



HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

Empowerment Congress End of Year Report



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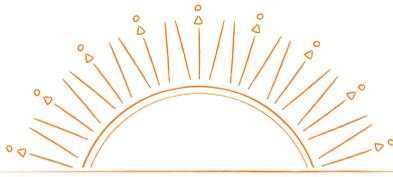
ALERT! NEW BLOGS

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Youth Program: DescolonizArte!

The DescolonizArte! youth program is one of the unique programs we have at the Empowerment Congress. This year's program looked different than years before. Instructors Martin Esquivel and Jose Montoya transitioned the learning space online. Although the pandemic presented new challenges, Martin and Jose were determined to make sure their curriculum was engaging and sparked their students' interest in this new space. Jose and Martin held virtual meets every Tuesday and every week presented a new topic. Such topics included social justice, immigration, feminism, and other social issues. The goal is to educate and inform our local youth about social issues and teach them how to advocate for what they believe in. With every social issue teaching, Jose and Martin accompany that with an art lesson. Teaching them how to reflect their activism into the art they create. It was a struggle to teach art lessons virtually, but all in all, 2020's DescolonizArte! achieved their goals of inspiring the youth. Jose is a local artist and is in the process of creating a mural of the student's art at La Casa in

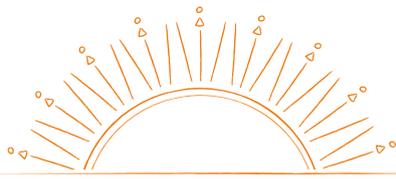


Anthony, New Mexico. The mural will be painted on one of La Casa's building walls outside. Be sure to check it out when it is completed next month! Also, be on the lookout for registration for next year's DescolonizArte! program on our social media accounts and our website. A DescolonizArte student shot the picture on the front page! The picture to the left was created by Jose Montoya, highlighting a DescolonizArte student.

Community Program: GOTV

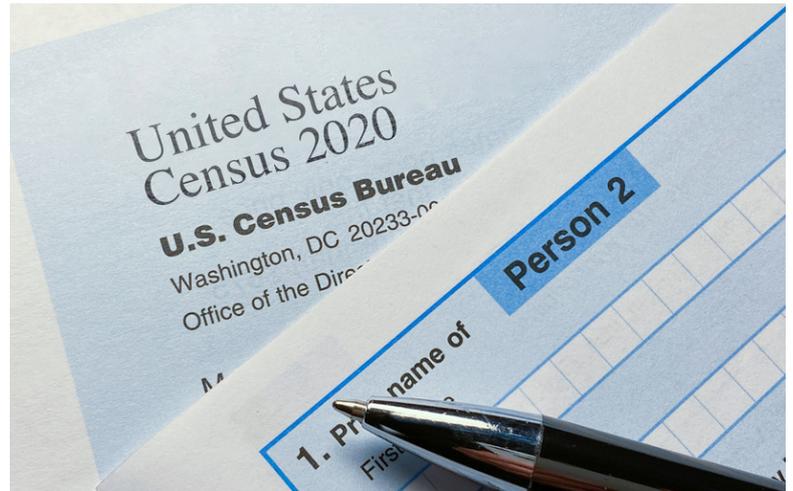
The Empowerment Congress team held a Get Out The Vote campaign for the 2020 general election. This campaign aimed to educate and motivate Dona Ana County residents to vote in the 2020 election. The Empowerment Congress community team utilized social media and promotoras to promote residents' right to vote. The promotoras were hired to do the phone banking work. Throughout the whole month of October, the promotoras were hard at work calling colonial residents and helping them build a solid voting plan. The promotoras made hundreds of calls and helped many residents find local voting locations, where and how to register to vote, and residents' different voting options. With the obstacles caused by the pandemic the phone banking work and social media outreach was a vital part of our GOTV campaign. On election day, The Empowerment Congress community team headed out into the community to support voters in the local colonias. The team went to voting locations in communities like Sunland Park, Chaparral, and Anthony. Empowerment Congress showed their support to voters by handing out snacks and water for those waiting in line to vote and those who just voted. Our 2020 Get Out The Vote campaign successfully educated voters and motivated non-voters and current voters to make their voices heard in the 2020 general election.





CENSUS 2020

Not only did this year contained the general election, but it was also the year for the 2020 census. EC developed and engaged in a US Census outreach and education campaign, utilizing both door-to-door canvassing and virtual phone banking tactics to reach community members. Promotoras were also hired for the phone banking and door-to-door canvassing. The work from the promotoras is an important part of our community work. With their help, Empowerment Congress was able to have 27,582 conversations with Southern New Mexican residents. From those conversations, 8,552 individuals pledged to complete the Census.

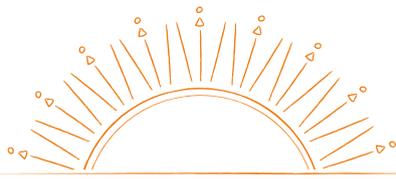


OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. EC hosted three leadership programs in the communities of Berino, a student group of New Mexico State University, and Anapra in Sunland Park.
2. EC continued its programming with the ENLACE program at Las Montañas High School, supporting the youth in establishing their mental health drop-in center in their school, collaborating with the local maker space, Cruces Creatives, construct furniture and textiles for their center.
3. EC continued its work with the ENLACE program at Lynn Community Middle School with a youth leadership afterschool program that is intended to lead to a large scale mural on the exterior of the school (currently on pause).
4. EC began a Gadsden based youth group virtually, that led to two youth-created art paintings and mural where they expressed their support and concern for Latinx women and girls.
5. EC continued its support of the community of Anapra in Sunland Park as they advocated for funding for the second phase of the stormwater pump project that would improve the neighborhood drainage and repave the roads.
6. EC began attending the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) meetings as the quality of water and water service has been a salient issue for Sunland Park residents and supported community leaders providing public testimony.
7. EC began live-streaming both Sunland Park city council meetings and CRRUA meetings to mitigate public participation barriers in those public meetings, which increased public viewership and community leader participation.



This is the mural design, Paint By Numbers, that will be painted on Lynn Middle School. Covid-19 has put a pause to this project, the mural has yet to be finished. Next year we hope we can continue this mural project!



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Director's Corner



SUCCESS Snapshot

The work of the Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana County is so vitally important because of the families and communities it supports and serves. Doña Ana County is home to 37 designated Colonias; the designation of a Colonia is generally an [...]

Community News



Partner Highlight: The Southern New Mexico Project, Inc.

"Opens door of opportunity for the underprivileged people of the region so they can break-

Youth News



Lynn Mural - Descoloniz-ARTE

Empowerment Congress of DAC is one of the many community partners that delivers youth programming at Lynn Community Middle School. EC and Lynn share a vision where youth voices are provided space in our

Partner Highlight



Partner Highlight: The Southern New Mexico Project, Inc.

"Opens door of opportunity for the underprivileged people of the region so they can break-

NEW MEXICO LOCAL NEWS FUND

The New Mexico Local News Fund reached out to us and asked the Empowerment Congress what they thought were the problems residents in colonias faced when accessing the news. Having contact with these colonias, we have seen some of the issues residents faced when trying to get local news that matters to them. "The New Mexico Local News Fund works with community members and journalists who believe that local journalism is crucial for our communities. NMLNF raises funds to support local news providers and journalists across the state. We also convene conversations about how we can better serve the news and information needs of all New Mexicans."

If you would like to give your feedback on improving colonias' access to news, use the link below to fill out their survey.

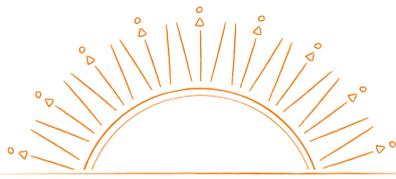
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMinfo needs](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMinfoneeds)

Alert! New Blog Post

We have a new blog post up on our website! We have an Anapra blog series that focuses on the work done to keep the community of Anapra and work to get a new stormwater pump for the community. This blog series is broken up into three parts. We also started a new segment called Partner Highlights. Every month we will highlight a new partner that works with us. We highlight their amazing work and achievements. To keep up with our latest blogs and stories, check out our website, and follow us on social media.



New Mexico Local News Fund



New Years Resolutions

2020 is coming to a close. The team at Empowerment Congress is grateful and blessed for the many good things that came out of this year despite the pandemic's obstacles and challenges. We will go into next year with high energy and motivation. We are excited to continue the DescolonizArte! youth program next year and will continue to create youth programs that inspire and teach the youth to be leaders. The community team will improve and build their Sunland Park coalition, continue building relationships with community residents, and continue to support colonia communities and residents. We will continue to bring you relevant information and news on our social media and website. We here at Empowerment Congress enter this new year with ambition and full of hope. We will continue to build our support and programs for the communities. From the Empowerment Congress team, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Donations

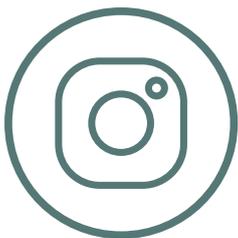
In November, the Empowerment Congress participated in GivingTuesday. GivingTuesday is a global campaign where organizations can participate in and raise money for their organization and others. The event is always held on the first Tuesday of November. Even though GivingTuesday is over, you can still donate to Empowerment Congress anytime! You can donate on our website under the **Donate** tab. Your donations make it possible for us to continue supporting and working with colonias and colonia leaders.

Donating Link: <http://empowernm.org/donate/>

"Thank you for your support and donations"

-The Empowerment Congress Team

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