music
Director

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Session Advisor, University Presbyterian Church of
El Paso

Dr. Maggy Smith

Retired Professor, University of Texas at El Paso

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School Counselor, Lamar Elementary

Luis Rosas

HUB International Insurance Services
Vice President

Nate Ledbetter

Abara Borderland Connections, Partnerships &
Engagement
Presbytery of the Tres Rios Foundation,
Coordinator

Vero Salgado

Teacher, EPISD

Rev. Clifton Warner (Board Member Emeritus – Founder of Ciudad Nueva)

Christ Church (Austin, TX) – Rector

Bethany Rivera Molinar

MDiv, MSW, 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.

20 years later, our reach has expanded from youth programs to also walking with families and older adults in the community. We operate from an asset-based community development lens, meaning we identify and work from the assets, resources, gifts, and skills present in our community -both in the physical spaces and within the people themselves to meet the needs of our community, working together towards a thriving community.

With a sharpened focus on community partnerships and participation, our work grew deeper and stronger in 2023.



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023 Ciudad Nueva approached the milestone of walking alongside neighbors in Central El Paso's Rio Grande District for an incredible 19 years. What a privilege and joy it has been to witness the deep and life-giving relationships that have been formed, the community leaders that have been identified, equipped, and activated, and the dreams that have been cultivated and actualized across generations! This year we continued to witness the fruit of the good work God is doing in ourselves, in and with our community, and beyond.

In 2023 this good work included:

- Holistically nurturing youth through after-school programs, summer camps, and enrichment activities for students in grades 3-12.
- Equipping leaders in our community across generations through training, civic engagement, and leadership opportunities, internships for students in high school, undergraduate, and graduate level students, as well as strategic development training for staff and volunteers.
- Supporting families through resource connections, mental health education, home visits, our Food Co-op, Tiendita, older neighbor support programs, First Time Home Buyers Program and more.
- Strengthening community through the cultivation of new partnerships with entities such as the Wiggs Family Resource Center, and deepening relationships with existing partners including Grace Place, AARP, Emergence Health Network, multiple congregations, three universities, and the list goes on.

We are humbled by and grateful for all the ways you have chosen to walk us and with our neighbors, be it through your time volunteering, connecting with us online, building relationships, giving financial support, prayer, and words of encouragement. My prayer for you is that this report will encourage you as you read about all the ways that God is bringing about life and life abundantly to our Ciudad Nueva community!

With much love and gratitude,
Bethany Rivera Molinar MDiv, MSW,
Executive Director



"This year we continued to witness the fruit of the good work God is doing in ourselves, in and with our community, and beyond."

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!

Meet Our 2023 Team



Visit <https://ciudadnueva.org/about/our-team/> to learn more about our amazing staff!



BETHANY RIVERA MOLINAR:
Executive Director



CLAUDIA CHAVEZ:
Director of Youth Programs & Mental Health & Wellness Coordinator



MALENA IPIOTIS:
Middle School Coordinator



MARY CHAVEZ:
Office Manager



ALMA MARTINEZ:
Food Co-Op Coordinator and Community Connector



GARY ENGE:
Volunteer Admin Support



ABBY CARL KLASSEN:
Director of Development



DAISY GUZMAN:
Case Management and Communications Coordinator



NANCY LAM:
High School Coordinator



MARLENE LOPEZ:
Elementary School Coordinator, Case Manager



LUIS MENDOZA:
Community Connector and Computer Lab Assistant



ARANXA VALENCIA:
Youth Programs Assistant



EVELYN LOYA:
Youth Programs Assistant



ANABEL THERIAULT:
BSW Intern



BRENDA VARELA:
MSW Intern



TONI KERR:
MSW Intern



Natalia Cardona:
MSW Intern



Maria Gutierrez:
MSW Intern



Anika Valencia:
Youth Programs Assistant

180+ Youth

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



16 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

DEVELOPING 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 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.

We believe and have witnessed that by further equipping people in our community with a demonstrated passion for our community, our collective work towards thriving becomes both sharper in scope and stronger in impact.

5 Program Alumni

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

3 Community Members

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



6 Social Work

students joined Ciudad Nueva as interns. 3 MSW interns in the spring, 2 MSW interns in the fall, and 1 BSW intern in the fall!



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



Solid collaborative partnerships are key in the work of building strong communities. We are happy to report that in 2023, Ciudad Nueva's network of partnerships has grown in both scope and depth. This growth has included a new partnership with the Wiggs Family Resource Center. The center supports families from the El Paso High School feeder pattern as a part of EPISD's Community Schools Program. Our partnership with the center began through a connection made by Community Connector Alma Martinez. She, alongside other members of our team, attends their monthly meetings. And spearheaded by Alma, our partnership with the Wiggs Family Resource Center has gone beyond these meetings as each organization regularly reaches out to one another, working together to connect resources to our shared community members.

The Downtown Church Connection (DCC) is a network of 60+ churches and organizations from the downtown/central area that gather to network, share resources, and work together to address community concerns as they arise. Gary Enge, our Volunteer Admin Support team member, coordinates the DCC's monthly gatherings, and members of our Ciudad Nueva teams are active participants in the network.

The Rio Grande Neighborhood Association works to build interest in the welfare of our neighborhood, collaborate to find solutions, share news, and represent our neighborhood in the wider El Paso community. Ciudad Nueva is honored to be able to provide space for the RGNA to conduct its monthly meetings. Our high school Catalyst students are active members of RGNA, attending the meetings as part of their civic engagement education. Community Connector Luis Mendoza is a member of the RGNA, serving in a leading capacity on their advisory council. In addition to Luis and the Catalyst students, Ciudad Nueva staff and community members are active participants in the RGNA.

In the fall of 2023, Ciudad Nueva was connected by the RGNA to the greater El Paso Neighborhood Coalition and we were invited to lead a workshop on Asset Mapping for their 18th annual Neighborhood Summit. Four members of our team led this training for community leaders from across the city, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

These are just a few examples of how our staff, students, volunteers, and community members have collaborated with these and other entities to strengthen the community, enabling us to better walk with our neighbors. Through these partnerships, we've shared resources, knowledge, and ideas and worked together to tackle more extensive and complex issues that our community faces. We are grateful for all that these incredible organizations, associations, churches, and more are doing in our community and we are excited to continue in partnership with them and others into 2024!



85 Thanksgiving Baskets

Ciudad Nueva collaborated with community partner Grace place to distribute 85 Thanksgiving baskets to Ciudad Nueva families and older neighbors.



60+

Organizations and Churches make up the Downtown Church Connection, working together towards community wellness in Downtown and Central El Paso



SUPPORTING FAMILIES



20 Dedicated Community Leaders

Community Leaders are community members who are identified, equipped, and mobilized to walk alongside and resource their neighbors

\$193,562 in direct economic impact

In 2023 alone, the work of our Community Connector and Case Management teams resulted in \$193,562 in direct economic impact for 246 adults aged 55+ with a median annual household income of \$13,000 and median household size of 2.45. This impact was made through: job referrals, our small business incubator programs, benefits connection, and emergency assistance.

Holistic relationship building is at the core of how we support families in the Rio Grande neighborhood and beyond. Our Community Connectors and Support Team connects families with needed resources and works to help strengthen their networks of support. This includes regular home visit wellness checks, addressing nutrition and food insecurity through our Food Co-Op, job search and placement assistance, benefits navigation, and more. They also assist families in accessing emergency resources due to the experience of unexpected events such as evictions, loss of a loved one, financial pressures, and mental health crises.

We increased our outreach efforts in 2023 to community members aged 50+, and our supportive programs targeted toward them continued to grow. The Community Access Initiative Program continues to facilitate art classes for adults and mental health and wellness workshops across all of our programs. We look forward to continuing to serve and support community families in 2024, including and especially those not yet connected to Ciudad Nueva.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT! ZONA DE DESESTRES

Zona de Desestres is a program that was created in 2022 by our Community Connectors, Support Team, and Master of Social Work interns. Zona de Desestres provides older neighbors with space to destress, connect, and learn about mental and emotional wellness in a supportive peer environment. Each gathering begins with attendees sharing their day-to-day struggles, celebrations, and quandaries. They listen to one another, offering each other advice and encouragement over a small meal y cafecito.

Community Connectors take turns leading conversations about mental, and emotional concerns that attendees and their families face and provide education and tools to help attendees work towards increased well-being. Participants share in fun de-stressing activities such as gentle exercise and crafting. They also periodically go on special outings. This year, they visited aquatic centers, the Jungle Reef Aquarium, and parks, sparking joy through fun shared experiences. In 2023, Zona de Desestres continued to be a place where creativity and community blossomed!



300 Home Visits

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

50+ People

from youth and adult programs attended mental health and wellness workshops

3,000 Boxes of Food

distributed to families through the Food Co-Op





6 weeks

of small business classes with 8 graduates

9

\$1,000 micro-loans were distributed to participants in this program.

150+

small business job referrals made through Ciudad Nueva in 2023

SMALL BUSINESS & JOB REFERRALS

Over the years, Ciudad Nueva has worked to better support neighborhood job seekers and small business owners. This formally started with the creation of a local job referral network in 2019. Since then, community members both in and outside of the network have expressed a need for small business training and support.

In the fall of 2022, we launched our Small Business Incubator Classes -a six week training program that equipped attendees with important tools and education to help their businesses succeed and grow. The classes were a success and due to community feedback of the need for more training, we launched our second year of Small Business Incubator classes in the fall of 2023.

We are thankful to our partners LiftFund El Paso, the Freeport McMoran Foundation, and the Small Business Development Center who helped make this happen. 8 participants successfully completed the training and there is already talk about the need for another round of Business Incubator Classes in 2024!



MOBILE COMPUTER LAB & RESOURCE CENTER

Supporting our neighbors' goals means helping them find the resources necessary for success. In 2023, our mobile computer lab and resource center were available to neighbors. They learn new skills to help them advance in their everyday lives and future goals and receive assistance with paperwork including My Texas Benefits applications. Some programs include basic computer skills classes, job and benefits application assistance, certification opportunities, and more.

With the help of our computer lab coordinator, our neighbors have proved to themselves that it is possible to learn a new skill at any point in their lives. We are incredibly proud of them for reaching this goal!



40+

benefits and resource applications completed



2 Duplex Units



30+ Community Members

Received financial literacy and credit repair consultations from our board member, Jorge Alvarez.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION & FIRST TIME HOME BUYER'S PROGRAM

The Financial Education and First Time Home Buyers Program initiative helped 30+ community members learn about the process of working towards home ownership as well what resources are available to first time home buyers. Program participants were also given one-on-one credit consultations and personalized financial guidance. We are grateful for our board member and long time volunteer Jorge Alvarez who helped lead this program alongside other experts!



AFFORDABLE HOUSING: THE RIO GRANDE HOUSE

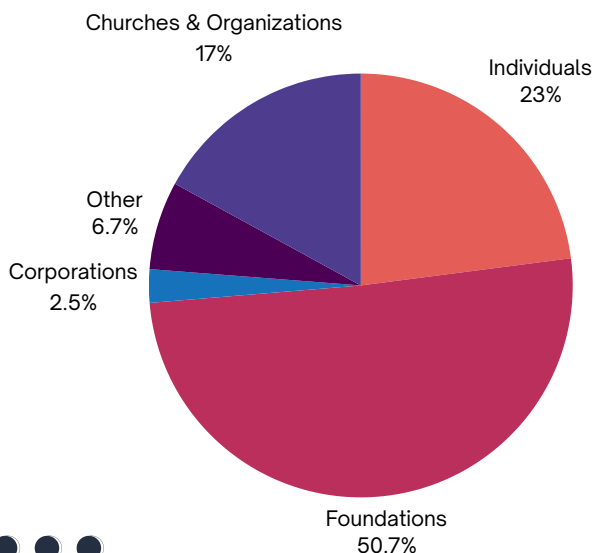
In 2023 we continued to make renovations to the Rio Grande House, our affordable housing duplex with the goal of it being move-in ready at the beginning of 2024. The Rio Grande House aims to provide families with affordable housing while they work towards the purchase of their first home. This duplex is special to us as we know that it is a beautiful place for families in our neighborhood to live as they work towards achieving their dreams of home ownership!



2023 FINANCIALS

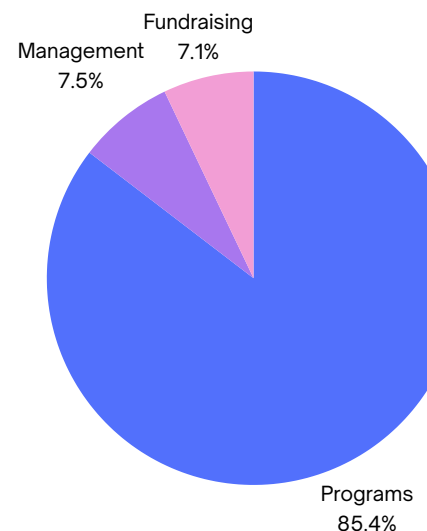
Income

Total: \$505,602



Expenses

Total: \$510,282





OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful for our community of partners who have donated, collaborated, volunteered, trained, taught, and shared resources with us!

Churches & Organizations

AJ Chapter PEO, Abara, BBB of Metro Houston, Center Against Sexual and Family Violence, Common Threads, Conscious Barrio, Christian Community Development Association, Children’s Kingdom, Christ Church of Austin, Church of St. Clement, Covenant Baptist Church of Garden Ridge, Delashmitt Road Baptist Church, Desert Spoon Food Hub, Elks Lodge #187, El Paso Villa Maria, Emergence Health Network, EPIISO Border Interfaith, First Baptist Church of El Paso, Interfaith Alliance of the Southwest, Kelly Center for Hunger Relief, LiftFund El Paso, Loretto Community, Mustard Seed Cafe, Onecho Bible Church, Peace of Christ Church, Rescue Mission of El Paso, Rio Grande Neighborhood Association, Small Business Development Center, Sojourners, St. Clement’s School, Tom Lea Institute, University Presbyterian Church, World Relief, Youth Service America

Businesses

Abundant Living Home Health, Amazon Smile, Black Friday’s Discount Stores, Chili’s Montana Location/Brinker International, Chuco Relic, DippedbyJesz, Diana’s Flower Shop, EP Dentistry4Kids, Food City Supermarkets, Hub International, Novotex Mayoreo, Pate & Appleby, Pure Fun Inc., Quality Fruit and Vegetable Company, Rio Grande Trade Auction, Sam’s Club #6502, Scott Hulse PC, Sessions Climbing + Fitness, Steele Consulting, Mackie Reid and Co. CPA’s, Urban Strategies

Foundations

AARP, Benevity Foundation, Giving Fund, BNSF Railway Foundations, Braden Aboud Memorial Foundation, Carrie M. Brown Foundation, Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Digital Lift, El Paso Community Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Paso del Norte Community Foundation, Stern Family Foundation, Tres Rios Border Foundation, The Mark and Jill Meyer Charitable Fund, The Sam D. Young Family Foundation, The Stewart Family Foundation, Wilma Donohue Moleen Foundation

Institutions & Government

Centennial Museum at UTEP, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health at the University of Texas - Austin, El Paso Museum and Cultural Affairs Department, School of Social Work at NMSU, UTEP Department of Social Work, UTEP Center for Community Engagement, Wiggs Family Resource Center/EPIISD Community Schools

Individuals

182 individuals supported the mission of Ciudad Nueva in 2023. 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 2023:



Volunteers & Community Leaders

- 250+ volunteers gave over 11,000 hours
- 50+ community leaders assisted in Ciudad Nueva programming, including youth programs, Food Co-op, research and data management, and special events
- 20 dedicated Community Leaders served on our Food Co-Op pick-up and delivery team. Upon delivery of the donated food, Food Co-Op members worked together to prepare 3,000+ boxes of food for one another and for neighbors who were unable to attend the Co-Op in 2023 due to physical limitations. There are no volunteers at the Food Co-Op, as each member works together as active participants in the preparation and division of the food, and clean up of the space, and all earn a portion of the food as a result. In this way, Co-Op members both lead and serve one another.

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 8 of our program students.
- In June, 9 Catalyst students traveled across the state on a week-long college and career exploratory tour. This experience allows students to understand what opportunities colleges offer them and what they are interested in!
- In partnership with the St. Clement's School, 105 students in grades K-5 participated in Upward Soccer this fall. Twenty-three were directly tied to Ciudad Nueva, 8 were part of our Launch Pad program, and 20 were Ciudad Nueva volunteers.



Adult Special Events & Programs

- Second Chance Quince! In the summer of 2023, Ciudad Nueva hosted a quinceañera for adults in our community who never had the opportunity to celebrate their quince años! The room was filled with joy, love, and the spirit of pachanga! Tears were shed and inner children were healed as our neighbors were granted an opportunity to revisit an important cultural life milestone. The event was a success thanks to our dedicated Community Connector and Support Team staff, who worked so hard alongside community members to make this happen. Our neighbors danced the night away in their quince regalia and felt as beautiful as ever!
- 2023 was the year for adult field trips! Through programs like Zona de De Desestres and our Community Access Programs, adult neighbors gained the opportunity to spend quality time with one another outside of Ciudad Nueva, including a trip to Carlsbad Caverns National Park on Mother's Day! 12 women in our community embarked with us on a 2-hour road trip to spend a day at the park. The day was filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories!



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

\$484,931

Gifts In Kind

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

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2024

10+

Microloans of up to \$1,000 will be distributed 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.



My favorite thing about Kids Create is that I can have a place to hang out with my friends. Everyone is respectful and helps with any situation.



Rosemary Alvarez,
Middle School student,
Youth program participant



It has been a wonderful experience for me to participate with Ciudad Nueva. There is great comradely amongst the individuals who truly value Ciudad Nueva.



Ruth Perez,
Food Co-Op Member
& Community Leader



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to partner with Ciudad Nueva:

▶ PRAY

For the love of Christ to be revealed. For safety in programs and events. For needs to be met in the way that the community needs.

▶ VOLUNTEER

Volunteer as a mentor, tutor, guest speaker, or coach.

▶ 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.

▶ LONG-TERM IMPACT

Make a long-term impact through estate giving or endowment.

▶ CONNECT WITH US

On Facebook and Instagram @CiudadNueva, sign up for our email updates at ciudadnueva.org, or connect with other Ciudad Nueva Alum @ciudadnuevaalum.

▶ 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Participate in our 20th anniversary activities + campaigns.

CELEBRATING



YEARS

In honor of celebrating 20 years of Ciudad Nueva, we invite you to become a new monthly donor.

Help us reach our goal of 20 new monthly donors for 20 years of walking alongside our neighbors in the Rio Grande community!



Scan here to become a monthly donor!

*Ciudad Nueva
Community Outreach*

<https://ciudadnueva.org/donate/>