

HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

Bimonthly Newsletter



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DescolonizArte! Chaparral Mural

Another DescolonizArte! semester finished means another public art piece! On May 24th our youth program, DescolonizArte! held a mural reveal in Chaparral. This mural is entitled 'Respirar' and is located at the El Bayo Restaurant. The restaurant owner was kind enough to host our mural. Make sure to stop by the restaurant to admire the art and eat some good food!

This mural is a call to action for the community of Chaparral. The mural shows imagery of the negative impacts of fracking plants on our environment and the positive impacts of sustainable clean energy. The inspiration for this mural was brought on by the news of a proposed fracking plant coming to Chaparral. Many residents are concerned about the potential negative health and environmental impacts this fracking plant could create.





Promotoras & Covid-19 Work

The Promotoras de Salud and our community coordinators have been working hard on our Covid-19 campaign. We continue to post weekly information about the vaccine and other Covid-19 related information to our social media pages. Be sure to check them out daily!

As always our Promotoras de Salud have been doing an amazing job going door-to-door canvassing and making calls to the community. They continue to receive updated training. Their most recent training covered topics like canvassing safety and how to recognize heat-related symptoms while canvassing during the summer heat.

For April and May, there was a combined total of 4,277 conversations had. Here are some more totals.

- 154 - Pledged to get vaccinated
- 123 - Helped register for vaccine
- 430 - Already registered
- 1,525 - Already vaccinated
- 2,675 - Got registration information and Reduce the Risk information

During our mural reveal other works of art by the students were also up on display for viewing and we had some amazing guest speakers from Sun Rise El Paso come and talk about the proposed Newman 6 plant.

We are currently in the middle of another DescolonizArte! semester and are eager to announce our new upcoming public art project! Stay tuned!

If you or someone is interested in joining our next DescolonizArte! semester contact **Martin Esquivel** at martin@empowernm.org



Promotoras at most recent training



Yummy cake made by Zulma Quintana a Promotora de Salud

Sunland Park Coalition Updates

For Junes Sunland Park Coalition, we had guest speakers from El Paso Electric Company give a presentation about their energy efficiency programs. El Paso Electric has a Residential Low-Income Program. This program replaces lightbulbs, insulation, air sealing, duct sealing, and water conservation measures at no cost to participants!

There is also a New Mexico Energy Saver Program. This program is implemented by Frontier Energy and EnergyWorks. Some of the services this program provides are air and duct sealing, high-efficiency showerheads, LED lighting, smart thermostats, and more. Since 2019 NM Energy Saver Program has provided services to 333 Sunland Park customers, 143 Anthony customers, 80 Chaparral customers, and 10 Santa Teresa customers. All services are at no cost to participants that qualify. Qualifications for the program include:

- Receiving benefits like SNAP, CHIP, Supplemental Security Income
- Household income equal to or less than 200% Federal Poverty Income Guidelines
- A family of four or more may earn up to \$53,000 per year

For NM Residential Comprehensive
Linda Montes - Program Coordinator
El Paso Electric
915-543-2007

For EnergyWorks call 575-524-2300



The coalition also received new members. Families and Youth Inc. (FYI) joined the Sunland Park Coalition. FYI is a nonprofit that provides youth and families "with rich opportunities to discover and follow more positive alternative paths in making decisions and choices in life." They offer many programs like the At-Risk After School Meal Program, Children's Advocacy Center, Home Study Services, and more. Their headquarters are located at 1320 Solano Dr., Las Cruces. They also have offices in Sunland Park and Anthony. You can reach them at **575-522-4004**

A member from Customs and Border Patrol has also joined our coalition and gave a short presentation at the last meeting. The topic discussed was the increasingly alarming trend of the youth in rural areas being targeted to do trafficking work. Many of these victims are targeted because they can be easily manipulated and don't fully understand what they are being recruited for. The Customs and Border Patrol are working hard to eliminate this problem so close to home.



Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Covid-19 pandemic brought a lot of challenges and one of those was getting access to reliable internet. Many jobs and services have been transferred online and though there are many benefits to this new digital world there are still a lot of flaws to work out. One of these flaws being that not many people in rural low-income areas have access to a reliable internet source.

"The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households." This program provides up to a \$50 discount on monthly broadband services and associated rental equipment and a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a laptop, tablet, or desktop. One monthly services discount and one device discount are allowed per household.

Click this link to see if you qualify or to apply for the program: <https://getemergencybroadband.org/#>

The program will end once the money has run out or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the Covid-19 pandemic so apply as soon as possible!



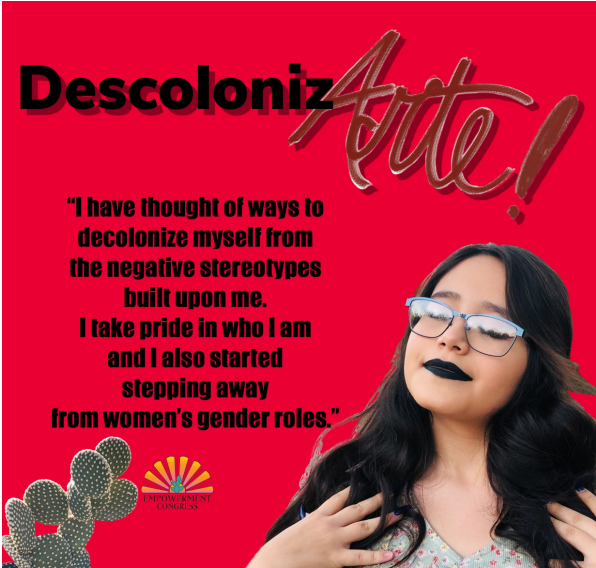


Alert! New Blogs

We have some new blogs up on our website! Our latest youth blog highlights one of the DescolonizArte! students Joceline Roque. Our community blog highlights a Promotora de Salud Carolina Valios. Read these and all other blogs on our website!

<http://empowernm.org/news-updates/>

Joceline Roque is 17 years old and lives in Anthony, New Mexico. She is a daughter of immigrant parents and is proud of her Mexican heritage. She is interested in learning about social justice and likes to share and educate others about these topics. Joceline has been in the DescolonizArte program since the summer of 2020. Joceline said she decided to join the program after hearing about the story of Vanessa Guillen. She realized that Vanessa Guillen and herself shared a lot of the same intersectionalities. Joceline could see and understand that both shared many of the same struggles, like being young women of color. Vanessa Guillen’s story caused a sense of urgency in Joceline to do more and bring awareness into her communities.



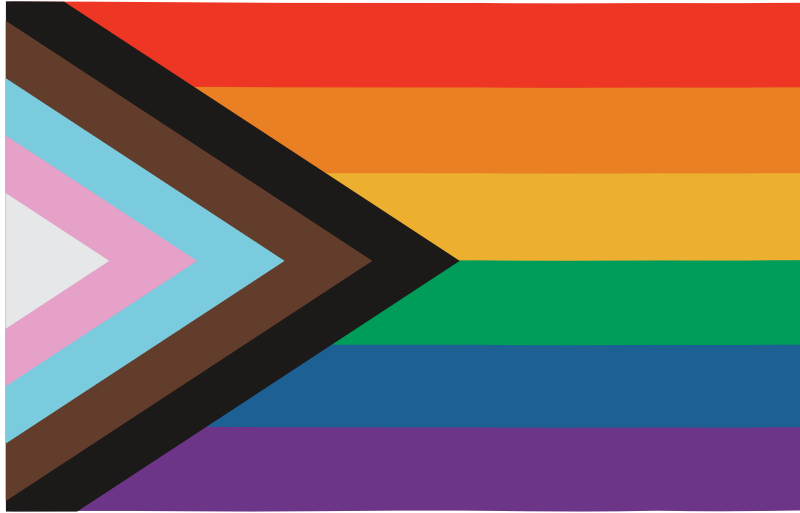
Youth Blog

Community Blog



Carolina Valios loves being a Promotora. Carolina became a Promotora by chance when she was looking for a part-time job. She knew someone who was already a Promotora with Empowerment Congress and told her they were hiring more people. So Carolina applied and got the call that she had been hired to be a Promotora. During this time, Empowerment Congress hired Carolina to do outreach for the 2020 Census. This was her first time working as a Promotora. Carolina is a property manager, but someday she hopes she can make her Promotora work her full-time job.

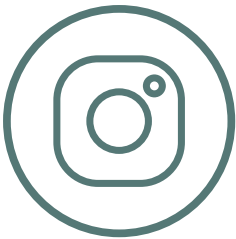
Pride Month LGBTQ+ Statement



EC works hard to support the growth of Doña Ana County communities and its people. We accomplish that by supporting all communities and their members regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our youth, community and outreach programs, our advocacy, and calls for action are inclusive and accepting of all. Empowerment Congress stands with the LGBTQ+ community here in Doña Ana County and everywhere; we are here for everyone.



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