



PROJECT VIDA

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Summer 2009

Project Vida, Project Vida Health Center, and PV Community Development Corporation, are separate non-profit corporations that act together as multiple service, community based non-profit agencies serving East Central El Paso since 1990, Northeast El Paso since 2004 and Montana Vista and Sparks (Far East El Paso County) since March of 2009. They are sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The annual combined budget is in excess of \$2.8 million and comes from both public and private sources. They serve over 5,500 registered low-income families and are annually reviewed and evaluated by a Community Congress in each area with over 150 community residents participating.

PVCDC acts to acquire and develop properties for community services and low and moderate income housing, and operates a microenterprise development program offering access to technical assistance and small loans. PVCDC's business association has over 50 dues regularly attending microenterprise members. It has built over 100 units of low income housing, and owns over \$3 million in properties. It is the managing partner and developer of PVCDC Linda Vista Apartments, Ltd., a 36 unit Low Income Housing Tax Credit project. It is also a Community Based Development Organization, serving over 500 microenterprises with technical assistance and access to capital, and is the fiscal agent for the City of El Paso's Neighborhood Revitalization Service Area program in the Chamizal neighborhood.

Project Vida Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center with a clinic site in East Central, two in Northeast El Paso, one in Montana Vista and one in Sparks (family planning only). The Northeast site includes a full service dental clinic. PVHC provides a full spectrum of primary care services, including sliding fee scale clinic visits, health education and outreach, oral health and low cost medications. It links behavioral health and primary health care using an integrated collaborative care model, and is a family planning provider. It serves the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso as its wellness coordinator.

Project Vida operates a licensed Early Childhood Development Center, Roots and Wings, a transition living center for single parent families, afterschool programs in East Central and Northeast El Paso, a thrift shop and food buying cooperative, manages the PVCDC apartments, and coordinates with WIC, family planning, adult education providers and a community credit union to provide those services in its facilities.

COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS:

- Focus areas: East Central, Northeast El Paso, Montana Vista and Sparks (Far East El Paso)
- 99% Hispanic in East Central and Far East El Paso; 80 % Hispanic Northeast



*A Project of
The Cumberland Presbyterian Church
The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

- Very low income (median income for a family of 4 is less than \$10,000 in central area)
- Little formal education (65% of adults 25 and over have less than 9th grade)
- Poor housing conditions especially in central area.
- Medically Underserved Area (Federally Designated MUA and Health Personnel Shortage Area-HPSA) in all sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND AWARDS

Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
“Models That Work” national winner, 1996

National Community Development Association, Aubrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award, 1999 on nomination by the City of El Paso.

Named as model project for Community Resource Center, City of El Paso Empowerment Zone Proposal, 1998; fiscal agent for EZ community projects in South Central CRC.

Certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), El Paso, 1996; Texas, 1998

AmeriCorps Program Site since inception of AmeriCorps (funded 1994 - 2003). Selected in national competition on recommendation of Texas State Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

Nationally selected for Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) ‘Best Practices’ report for the Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services, 2003.

Best Practices Model, Christian Community Health Fellowship, 2004.

United Way recipient of Alicia B. Chacon Community Leadership award, 2006

Early Childhood Development Center awarded four-star rating by Child Care Management Service.

Presenter: Best Practices in Integrated Behavioral Care, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, 2008.

Leadership:

Bill and Carol Schlesinger have been Co-Directors of Project Vida and PVCDC since their inceptions. Bill Schlesinger is CEO of Project Vida Health Center. Both are ordained Presbyterian clergy with extensive experience in community development and community services. Both are graduates of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Carol Schlesinger has a M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary. Bill Schlesinger has a M.Th. from the University of Chicago Divinity School, M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary, and D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary.