

HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

End Of Year Newsletter



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PROMOTORAS DE SALUD WORK

The Promotoras de Salud had a great year! Throughout the months of February to July, we ran our Covid-19 outreach campaign. This campaign was focused on outreach to colonia communities. Giving them Covid-19 and vaccine resources and information. The Promotoras went door-to-door canvassing and did phone banking talking and visiting hundreds of colonia residents.

We also held Covid-19 Informative Sessions on Facebook Live. We had two live sessions with guest speakers with expertise in health, vaccine, and law. Answering people's most asked questions about Covid-19 and the vaccine. The Promotoras will continue to work on vaccine equity in the new year.



Carlos Juarez getting his Covid-19 vaccine shot

Another campaign the Promotoras participated in was the Doña Ana Broadband Survey. This campaign shed light on the inequalities of internet access to rural areas. The survey measures your current internet speed if applicable and asked questions about residents' internet use. The Promotoras were able to collect 1,164 surveys within a six-week period.

Sunland Park Community Updates

For 2021 we successfully held 5 vaccine clinics for the community of Sunland Park. We would like to thank the amazing collaboration from community member Carlos Juarez for letting us use the parking lot of Carlos' Bakery. We would also like to thank the collaboration from Amador Health Center for distributing the vaccine doses and organizing the community to take advantage of the resources provided just for them in our fight for equity around health, infrastructure, education, and more.



Sunland Park community members voting on issues

We also held the second community meeting for the community. During this meeting, the residents got to vote on the most important issues in their community as they work on finding a common vision for their community and strategizing. One issue that most of the community members agreed on was the cause for urgency was the Senior Community Center.

The Senior Community Center has been unavailable for a long time. For the past 5 years, the community center has been managed independently from the city. Many of the resources that were provided have been altered and are no longer available to the public as of now.

Community members have expressed their concerns about the matter at hand. The main problem is how this has affected the senior community. Recently, we have been working around this and other issues through community organizing, education, and collaboration.



Sunland Park Coalition Updates

The Sunland Park Coalition is ending the year strong with over 20 participating organizations! Here are some updates from the last meeting of the year:

- *Laura Martinez from the NMSU STEM Outreach program gave a brief presentation about the program. The schools part of this program are GISD, Hatch, Farmington, Silver City, Las Cruces, and Deming.
- *Save the Children is developing a parent-led group to advocate for their kids
- *Lift Fund is creating a promotora group to go around asking small businesses what their needs are and give them training for things and services they need
- *Thriving Families is helping families apply for rental assistance on state and federal levels and for utilities
- * GISD SRCL is holding a class about reading, the importance of reading during pregnancy, and getting kids excited for reading. They are also developing classes centered around Autism.
- *AmeriCops is currently looking for new members
- *DACC will be holding a Student Resource Expo. sometime in January
- *The City of Sunland Park is still offering covid testing residents can register at [curative.com](https://www.curative.com). The city will start updating and assigning overlay districts like historical, entertainment, art, and medical.



Del Cerro/Vado Community Updates

Vado and Del Cerro were hard at work this year rallying together to get a neighborhood street fixed. Community members collected over \$1,500 to fund Moro Ln street repairs. The street repairs were completed in mid-November. Now that the street repairs on Moron Ln. are completed more focus can be placed on the street light project in Vado. A project we will continue in the new year.

At our November community meeting, we had a special guest speaker. Carrie Hamblen presented via Zoom and the community members were able to talk and ask questions.

Empowerment Congress is in talks with Catholic Charities about funding a Community Garden in Del Cerro. We hope this project can come to life sometime next year!



People's Power, People's Map

In our October Newsletter, we mentioned that Empowerment Congress was a part of giving testimonies for CCP's map at the Citizens Redistricting Committee meeting. These new concept maps would bring more representation, fairness, and healthy competition so that the people of New Mexico can have more equitable healthcare, jobs, resources, and benefits.

On December 13th Empowerment Congress and many other organizations around New Mexico went to Santa Fe for the New Mexico Legislative Special Session. We got to mobilize and use our voices to ask representatives to vote to pass the SB1 without any amendments.

Since then SB1 New Congressional People's Map has been signed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, HB8 House People's Map is moving to the Governor's desk, and SB2 passed the Senate floor without unfriendly amendments thanks to the effort led by NM Native Redistricting Coalition.

Empowerment Congress has been honored to be a part of something very historical!



Organizations at Santa Fe for New Mexico Legislative Special Session

New Years Resolutions

Empowerment Congress achieved many amazing things this year! We had two amazing youth lead murals. One in Anthony, New Mexico on the side of La Casa's building. The other at Chaparral on the El Bayo Restaurant. We look forward to continuing the DescolonizArte program and building beneficial tech-ins for the youth.

The community team and Promotora's de Salud did a fantastic job this year at doing outreach and organizing in the colonias. We will continue to do outreach and build stronger relationships with the community. We will continue to host community meetings and collaborate with others to bring relevant resources and information to the people. We will also continue supporting the communities with their projects, building, and developing our Promotora de Salud program.

We can't wait to see what 2022 will bring!
Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!



Empowerment Congress employee's talking to representatives





Breastfeeding a Way to Reduce Communities Carbon Footprint



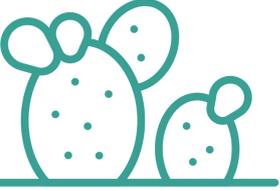
Last Autumn we witness the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, it was the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021.

Twenty-five thousand delegates from nearly 200 countries and around 120 heads of state attended the summit. The U.N. climate summit ended with calls on governments to return next year with tougher pledges to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Nations made new pledges on methane gas pollution, deforestation, coal use all in an effort to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees

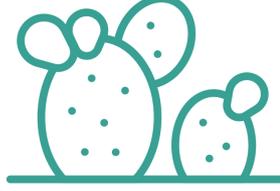
Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas) which produces heat-trapping gases. Climate change can affect our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work.

Since the Industrial Revolution, the global annual temperature has increased in total by a little more than 1 degree Celsius, or about 2 degrees Fahrenheit. Between 1880—the year that accurate recordkeeping began—and 1980, it rose on average by 0.07 degrees Celsius (0.13 degrees Fahrenheit) every 10 years. Since 1981, however, the rate of increase has more than doubled: For the last 40 years, we've seen the global annual temperature rise by 0.18 degrees Celsius, or 0.32 degrees Fahrenheit, per decade.

Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally this radiation would escape into space, but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. These heat-trapping pollutants—specifically carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor, and synthetic fluorinated gases—are known as greenhouse gases, and their impact is called the greenhouse effect



Breastfeeding a Way to Reduce Communities Carbon Footprint



The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that climate change is responsible for at least 150,000 deaths per year, a number that is expected to double by 2030. The effects of global warming will cause dire health consequences due to an increase on infectious diseases, heatwaves, loss of agricultural productivity asthma and respiratory diseases.

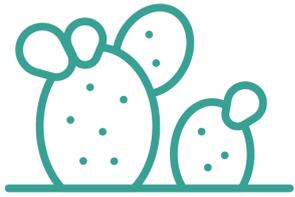
The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others. The 100 least-emitting countries generate 3 per cent of total emissions (under- developed countries). The 10 countries with the largest emissions (including the US) contribute 68 per cent. In order to make an impact countries need to make large investments yet everyone must take climate action.

(<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change>). One of those actions we can do here and now is to promote, support and protect breastfeeding.

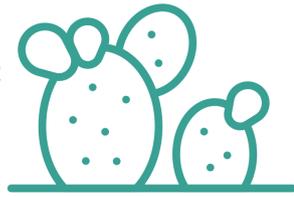
Why? Breastfeeding is a free, natural, renewable, safe resource which helps to minimize any effects of

environmental exposure. produces minimal or zero waste. It takes 800 liters of water to produce 1 liter of cow's milk. Most formula is made from cow's milk. Cattle are the No. 1 agricultural source of greenhouse gases worldwide. Each year, a single cow will belch about 220 pounds of methane. Methane from cattle is shorter lived than carbon dioxide but 28 times more potent in warming the atmosphere Breastfeeding for 6 months saves roughly 95-153 kilos (209-337 lbs) of carbon emissions per baby compared to formula.





Breastfeeding a Way to Reduce Communities Carbon Footprint



In the USA alone, more than 32 million kilowatts of energy are used each year for processing, packaging and transporting formula. and 550 million cans, 86,000 tons of metal and 364,000 tons of paper are used in formula production.

In the United Kingdom alone... supporting breastfeeding would have planetary benefits equivalent to taking 50,000 to 77,500 cars off the road each year and the estimated energy cost of boiling water for mixing formula for the first year is the equivalent of charging almost 200 million smart phones.

Human milk is not genetically modified and requires no fuel for heating, no refrigeration and is always ready to serve at the perfect temperature. Human milk is not processed, pasteurized, homogenized, packaged, stored, transported, repackaged, dried, reconstituted sterilized or wasted.

Breast milk produces zero waste, zero greenhouse gases & has a zero water footprint. Breast milk is environmentally sustainable – it takes no demands on the environment. The Journal of Pediatrics estimates that if 90% of US families followed guidelines to breastfeed exclusively for 6 months, the US would annually save \$13 billion from reduced medical and other costs. . Together we need to emphasize the link between breastfeeding and the environment, please help us to promote, support and protect breastfeeding for a healthier planet.

By Rosalba Ruiz Reyes





Donations

Monetary Donations:

www.empowernm.wedid.it/



Material Donations:

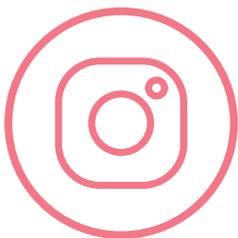
daisy@empowernm.org

Empowerment Congress knows the power that organizing has and how it can change communities. The purpose of the organization is to provide these Colonias with the tools and knowledge they need to transform their communities and improve their daily lives so that everyday New Mexicans exercise their agency and shape their destinies and the destinies of their children and families. One of our long-term goals is to establish an organizing culture throughout Dona Ana County. We have successfully assisted the members of Del Cerro in Vado, NM with paving a road in their community, this is only the beginning of our projects in that colonia. We look forward to expanding our outreach and continue serving our communities in Dona Ana.

As we continue to grow our organization, big plans are coming for the Dona Ana Colonias in 2022. One example of that growth is the increase in our outreach, which has led us to bring on additional staff to our team and as a good consequence we have outgrown our small one-room office. This has now provided us with the opportunity to move offices that are open and available to our community members of the Colonias we serve. This is another step placing us on our path to become our own 501c3 non-profit organization.

We ask you to think about donating to Empowerment Congress so that we can achieve these goals and continue organizing and advocating for Doña Ana colonias. Small or large monetary donations would help very much and we are also looking for material donations to furnish our new office space!

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