



# La Voz de Esperanza

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

### Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.



The front cover image of this February issue of La Voz celebrates the wisdom we have accumulated in the 30 years of Esperanza's history. Originally titled, *Esperanza*, the image is about *conocimiento*, the knowledge and experience that we gain in life that helps us move forward especially in difficult times such as these. Liliana Wilson, the artist, has been partnering with the Esperanza since we were at the old space at 1305 N. Flores in San Antonio. The first art exhibit Graciela Sánchez, director, brought there was *Mujeres y Artistas* in November of 1988—a group exhibit with Liliana and other *artistas* such as Romelia Escamilla, Mary Jane Garza, Marsha Gómez (deceased), Nivia González, Ester Hernández, Kathy Vargas, Terry Ybañez and others. The first major solo exhibition at Esperanza was Liliana's exhibit, *Visiones*, in 1991. Liliana is one of several artists who continue to be part of Esperanza's 30 year history.

One of the most rewarding events in Esperanza's history occurred in 1988—the painting of the Children's Mural, *Imagine All the Children... Our Esperanza*. It involved community artists, buena gente of the Esperanza, teachers, children and parents. My favorite images were those drawn by children in Prekinder, Kinder and 1st grade. At the time, I was a first grade teacher at J.T. Brackenridge on the West-side of San Antonio. My favorite piece was from a child in my friend, Mary Caro's PreK classroom at J.T. The 4 year old drew a green figure surrounded by dots stating his wish for the world: "I wish that candies fall down so everyone can eat and be happy." Of course, the candies were redrawn by the artists working on the mural but the central figure remained

the same. A first grader that I worked with, Melanie, who liked to pull other girls' hair drew a cute picture of a little girl with long hair sticking out sideways floating amongst bubbles. That's where the idea of using circles for the mural came from. Each bubble, had some wisdom attached and dreams of a peaceful and just world. Thirty years later, we continue to dream of such a world and will continue to fight for that daily.

As we progress through 2017, we hope to honor as many of the artists, writers, buena gente and staff of the Esperanza in our 30 year history as is possible in the pages of La Voz and will continue to review the Esperanza's 30 year history. If you have any reflections or photos to share of our 30 year history, please send them to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). Look for details of our upcoming celebration of the Esperanza's 30th in the March issue of La Voz. In the meantime, as one of the children stated, I wish for rainbows (sic) for everyone! —Gloria A. Ramirez, *editor*



**ATTENTION VOZ READERS:** If you have a mailing address correction please send it to [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org). If you want to be removed from the La Voz mailing list, for whatever reason, please let us know. La Voz is provided as a courtesy to people on the mailing list of the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. **The subscription rate is \$35 per year (\$100 for institutions).** The cost of producing and mailing La Voz has substantially increased and we need your help to keep it afloat. To help, send in your subscriptions, sign up as a monthly donor, or send in a donation to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Thank you. -GAR

**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.