

Esperanza's Foundation Years

Children set the path at 1305 N. Flores

The children's mural, *Imagine All the Children... Our Esperanza* was unveiled at the Esperanza's 2nd anniversary celebration on January 22, 1989. The mural and celebration was a massive effort that included many people. The coordinating committee included Elsa and Julio Noboa, Irma Cardona, Jane Tuck, Leticia Sánchez, Georgia Ruiz,



Girls from J.T. Brackenridge take a break from painting.

Sylbia Garza, Judy Wade, Gloria Ramírez and Carol Rodríguez. Alicia Martínez, David González and Ruth Young helped set up the exhibit indoors obtaining panels to exhibit the children's drawings.

Food for the event was provided through the efforts of volunteers coordinated by Chayo Zaldivar whose son participated in the

painting of the mural inviting his friend, Vincent Valdez, along. Felice García lent us BBQ pits for the BBQers: Alex Aguilar, Jorge Piña, Alfredo, Franco Ontiveros (RIP), Jorge Sandoval and Arturo Rodríguez. In the kitchen (como siempre) were Isabel, Enrique, Gustavo and Bernard of the Sánchez family along with Donny and Ofelia and others. Runners included Isabeth Hardy, Irene Rodríguez, Lorna Klokkenga and Peetie. Various establishments donated food, drinks, and photography. Food donations were facilitated by Javier Sánchez, Mike de la Garza, Regina Chaffin, JJAmaro, Chris Hill, and Hector Cantú. Lillie Rodolfo of the *San Antonio Light* coordinated media.

Volunteers who worked with children and teens on the mural and at the celebration included Greg Arnold, Alicia, Angela, Amparo, and Sara as well as Lucha and Quirino Escamilla, Joanna Craycraft, Julián



Yasmin Codina (at far right) with friends at the fountain.

Imagine All the Children... Our Esperanza

schools the ideas were simply put: "I am in peace when I am playing" showed a picture of children on a playground sliding and jumping rope. Another child stated: "We are sharing a bag of Fritos". Still another said, "We found a ball, a stick, and a barrette and shared the ball, the stick and the barrette." Wouldn't it be easy if we simply saw the ideas

of peace and justice in terms of giving, enjoying ourselves with others, and looking for things (resources) we can share.

Older children who tried to grasp the idea of peace (not "piece" as in a "piece of cake" or "peas" as in "those little green things you eat") nar-



rowed the concept to ending the fighting between the Russians (Soviets) and the Americans resulting in some very patriotic works. Others simply stated, "I wish people would not fight and be happy" showing scenes of violence in their neighborhoods.

Other explanations of peace included being in a loving state, not fighting. Justice was a more abstract term and hard to visualize. One class, though, did portray justice as scenes from The People's Court showing different court scenes.

In asking children to portray their wishes for the world or their concepts of peace and justice, the children did come up



Sánchez, Jennifer Smith, Verónica López and Jane Gaytán. Magdalena Alvarado connected us to the YWCA, Madrid Center.

Other key volunteers were Irene Schoch, Karen Sauer, and Ron Dodson. Raffle prizes were donated by Nivia González (who just donated posters to the Esperanza's tiendita), Kim Iberg, Viva Bookstore, The Red Balloon, Kiddie Park, Santikos Theatres, Northern Hills Gym and the Anti-Hunger Committee.

The success of the Children's mural and 2nd Anniversary celebration set the standard for future events at the Esperanza that continue to this day. Our gratitude to all who were part of this very special event.



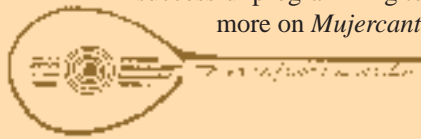
Joanne Penuelaz & Irene Schoch with Choco Leandro behind



Elsa Noboa, Laura Codina, Ruby Nelda Pérez & Romelia Escamilla celebrate

MujerCanto, giving voice to women

The celebration of the Esperanza's 2nd anniversary had built upon the 1st anniversary celebration and set the stage for events like the lesbian and gay arts shows and the Peace Market that begin later in 1989. The Mujercanto Series began in 1991 also modeling itself on the 2nd anniversary celebration. The early programming that began at 1305 N. Flores set the path for Esperanza's successful programming today. Stay tuned for more on *Mujercanto* in the next issue



of *La Voz de Esperanza*.



Anne Feeney sings at the 1st *Mujercanto*. Magda McChesney looks back.

with interesting ideas. The themes they touch on include housing, hunger, nuclear war, environmental protection, family, love, friendship, sharing and playing. These concepts were usually stated simply: "I wish for candies to fall so everyone can eat and be happy." I wish for rain-

the original drawings displayed inside the building on Sunday, January 22, 1989 when the Esperanza celebrated its 2nd anniversary.

There was not any sort of competition among children in developing the drawings or the mural. It was all done in a cooperative spirit and enjoyment was had by all. In recent years, the mural was painted over and no longer exists at the 1305 N. Flores location that now houses, RAICES.



bos (sic) for everybody.", or "I wish the world do not play war." In other cases the artwork itself sends across the message of peace or justice.

Editor's note: The children's artwork and their thoughts on peace and justice were showcased on the mural outdoors with

