

Imagine All the Children .. Our Esperanza



Editor's note: *The following article by Gloria Ramirez appeared in La Voz de Esperanza in January, 1989. It reviewed the completion of a mural on the wall enclosing the first Esperanza building at 1305 N. Flores. Besides the children's drawings, the mural included their words and wishes related to the concepts of "peace" and "justice." If only one U.S. president were to simply use such statements as policies, the world would be a better place for all.*

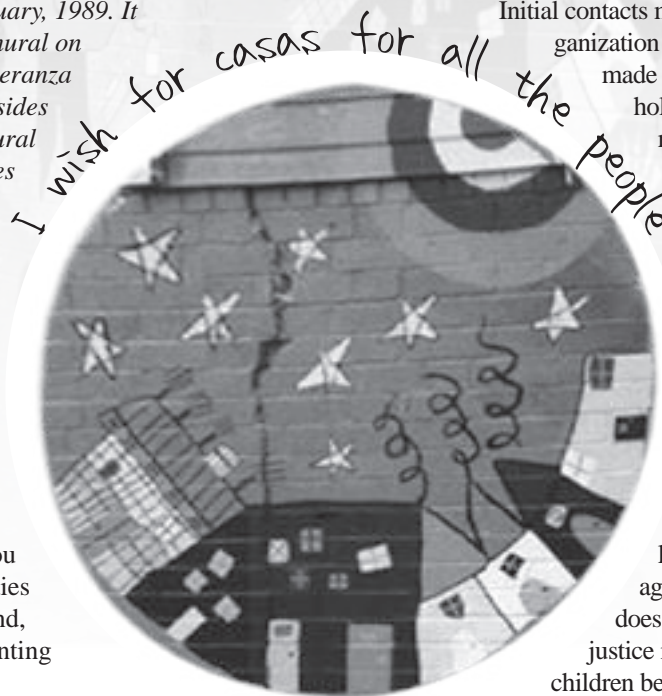
Imagine all the children that were at the Esperanza the week of December 19 through the 23rd [of 1988]. If you happened to come by that week you feasted your eyes on small bodies everywhere busily painting. And, was all the work they were painting their own? An emphatic, yes!!!

One of the items on the Esperanza's wish list compiled by interested parties attending planning sessions, retreats and board meetings was that of painting a mural on the outer walls of the Esperanza Center. In recent months the board decided that the mural ought to encompass artwork from elementary school children who are given fewer opportunities in

school to show their artistic talents.

Initial contacts made with the Community Cultural Arts Organization proved fruitful and a tentative decision was made to work on the mural over the Christmas holidays. Once the plans with the artists were made, teachers were contacted to become involved. Drawings submitted were reviewed by the artists and representatives of the Esperanza set aside possibilities for transferral on to the wall. Quotes explaining the artwork were also set aside. The artwork produced by the children enveloped the themes of peace and justice as presented by individual teachers depending on grade level and age. What does peace and justice mean to children between 5 and 12 years old in San Antonio?

From the kindergarten perspective of children in public



Alex Rubio, lead artist



Vincent Valdez working on mural.



Students and Instructors working together