

A Santa Cruz Community Foundation collaborative grant yields dramatic results.

Below is a report from two local agencies who, with funds, encouragement and training from the Santa Cruz Community Foundation (SCCF), put together an innovative project that linked local resources and volunteers from both sides of the border in shared service. In May of 2011 this project was awarded a continuation grant from SCCF.-

The Migrant First Aid Station in Nogales, Sonora

The Kino Border Initiative & Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) kindly submit this Year 1 Report to the Santa Cruz Community Foundation:

Purpose: To provide basic health services to migrants who have been deported to Nogales, Mexico, while increasing awareness in the local Ambos Nogales community of the complex issues surrounding migration/immigration.

PATIENT CARE

Objective 1: Provide needed basic health services to the deported migrant population of the Kino Border Initiative's "Center for Deported Migrants"



Results so far:

- An average of **12** patients seen daily (between 5 and 22 seen on any given day)
- **240** patients seen per month
- The top three conditions seen at the first aid station are:

1. Severely blistered feet
 2. Flu, cold, and cough
 3. Dehydration
- Open 5 days a week (M-Th, Sat) from nine to noon
 - Staffing includes one nurse (Norma Quijada) plus 2-4 student & non-student volunteers per day
 - Referrals are made to the General Hospital and private dentist when needs are too severe to be treated at the first aid station. When a patient brings a prescription but does not have money for the medication, we work with the local pharmacies to cover it.

HEALTH CAREER STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Objective 2: Improve health care skills of the University of Arizona's Health Professions and pre-professions students serving at the Center

Results so far:

- **24** University of Arizona health career students trained, from the fields of: Public Health, Medical, Nursing, Pre-Med, and Translation/Interpretation
- **18** of those students have volunteered at the First Aid Station in Nogales to date
- **60** student volunteer visits for an average of **3 trips per student** during the 2 month period in April & May

University of Arizona Public Health student intern, Sarah Davidson, is developing an evaluation plan to assess student experience as well as services provided. By Fall 2011 we should have a measure of improved clinic skill and cultural competency among health profession student volunteers.



have the opportunity to speak with the migrants--they have been through so much and are amazing people. I feel blessed to be able to help with this cause. The last day I went, it very busy - we worked straight through from 9 to 1 and saw maybe 15-20 people. ...All of the volunteers are amazing, and have worked really well together. Everyone seems to jump right in."

Kelsey Williamson, Spanish Translation & Interpretation, University of Arizona

"Four of us just returned from a great day across the border. We treated some interesting people and struck up some good conversations with them as well...The nurse, Norma, was very helpful and we all worked well together as a team."

Ben Alter, Physiology/Pre-Med, University of Arizona

"It has been such a great learning experience for me. I feel so privileged to

HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH CAREER CLUBS PARTICIPATION

Objective 3: Increased understanding of the complex issues of migration in our border community, through involvement of SEAHEC High School Health Career Club (HSHCC) students, health professions students and the community-at-large

SEAHEC staff Hannah Hafter and Lourdes Paez led 3 Presentations on migration and health on the Arizona/Mexico border, including 1 at Nogales High School and 2 at Rio Rico High School. 75 students participated and both schools conducted clothing/sock/blanket drives for the Kino Border Initiative and No More Deaths.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Objective 4: Establish a sustainable model for providing on-going first aid services to the deported migrant population in our Ambos Nogales Community.

Many of the supplies required for the services provided at the First Aid Station are solicited through donations from **Southwest Medical Aid** and **WorldCare**, both based in Tucson, Arizona. **No More Deaths**, a Tucson-based non-profit, has also shared supply donations. The monthly rent for the space is covered by a private donor. While a Registered Nurse is staffed for supervision and quality control, trained volunteers also play an essential role in daily operations.



The Migrant First Aid Station officially opened its doors in March 2011. The beginning months of the grant were spent obtaining and organizing the space, obtaining the necessary supplies and furniture, applying for the appropriate approval and credentials through the Health Department of Sonora, and training volunteers. The groundwork has now been completed and we are off to a very solid start!