

# friendsofambosnogales-july2010

Dear GV/Sahuarita Friends of Ambos Nogales:

We thought that our friends who attended presentations about the Santa Cruz Community Foundation (SCCF) and its sister foundation in Sonora (FESAC) would want to keep up with news from Ambos Nogales.\*

Bob Phillips and Alma Yanez de Cota, the Executive Directors of the two foundations, and their staffs and board members send their greetings and their great thanks for your interest and support.

## **News !!! What is happening now on the border?**

You may recall that the mission of foundations, in this decade, focuses on more than raising and distributing funds. Central to their mission is to instigate collaboration in the non-profit world.

***The Ambos Nogales Project*** is an example.

A brand new cross border economic development effort, The Ambos Nogales Project, convened by the Foundations, includes a diverse group of leaders of organizations such as the Nogales Business Council CENAC (Sonora), Arizona-Mexico Commission; Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Downtown Merchants Association, Nogales Community Development, Nogales Economic Development Foundation, Economic Development Office, City of Nogales, Sonora, Nogales Port Authority, SCCF, Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, AC (FESAC)

These leaders want to become a catalyst for constructive social and economic change and return to the historic fraternal relationship of Ambos Nogales. They are creating a strategic plan to direct regional development and create work for the thousands who come to Nogales Sonora each month so that there will be a future for them and they will not need to try to cross the border.

## **Site Visits – Cross Border Tours**

Over the past months, nine tours of Sonoran organizations have occurred—and many of you have taken part. Special visits can be arranged this summer by calling the SCCF office at 761-4531, and regular monthly ones will start up again in the fall.

## **Speaking Opportunities?**

Let us know if you belong to a social, civic or religious organization that would like a presentation on the cross-border work of the Foundations. We can set up the program. If you would like to host a gathering in your home let us know.

### **Agency Profile: Sonoran Community Centers**

At the moment SCCF and FESAC support four community centers in Nogales, Sonora. Their philosophy of social investment in organizations is, they believe, what holds the keys to current and future success. Investment comes in many forms: technical assistance and training, volunteers, and grants for specific projects/needs identified by the organizations.

*Centro Comunitario Guadalupano* provides workshops for women and young people, a migrant soup kitchen and domestic violence support groups. Serving 750 annually, sewing classes and hair styling are the focus of job training programs at this community center.

*Centro Comunitario Colinas del Sol* is the newest community center supported by FESAC. So far the Center has served 250 women, men and children and offers sewing classes, hair styling, basic carpentry and wrought iron training.

*DEIJUVEN* operates two community centers directed at youth. They serve 2,000 individuals annually and are an example of the success of prevention over correction programs. Dejuven also boasts the best day care center in Sonora, even though it is located in a very poor area.

Here are some recent comments from Alma about activities in a Community Center:

*The hair styling class was an answer to women's suggestion for a course that will allow them to earn an income or to have skills for a future job.*

*After 3 years: THE FIRST MAN IS IN!!!! Francisco Javier is a baker, but when he saw the announcement for the class (a piece of paper on the door, so those who walk around get to know the activities in the center...) he decided he wanted to get new skills that will allow him to earn an extra income to make ends meet.*

*We met him yesterday and will have a conversation with him to find out if he is interested in becoming a teacher (baking, of course) in the center.*

*Women bring their children for haircuts and since summer has started, the children are at the center for workshops while their mothers take the classes.*

### **And You???**

If you are interested in volunteering in some way with ***friendsofambosnogales***, please contact us. Tune in to our next edition to learn about the brand new Arts Center in Nogales, Sonora and hear about some of the donors and volunteers who are making a difference in Mexico.

As a reminder, *tax-deductible donations* – investments in the communities -- can be made to help fund the operations of the Santa Cruz Community Foundation or to Sonoran development projects, through the SCCF (**825 N. Grand Ave, Suite 104B, Nogales, AZ 85621, 520.761.4531, [www.sccfaz.org](http://www.sccfaz.org)**) Rather than “charity,” donations are *investments* in our Border communities.

We hope you enjoy the attached photos of some activities at Nogales, Sonora Community Centers supported by FESAC and the SCCF.

