

ProjectBRAVO

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to share our notable achievements in 2023, especially regarding the successful utilization of funds provided by federal, state, and private foundations.

In 2023, our biggest accomplishment was the successful expenditure of two programs funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. This legislation, designed to assist families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, allocated \$1,863,840 for gas and electric utility aid.

This support enabled us to help 2,138 families struggling to pay their gas and electric bills in addition to the 5,325 we helped with our regular utility assistance funds.

Additionally, we effectively managed \$3,437,466 in

Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) funds received in April 2022 for water utility assistance. Notably, we were the first agency in Texas to distribute \$1 million to support families in need. By the end of the grant period, we helped 2,619 households in El Paso County struggling to pay for water utility bills. All ARPA funds entrusted to Project BRAVO were effectively utilized, providing crucial aid to numerous families facing challenges.

In July of 2023, we received \$2,070,090 from the Department of Energy under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. These funds will allow us to weatherize an additional 144 homes over a two year period. The El Paso Electric Foundation gifted us with a generous \$25,000 contribution designated to support our weatherization program. This funding will help in weatherizing homes requiring additional repairs and other measures.

In alignment with our dedication to supporting our CARE clients pursuing higher education, we have initiated a new funding source. The Trellis Foundation has granted us \$100,000 to cover tuition, books, uniforms, school supplies, and other essential assistance for adult students working towards degrees or certificates leading to living wage job opportunities.

Moreover, in August 2023, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation Texas Foundations Fund. These funds are allocated to strengthen our HUD Certified Housing Counseling program, which aids families at risk of mortgage default and educates first-time homebuyers. This financial backing is crucial in laying the foundation for expanding our program, enabling us to assist a larger number of current and prospective homeowners in our community.

I express my gratitude to our various funders and dedicated staff for their commitment and hard work in achieving these impactful milestones. Together, we are continuously making a positive impact on the lives of those we support.



LAURA PONCE

Executive Director,
Project BRAVO

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Project BRAVO Board of Directors coordinates, evaluates, administers, and monitors the Community Services Block Grant Program in El Paso County in order to impact the causes of poverty and to mobilize human, social, and economic resources for the economically disadvantaged persons in El Paso County. One third of the members (4) of the Project BRAVO Board of Directors represent low-income individuals.

Officers

Fernando Escobedo, Jr., | Board Chair

Loren Cartagena | Vice Chair

Alberto Mesta | Board Treasurer

Fred Perea | Board Secretary

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Luis Carlos Perez, District I: Westside

Sylvia Carreon, District II: Central & Eastside

Laurencio Bosquez, District III: Lower Valley & Far Eastside

Marla Jo St. Leon, District IV: Northeast

Private Sector Representatives

Loren Cartagena, Socorro ISD

Fernando Escobedo, Jr., President & Founder, The Frugal CFO, LLC

Alberto Mesta, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

Fred Perea, Helen of Troy

Public Sector Representatives

State Senator César Blanco, Texas Senate District 29

Christina Sanchez, Office of County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal

Judge Enedina Serna, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 6, Pl. 2

Commissioner David Stout, Commissioner's Court, Pct. 2



ABOUT PROJECT BRAVO

VISION

To bridge access to opportunities for residents of El Paso County to achieve equity and elevate our quality of life through education and social services that lead to self-sufficiency.

MISSION

Project BRAVO builds bridges to opportunities that help individuals and families thrive in our Borderland community.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Weatherization services enhance home energy efficiency, slash energy usage, and trim energy expenses for our qualified clients. Installation of energy-efficient upgrades like attic and wall insulation, along with weatherstripping around doors and windows, are common weatherization measures.

A comprehensive evaluation is done to identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption for the home.

Additionally, the department conducts repairs on furnaces, air conditioners, and offers HVAC startups for households in need.



Thanks to additional Department of Energy Bill Infrastructure Law funding, Project BRAVO made a greater impact on the community through Weatherization services. Expenditures for weatherization labor and materials were increased by \$177,320, allowing for 65 additional homes to receive services in 2023. Expenditures for HVAC labor and materials were increase by \$172,928, allowing for 138 more homes to receive services than in 2022.

162 HOMES WEATHERIZED

\$1,046,497 WEATHERIZATION LABOR & MATERIALS

1,092 HOMES RECEIVED HVAC SERVICES

\$1,907,817 HVAC SERVICES LABOR & MATERIALS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Project BRAVO's Community Services Program strives to empower families by assisting them in overcoming economic challenges, enabling them to move beyond poverty. The program offers support such as utility assistance, case management, adult basic education, and health & wellness services.



UTILITY ASSISTANCE

7,463 FAMILIES ASSISTED

\$5,731,555 PROVIDED IN UTILITY ASSISTANCE

WATER ASSISTANCE

3,025 FAMILIES ASSISTED

\$1,746,732 PROVIDED IN WATER ASSISTANCE

CAREER & ACADEMIC READINESS (CARE) PROGRAM

27 CLIENTS TRANSITIONED OUT OF POVERTY

\$1,851 SUPPORT SERVICES

\$5,592 TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

\$65,373 TUITION ASSISTANCE

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM (GED)

14 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GED CLASSES

4 STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR GED

\$1,631 TESTING SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Highlight: Patient Assistance Program & El Paso Giving Day

Project BRAVO's Patient Assistance Program (PAP) aims to provide free or low-cost prescriptions, eye glasses, and eye exams to people of all ages. The program also provides referrals to Federally Qualified Health Centers, Medicaid providers, prescription discount programs, and other medical services. The purpose of the program is to alleviate financial burdens of uninsured or under insured low-income individuals.

In October 2023, Project BRAVO participated in its 5th El Paso Giving Day, an online charitable giving campaign designed to shine a light on the essential work of nonprofit organizations and ignite the spirit of giving in our El Paso.

The funds raised were pledged specifically to the Patient Assistance Program to supplement existing funds and increase its impact on the clients. Through 27 generous donations, \$3,235 were funneled into the program to assist clients needing life-saving medications, long overdue eye exams, and essential eye glasses.



Project BRAVO will once again participate in El Paso Giving Day on October 17, 2024. Your contribution can provide affordable medications and access to basic eyecare for fellow El Pasoans

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

62 CLIENTS ASSISTED WITH MEDICATION PRESCRIPTIONS

300 FREE EYE EXAMS

355 FREE EYEGLASSES

\$124,759 ESTIMATED AGGREGATE SAVINGS TO CLIENTS

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Yolanda Flores, a 54-year-old single woman with disabilities, lacked income and health insurance when she applied at Project BRAVO. Despite the benefits and assistance she receives from various local agencies, she struggled to afford medications for her chronic conditions. Through Project BRAVO's Patient Assistance Program, she was able to access \$12,147.98 worth of prescriptions for free, enabling her to follow her prescribed treatment plan.

YOLANDA FLORES

Patient Assistance Program Client
\$12,147.98 in prescription savings in 2023

Susana Solorio graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in August 2023. Upon completing nursing school, she immediately began preparing for the NCLEX exam required for nursing graduates. She maintained a positive attitude throughout the challenges she faced. Project BRAVO's Career and Academic REadiness (CARE) program provided Ms. Solorio the recommended study textbook, NCLEX-RN Examination, free of charge. Ms. Solorio took the NCLEX exam in October of 2023 and she was able to obtain her nursing license. Following this achievement, she needed to renew her CPR certification, and the CARE program supported her financially in this endeavor. By early November, she completed her CPR course and secured a nursing position at Tender Care Home Health & Hospice, which she eagerly accepted. Despite the many personal obstacles, Ms. Solorio remained focused and achieved her goal of becoming a nurse.

CARE Program Client **SUSANA SOLORIO**

HOUSING SERVICES

Our Housing Services aim to support families in securing stable and cost-effective housing options. Project BRAVO provides affordable apartment units, rental & housing counseling, and financial empowerment services.

Notably, Project BRAVO's Housing Department is one of only two HUD Certified Programs in El Paso. The committed housing counselors help first-time homebuyers maneuver the changing housing market and provide assistance to families facing foreclosure.

Additionally, Project BRAVO partners with local organizations to extend its reach, ensuring that even more families can benefit from its services. Workshops and educational seminars are regularly conducted to inform community members about their housing rights, available resources, and effective financial management strategies.

By fostering a sense of stability and security, Project BRAVO empowers families to build better futures, contributing to the overall well-being and economic vitality of the El Paso community. Through compassion, expertise, and unwavering dedication, the Housing Department stands as a beacon of hope for those navigating the challenging landscape of housing in today's world.

AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS

36 Units

Affordable Apartment Units

76 Families / 112 Tenants

Obtained Affordable Housing

\$214,605

Rental Savings for Tenants

HOMEBUYER EDUCATION & COUNSELING

309 Clients

Received Homebuyer Education

1,032 Hours

Of Homebuyer Education & Counseling

5 Families

Purchased Their First Home

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

77 Families

Assisted in Foreclosure Prevention

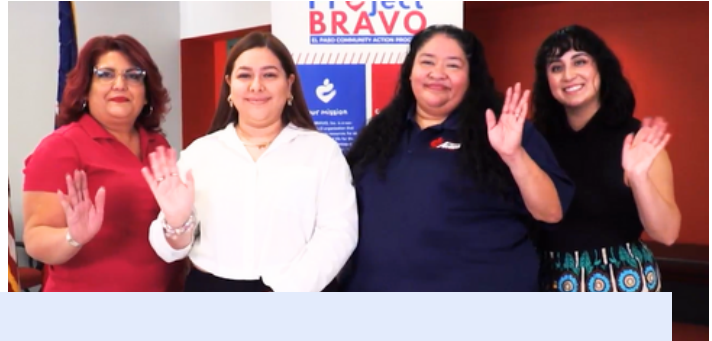
\$250,484

Aggregate Savings for Homeowners



HOUSING SERVICES

Highlight: The Expansion of the Housing Department



For many years, Project BRAVO's Housing Department was operated with only two housing counselors. These two counselors were in charge of fielding calls and inquiries while managing the 36 apartment units, providing counseling to avoid clients' homes being foreclosed on, and hosting monthly seminars for prospective homebuyers. While they still made an impact on the community through their services, they knew they could have a greater impact with a bigger, team.

Thanks to the successful management of their HUD funded contracts and exceptional results, the Housing Department's budget expanded to allow for the development of a Housing Intake Assistant position and a reorganization of their department structure.

With these changes, the department's efficiency and effectiveness saw significant improvements. The Housing Intake Assistant streamlined the initial client interactions, ensuring that inquiries were handled promptly and thoroughly. This allowed the housing counselors to focus fully on providing in-depth support and personalized counseling sessions.

The Housing Programs Manager took on a greater leadership role, overseeing the strategic planning and execution of the department's initiatives. This transition allowed for better allocation of resources, more comprehensive training programs for the team, new funding sources, and the implementation of innovative approaches to community outreach and education.

As the team grew, so did their ability to form partnerships with local organizations, banks, and government agencies. These collaborations allow the department to make a greater impact on the lives of homebuyers, struggling renters, and those at risk of homelessness.

The Housing Department is steadfast in their journey of growth. Continued progress will result in a bigger, stronger program that will not only bridge the community to the resources, but create additional careers for El Pasoans.

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash	\$	957,004
Grants and Other Receivables		252,992
Prepaid Expenses		46,408
Total Current Assets		1,256,404

Non-Current Assets

Property and Equipment-net		824,499
Right of Use Assets		223,749

Total Assets \$ 2,304,652

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$	262,775
Accrued Expenses and Other Liabilities		411,894
Current Portion of Notes Payable		19,818
Current Portion of Forgivable Notes		29,847
Current Portion of Lease Liability		94,622

Total Current Liabilities \$ 818,956

Long Term Liabilities:

Long Term Notes Payable	\$	15,128
Forgivable Notes		26,448
Operating lease liability, net of current		129,127

Total Long Term Liabilities \$ 170,703

Total Liabilities \$ 989,659

Net Assets:

Without Donor Restrictions	\$	1,005,998
With Donor Restrictions		308,995

Total Net Assets \$ 1,314,993

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 2,304,652

FINANCIAL REPORT CONT.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

PROGRAM REVENUES

Federal Grants	\$ 14,143,778
State and Local Funds	206,931
Interest Income	37
In-Kind Contributions	101,391
Rental Income	243,779
Other grants, contributions, and support	66,674

Total Revenue and Income \$ 14,762,590


EXPENSES

Utility Assistance	\$ 7,615,854
Weatherization	1,051,373
Other Direct Client Services (CSBG)	276,467
Direct Program Support	3,242,634
General and Administrative	2,808,430

Total Expenses \$ 16,994,758

Change in Net Assets	\$ (232,168)
Net Assets, Beginning	\$ 1,547,161
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 1,314,993

THANK YOU!



Project BRAVO is just one among many nonprofits in El Paso, each providing distinctive and valuable services to support El Paso residents. Collaborating closely with these organizations, we aim to bridge gaps in assistance and equip our clients with the necessary resources for self-sufficiency.

We extend our gratitude to all community partners who have shared information about us with their clients, completed applications on their behalf, and informed us about how their services benefit the families we assist.

Your dedication to **Helping People and Changing Lives** is truly appreciated!

Our collective efforts create a stronger, more resilient community, fostering a network of care and support that reaches every corner of El Paso. Together, we can ensure that no one falls through the cracks and that every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

As we continue to grow and evolve, we invite you to stay engaged with us through our events, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy initiatives. Your involvement, no matter how big or small, makes a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission. Let's continue to make a difference, one step at a time.

Administrative Office

2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Community Centers

Central | 2000 Texas Ave. El Paso TX 79901

Northeast/Westside | 4838 Montana, El Paso, TX 79903

Eastside | 14901 Whitetail Deer Dr. El Paso TX 79938

Ysleta | 8908 Old County Rd. El Paso TX 79907



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