

The San Isidro Bean Project

**WORKING TO AID THE HUNGER CRISIS
AT THE MEXICO BORDER**

Thanks to your ministries which make it possible, since early 2010 the San Isidro Bean Project has served twenty-five hands-on aid programs

on the Chihuahuan border in Juarez and in Palomas and its surrounding colonias, on the Sonoran border in Agua Prieta and Nogales, and on the U.S. border in El Paso, Texas and Douglas, Arizona.

From 2010 to the present, together we have distributed over 165,000 pounds of beans.



**The San Isidro Bean Project is dedicated to serving
those in the most dire need
at the Mexico and U.S. border by working to:**

Witness, document and raise awareness of hunger in specific communities

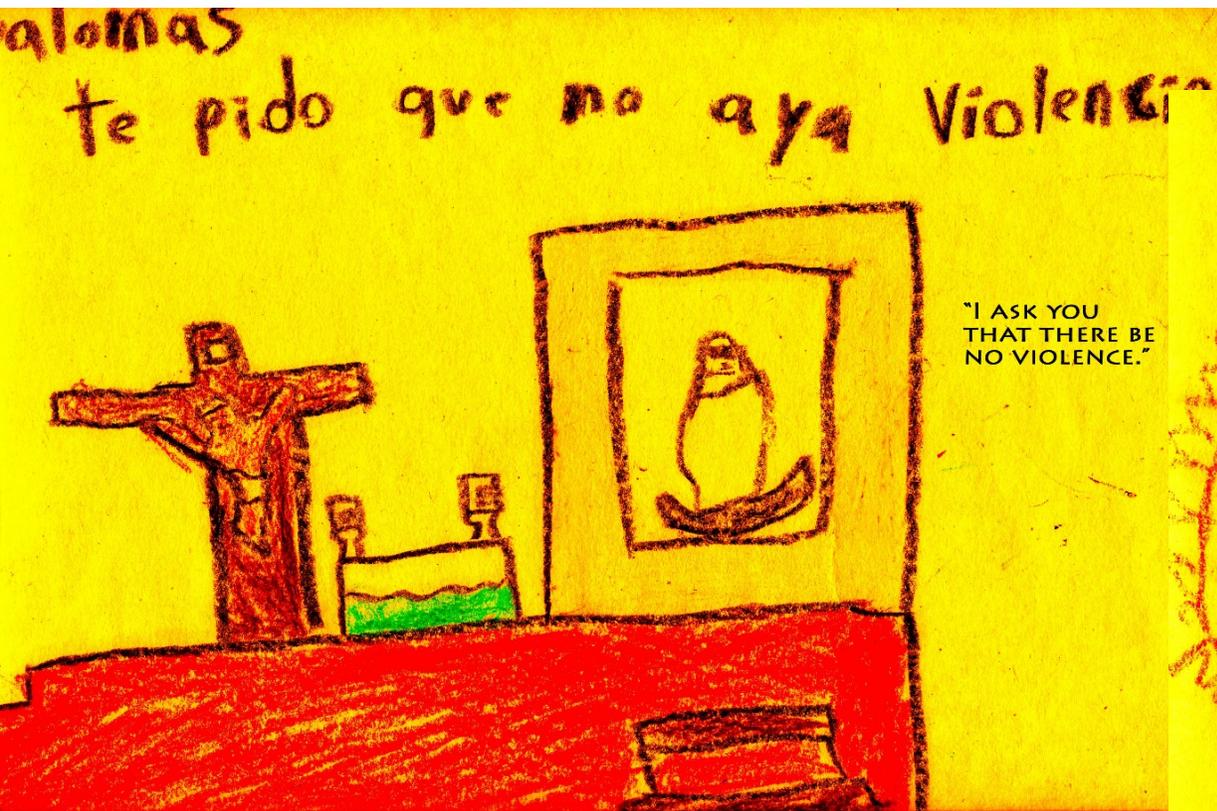
Obtain donations of beans from farms, churches and individuals

Raise freight charges for bean shipments to Deming, NM and El Paso, Texas

Coordinate bean distributions to identified vital programs in crisis areas

Visit programs to document the benefits of the Project to those it serves

The San Isidro Bean Project started early 2010, when a member of Anglican Holy Trinity in Silver City, New Mexico began to work with Diaz Farms in Deming, New Mexico in a shared response to the ongoing humanitarian hunger crisis in the nearby border town of Palomas, Chihuahua.

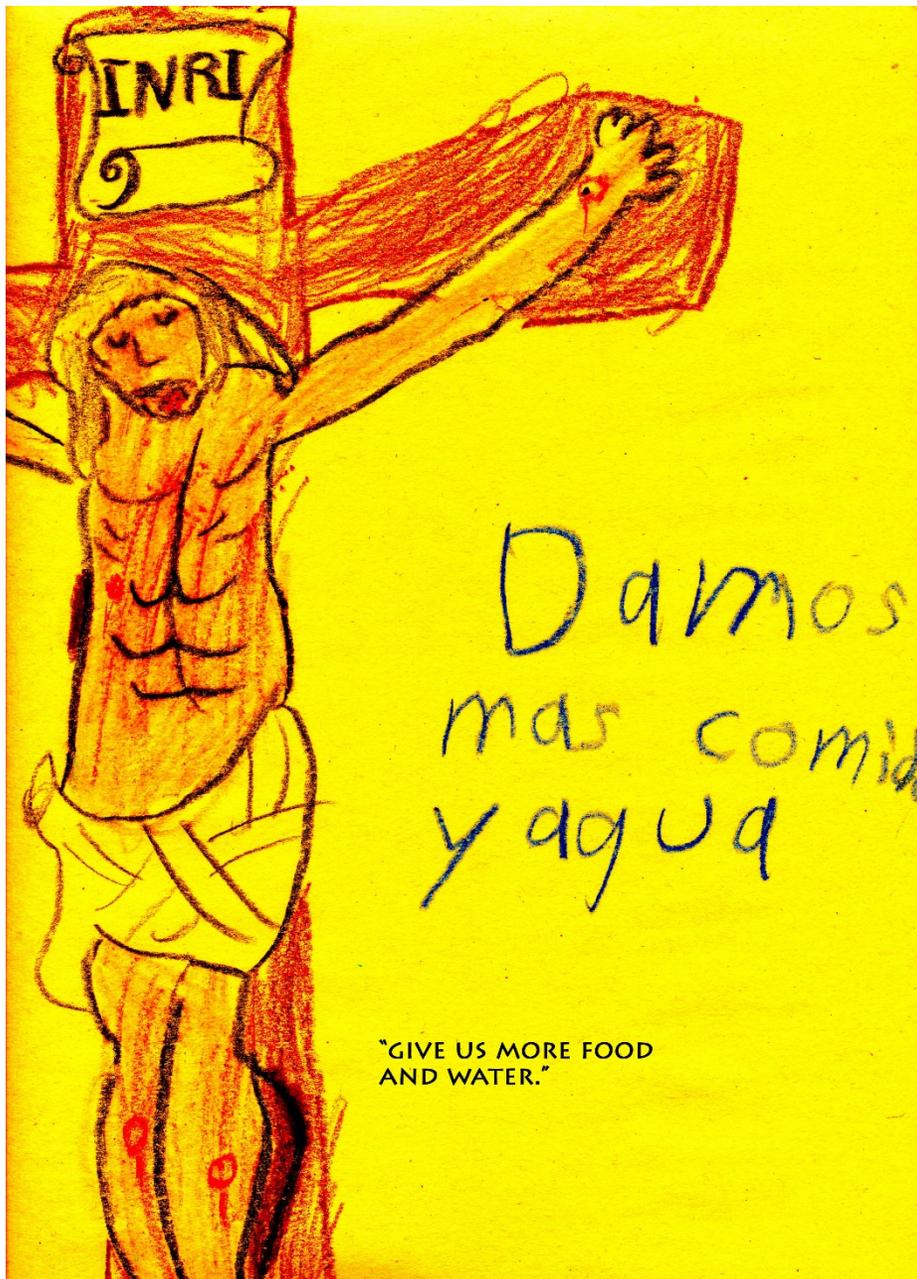


"I ASK YOU
THAT THERE BE
NO VIOLENCE."



que llueva
que no haya pleitos ni matanzas

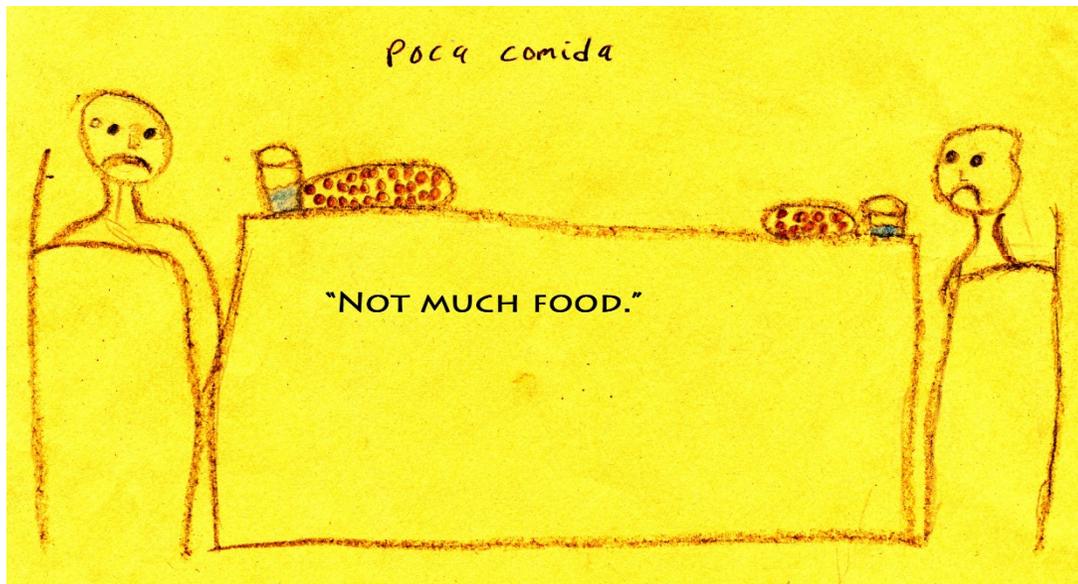
"MAY IT RAIN. MAY THERE BE
NO FIGHTING OR KILLINGS."



Two thirds of Palomas had fled, but an estimated 5000 people remained, and those families, whose lives were not only severely affected by the violence and ravaged economy, were often starving.

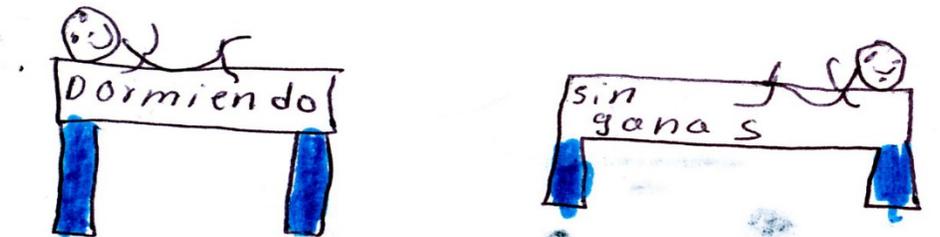
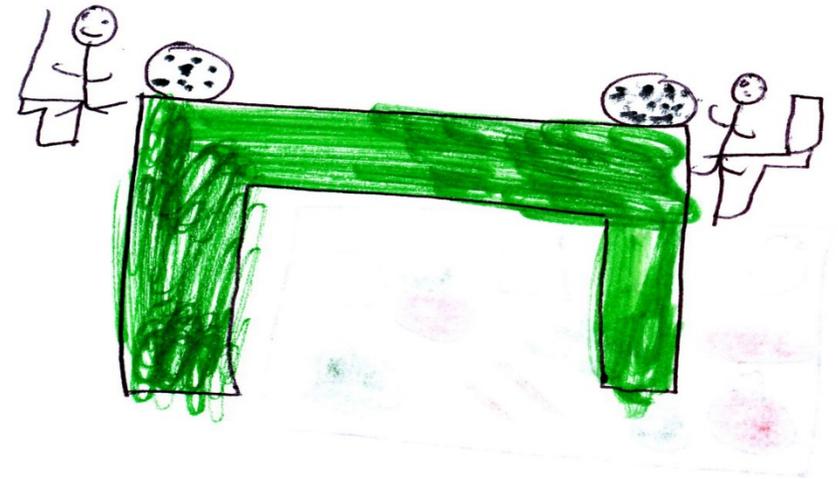


Reports were gathered that families were eating rats and spoiled food, children were sent back to bed mornings with teaspoons of sugar as their only daily food, and desperate mothers were turning to prostitution to feed their children.



Sin comida

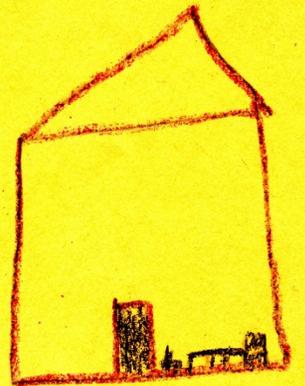
"DAY WITHOUT FOOD.
SLEEPING.
NO GET-UP-AND-GO."



sin energia

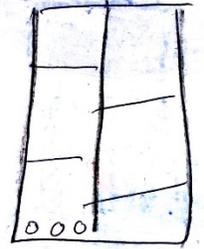
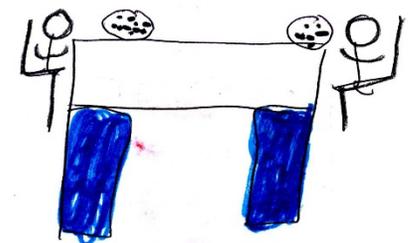
aquí sí! Tristesq noai comida

"HERE, YES, THERE'S SADNESS.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO FOOD."



Sin Comida

"DAY WITHOUT FOOD.
SLEEPING ON THE GRASS."



Durmiendo en el sacote



qué no se acare
la agua y la comida

"MAY THE WATER
AND THE FOOD
NOT RUN OUT."

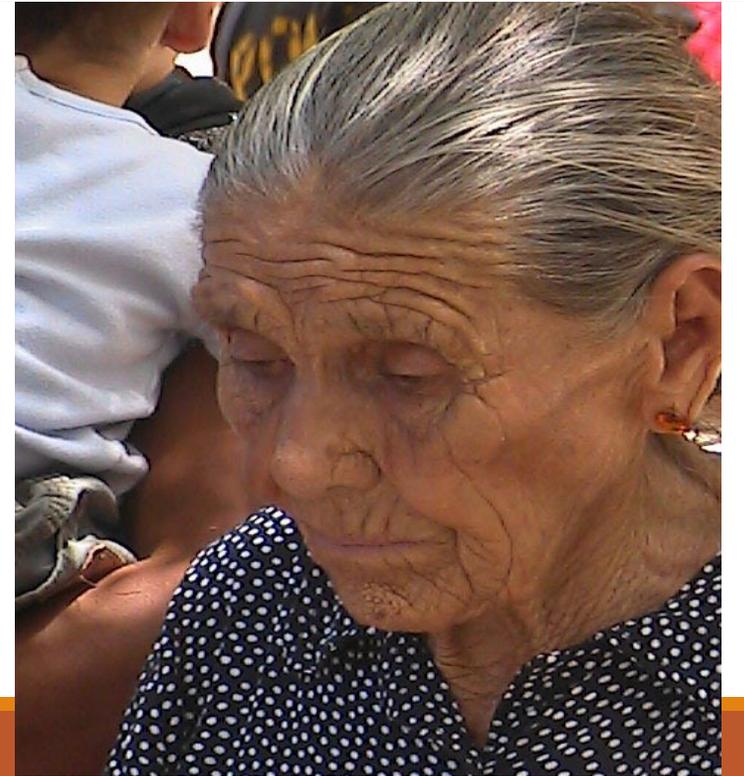




Over a two and a half year period, over 75,000 pounds of beans were raised through grassroots efforts, purchased directly at not-for-profit prices through Diaz Farms by church ministries and individual donors.

The beans were moved regularly to the border and into Palomas and its surrounding colonias to form the basis of community meal programs and large scale family food distributions.





By the end of summer 2012, only an estimated 2500 people, the majority of them children, remained in Palomas. Reports were that many fled even to Juarez for safety.



By fall 2012, severe drought and increased hunger due to the rising price of beans on both sides of the border gave rise to a new idea. Diaz Farms agreed to lease warehouse space, for one dollar a year, in loving collaboration with the San Isidro Bean Project.



Now appeals for beans could be made to local farmers and to others even in distant parts of the U.S., and be distributed from the Diaz Farms warehouse not only to Palomas, but to other communities in severe crisis along the Mexico border.



Why San Isidro?

The name of the ongoing bean project evolved into the San Isidro Bean Project to honor the patron saint of Diaz Farms, and farmers, who grow the traditional food -- beans -- that sustains so many.

San Isidro, or St. Isidore, was a farm worker born in twelfth century Spain. Though poor, he shared all he had with those less fortunate. He spent so much time in prayer his fellow laborers complained to their master, who went to investigate. He found San Isidro at prayer, with an angel ploughing the field for him.

Diaz Farms celebrates May 15, San Isidro's Feast Day, in the traditional New Mexican way shared by others in the Southwest, with a blessing of the fields.





Our prayers and our appeals for beans have so far been answered by large scale donations from farmers in New Mexico and Nebraska. Donated beans are transported from the Diaz Farms warehouse in ongoing distributions to arriving volunteers of recipient organizations, or to loving U.S.- side ministries who volunteer their labor and their trucks.





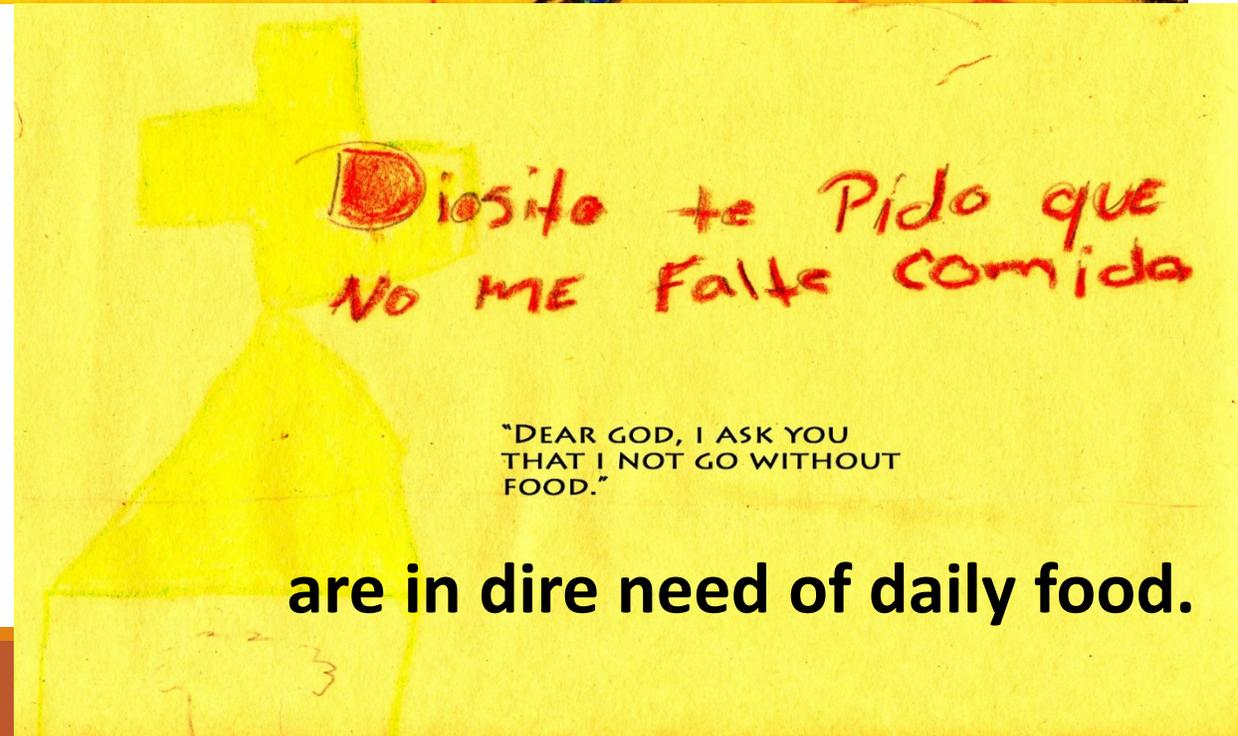
Since 2010 life-sustaining beans have served 25 programs, among them three programs in Palomas, Chihuahua --

Alas de Amor, who distribute beans monthly to seven Palomas churches through the work of Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City, New Mexico Episcopal Deacon Tom Bates and Deming volunteers,



**the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic parish,
the largest congregation in Palomas,
80 of whose many registered families**





and a secular volunteer outreach engaged in large scale family distributions including the surrounding colonias.



In Agua Prieta, Sonora, thanks to the coordination efforts of Frontera de Cristo, an active Presbyterian border ministry, the Bean Project has served: the Migrant Resource Center, where virtually all deportees go when they are taken to Agua Prieta, or when they give up their dream of emigrating, and decide to go home.

At the MRC, they can call relatives, receive a small meal and needed fresh clothing, connect to a local shelter for overnight stay, get aid in receiving needed medical attention and transportation home.

Located virtually at the entrance to Agua Prieta, The MRC protects migrants from those who prey on them.



**C.A.M.E. at La Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia
(the Church of the Holy Family migrant shelter for men),
where breakfast and supper are offered daily to migrant men,**





and where they can shower, receive clean clothing after what are often many days walking in the desert, and safely spend the night.

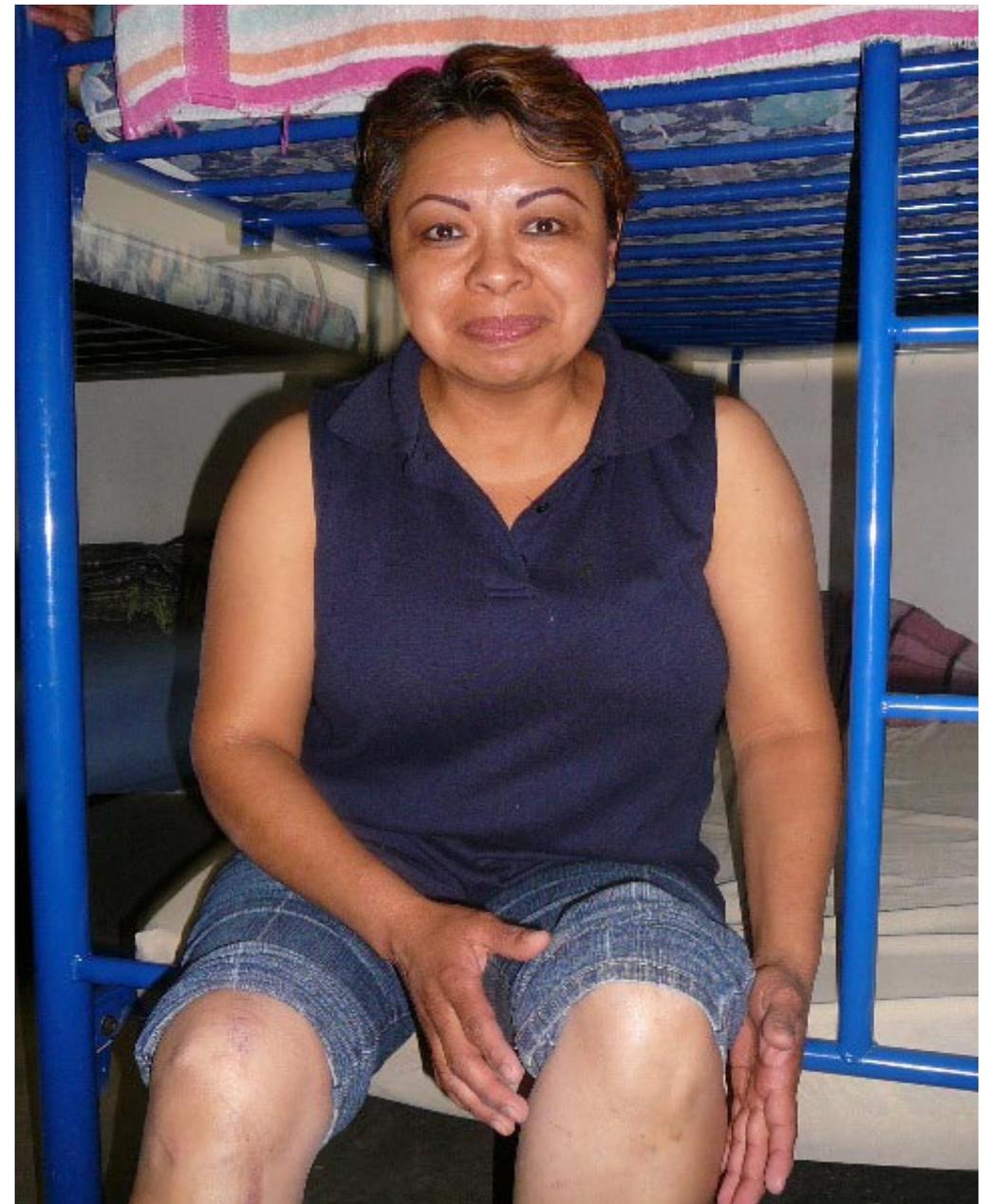


La Casa del Mujer Migrante (Migrant Women's Shelter)



In April 2013, this woman resting at the Migrant Women's Shelter jumped the border fence, fractured her leg and was deported.

**"Tell them I am not a criminal.
My son is fifteen and he needs an operation. I have to cross to the U.S. to work so he can get it. It's our only hope. To you, maybe I am a criminal. But to my son, I am a hero. I'll wait for my leg to heal, and try again."**



C.R.R.E.D.A. a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center that houses an estimated eighty interns, ages 13 to senior citizens



“I’d rather receive a hundred pounds of beans than a hundred pounds of meat, because they’re our traditional food, and they don’t need refrigeration. And these split beans are saving us on wood fuel and propane – they only take an hour to cook!” Raul, C.R.R.E.D.A. director

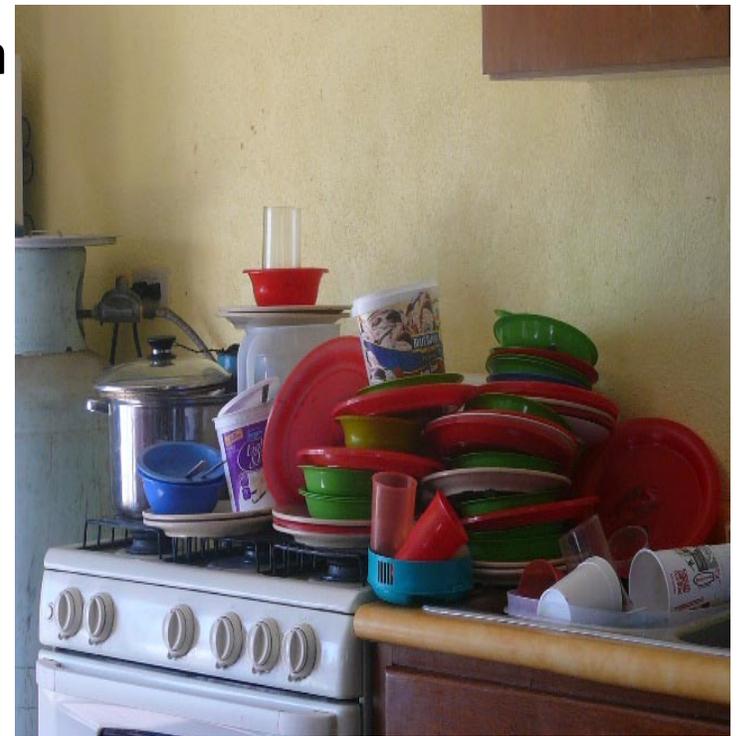




saving and changing many lives.

Vamos Todos Unidos, Herencia Ebenezer and Divina Providencia

Three child meal programs in extremely poor neighborhoods that feed many children daily,





**C.A.I.N.A. – a Presbyterian afterschool program,
and the Queen of the Angels orphanage.**

**“At first when the children saw the mixed beans they told us,
these aren’t beans because they’re not pintos! So we
took a handful and explained that yes, these are
international beans – see all the different shapes
and colors. Then they liked them!”**

Jochabed, a missionary in Agua Prieta





Frontera de Cristo also coordinated beans that served the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora,

and on the U.S. side in Douglas, Arizona served a women's domestic violence shelter,

and Shalom House – a safehouse for those in transition –

and migrant field workers

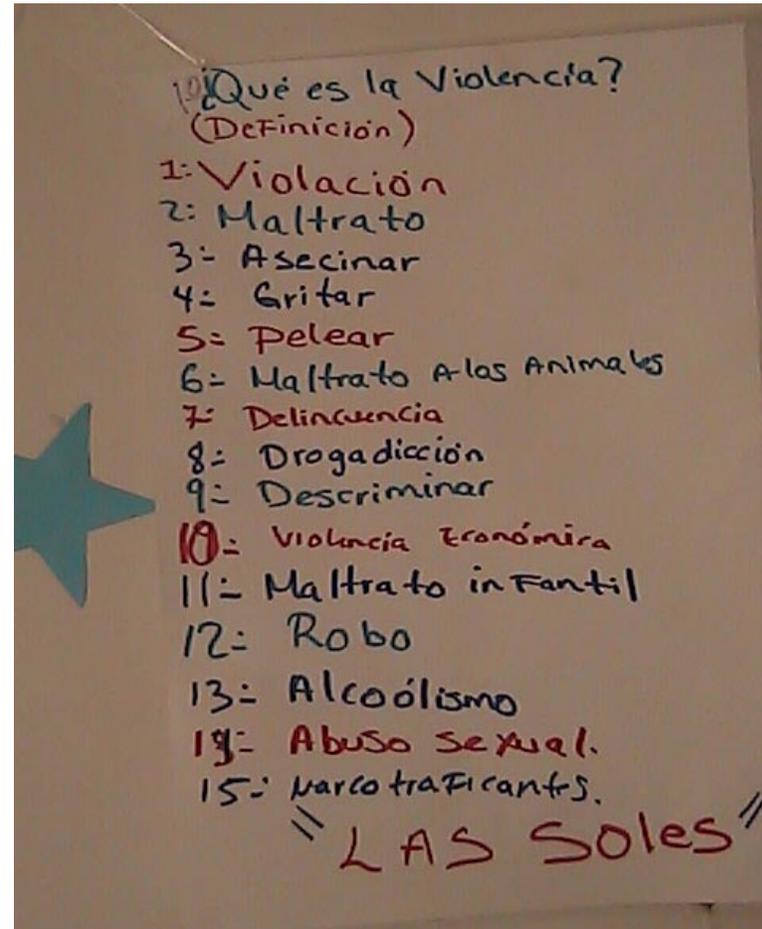
through the Chiricahua Community Health Center's mobile units.



**In Juarez, among those programs served are:
an orphanage -- Rancho Los Amigos --
operated by Youth with a Mission,
and an associated feeding program,**



Casa de Soles de Anapra -- a day shelter for the children of murdered or imprisoned parents



that educates and feeds up to 75 children everyday,





working to help the children heal from the past, and survive, through love, into the future.



Vision en Accion, a shelter for the mentally disabled homeless providing two meals a day for over one hundred people,



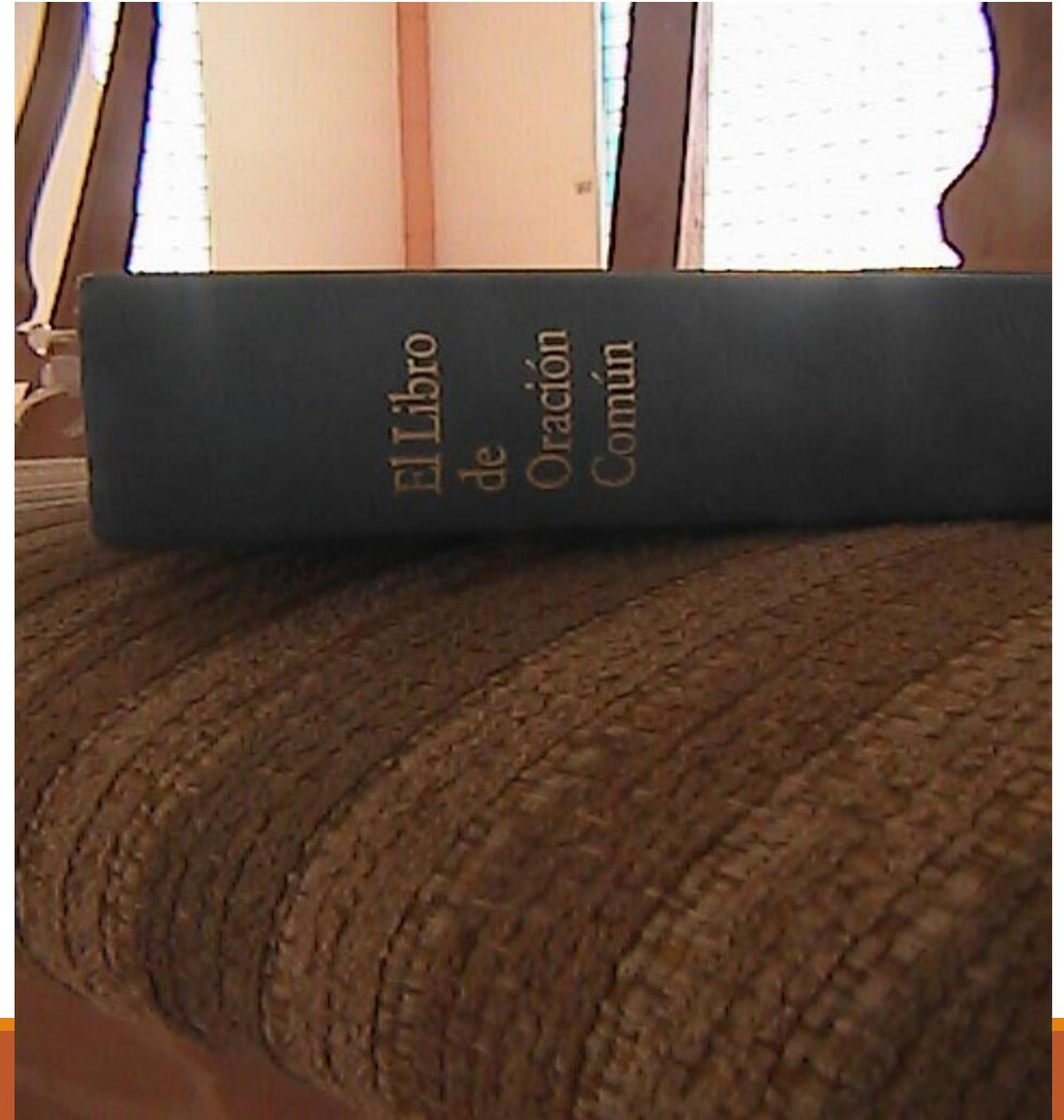
the School Sisters of St. Francis at Casa Alexia in Jesus Obrero, Jesus the Worker, among the poorest of all neighborhoods in Juarez,



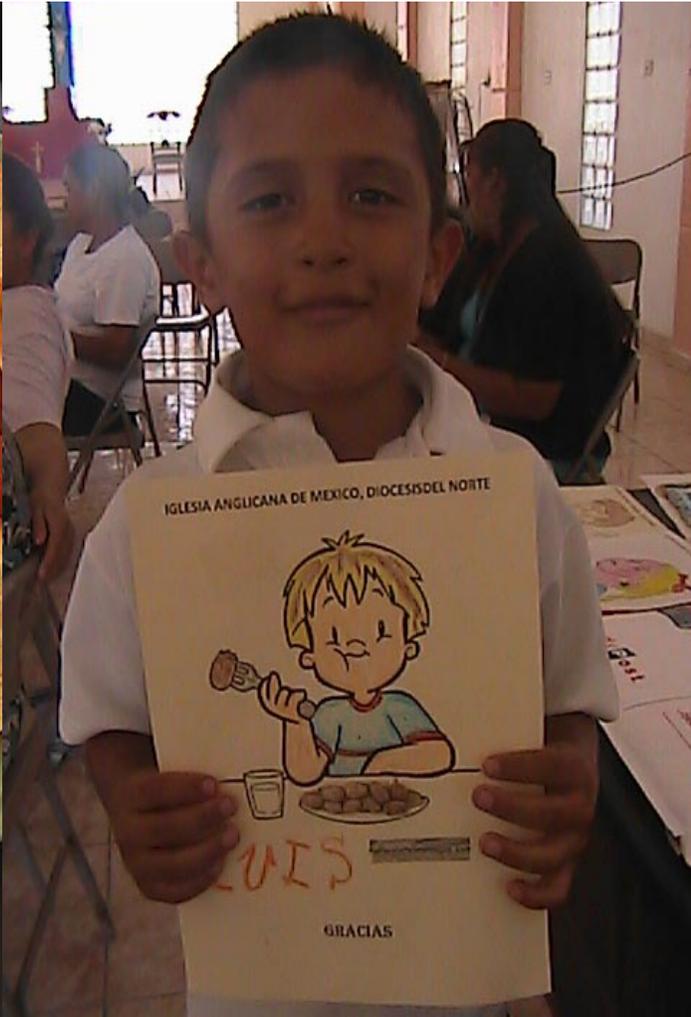
who through their Juarez Food Program distribute monthly food packets to more 63 destitute families,



**and the Mission of San Jose of Anapra
of the Mexican Anglican Church in the Diocese of the North,**



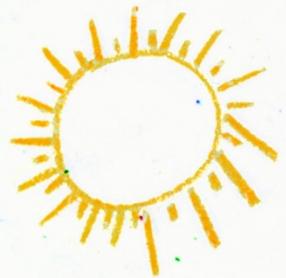
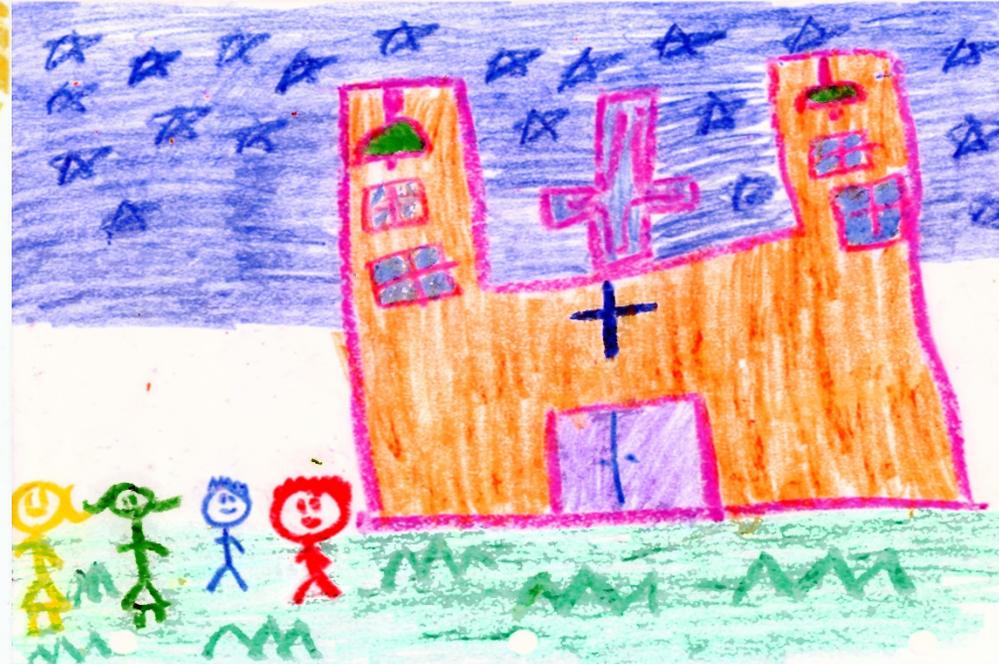
whose congregation of fifty families, mostly maquiladora workers living in one of the poorest areas of Juarez, indeed of all Mexico, shared this feast of traditional bean dishes with us.



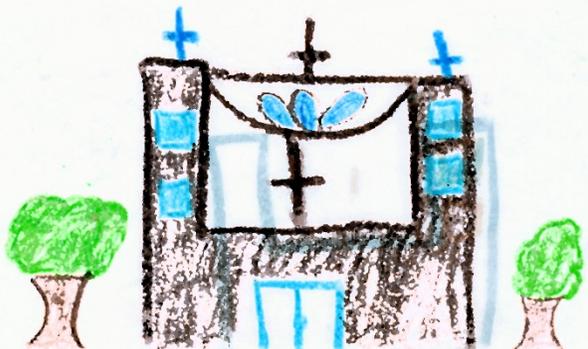


Jaquelin

La iglesia



SAN
JOSE
DE
ANAPYA



The San Isidro Bean Project and those it serves

are in constant need of your prayers.

The Project operates through joyful, informal alliances, in partnership with Diaz Farms and on a completely volunteer basis, coordinated through wings, prayers, your ministries and our shared commitment to serving Christ by working for the very poor.

The Project needs partners to aid in our appeals for the purchase of bulk beans from farmers at non-profit prices, and for any looming freight charges.

The Project does not receive or store funds, and seeks to move, not store, beans.

We seek to offer aid to those working with few resources in areas of greatest crisis. We ask only for what we need as we go.





The Diaz Farms family is a co-founder of the San Isidro Bean Project. Diaz Farms is a three generation family-owned farm near the Hatch Valley in Deming, New Mexico. The Diaz family are active members of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Deming, New Mexico, and committed to working against hunger on the Mexico border. Their website is at:

www.diazfarms.com

The San Isidro Bean Project

**is coordinated by its co-founder
Victoria Tester, novice in the Third Order
Society of St. Francis and member of
Anglican Holy Trinity Church
in Silver City, New Mexico.**

She may be contacted at

575-519-0558 or at

franciscanatthemexicoborder@gmail.com

**She is delighted to answer any questions
about the Project's most current efforts,
or to furnish contact information for any of
the programs featured in this presentation.**



**Thank you, children of Palomas and Juarez, for your beautiful drawings.
Thank you, you are serving the poorest of our brothers and sisters in Christ daily,
sometimes against all odds, struggling to carry out the Lord's will
on earth as it is in heaven.
Thank you, all you churches, for your many ministries
and thank you, you caring individuals, who all together create
the alliances that make the Project possible.
And thank you, Dr. Juan Marinez, for your wise, warm and timely counsel.**

V. T.

This is the January 2014 version of the San Isidro Bean Project presentation.

If it is more than six months old, please contact Victoria Tester to ensure you have the latest version of the Project presentation.