

TEXAS

Proyecto Desarrollo Humano

VOL. 53 FALL 2026

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Dear Friends,

We are in the most beautiful and active time of the year here at PDH! Our Winter Texan friends are slowly drifting back into the Rio Grande Valley and are talking about Christmas and all they will be doing to help in the many celebrations. Our “transplanted” Northern friends who have endured our broiling Texas summer have remained a part of PDH throughout the intense heat, faithfully volunteering all summer. Our Staff, Board, and many co-missionaries are ready for cooler weather and working together to maintain PDH’s reputation for perpetual action!

UPDATES

Our Clinic



Our Clinica Maria Luisa’s administrator, Shirley Arnolde, RN, spent some of her summer days participating in UTRGV’s 2026 MedEd Teaching Certificate Program. Earning this certificate adds to Shirley’s credentials for serving as a teacher for the university’s medical and nursing students when they serve patients in our clinic as part of their training. Dental care is provided by Dr. Emma Carrillo, DDS, and her staff who often spend their day-off serving our

people. New partners in this care are Residents from Driscoll Children’s Hospital who are joining us to see pediatric patients. Soon STC Dental Hygienist students will also join us. Thanks to donations from Medicine for All People, our clinic is now distributing reading glasses, electrolytes to add to drinking water, and bottles of purified water.

“Let there be light!”

We all are rejoicing in our brighter evenings, thanks to the streetlights that now grace our colonia’s streets. Outdoor life in our parks and streets promotes our hours of community gatherings as well as our security. Our women community leaders deserve much of the credit for this improvement, thanks to their hard work of going house-to-house to get residents to sign their petition for this improvement.



Our Website

Ramiro Quintero, Board member and technology whiz, has reinstalled our website at: www.pdhrgv.com. Sister Mary Dasari, icm, another whiz, is working on updating the content. We want to alert you to a change in our website address; it is now: www.pdhrgv.com It used to be .org Our newsletter’s current edition is now available on this website. We are also on Facebook at [Proyecto Desarrollo Humano](https://www.facebook.com/ProyectoDesarrolloHumano). Another point: a good number of our readers requested and are now receiving our newsletter online. If you would like to receive your copy online, please let us know at this email: proyectodesarrollhumanotexas@gmail.com

Planting Time



The process for Fall planting in our Organic Community Garden is now progressing. Thanks to Juan Raygoza and Demetrio Bonilla, UTRGV agronomists, the summer protective crop of Sudan grass has now been cut down and plowed back into the soil as a step in enriching it for planting. Juan and Demetrio have been helping our gardeners for many years, and we gratefully acknowledge their guidance and hands-on teaching. The need to safeguard their tractor during this process has resulted in parking it in the Sisters’ home car port and having passers-by wondering, “What are the

nuns up to now? Is that a tractor, or another car in their car port?”

A LOOK BACK



As we wrote in our last newsletter, we held our regular June-July summer program for our colonia children. It was exciting, fun, educational, and community-building. Representatives from various agencies joined in with presentations such as: The Dreams Project which helped the students to further their dreams for the future; the STEM program which taught the physics of gravity and rocket propulsion, guiding the students in making mini-rockets from scrap materials; All Faiths United which taught appreciation for diversity. The final day had the students performing some of what they had learned. And then the field trip was on! A two-hour bus ride took everyone out to enjoy The Water Park on South Padre Island. Here are some photos of our summer memories:



AND NOW

- ESL classes are going strong, thanks to our new partnership with South Texas College. STC provides a teacher and all the books. When the students have successfully completed a full 80 hours, they will be awarded an STC Certificate of Accomplishment.



- Other education classes include Basic Computer Literacy classes for women leaders. After completing 30 hours of class and passing the final exam, the graduates receive the laptops on which they have been working and promise to use their new skill in working for their community.



- The children are given one-on-one homework assistance two hours per day on three afternoons from 5 till 7 pm and also enjoy a mini-meal to tide them over till dinner at their homes.



- Every Monday we receive fresh produce from Border Mission, graciously delivered by a volunteer driver. Volunteers at both sites then distribute the vegetables and fruits in a drive-thru mode. This food joins with bi-weekly distributions from the RGV Food Bank to help feed our families.

- As part of the nation-wide Care for the Earth movement, we have placed specially marked containers for people to deposit trash, marked “Paper,” or “Food,” or “Glass,” or “Plastic.” Presentations of the “why” for this movement help to ensure compliance.

BIG BINGO!



On Friday, Sept. 25, we held one of our two annual Bingo fundraisers. The fun officially began at 8 AM and ran till 3 PM. This time period is the best for our colonia mothers to socialize and enjoy playing their favorite game while their children are in school. Delicious snacks and drinks helped them to “make a day of it!”

TAKING CHARGE

Part of our people’s community-building is learning how to be responsible for the development of their neighborhood. Helping in this are gatherings led by Valley Interfaith leaders who present various events showing participants how to grow in exercising this responsibility. A good number of our adults are active in this on-going training.

And so the story goes on, reaching out to help one another, offering one’s services, sharing one’s material blessings! There is no great “secret of success” to the things being done by PDH! It’s simply a matter of treating one another as brothers and sisters, all united in the loving care of One God! Thank you for including PDH in your embrace!

With our love and prayers,

Your ICM Missionary Sisters, ICM Co-Missionaries, PDH Board, Staff, and Volunteers

