

Isabel Casillas Sánchez,

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2000, the Esperanza held an event called El Grito de Esperanza where we celebrated paying off the building at 922 San Pedro. In the publication printed for El Grito, Isabel reflected on her involvement with Esperanza. The reality of it all is that Graciela's mother was and is an integral part of the Esperanza since its inception. In fact, the original site of the Esperanza at 1305 N. Flores was obtained through contacts that Isabel made such that she's earned the title, Abuela de la Esperanza.



Enrique & Isabel Sánchez with their daughter, Graciela at a Mujercanto event at 1305 N. Flores where Esperanza was first located.



L to R: Graciela with U.S. Representative, Lloyd Doggett and her parents, Enrique and Isabel admire the altars at the annual Día de los Muertos celebration.



Enrique & Isabel Sánchez are pictured with Las Tesoros' Beatriz Llamas (Paloma del Norte) & Blanca Rodríguez (Blanca Rosa) at a Big Give event.



Isabel marched annually at the International Women's Day March (2008 pictured) often leading the procession. When arthritis slowed her down she invited marchers to enjoy a home cooked meal of pollo guisado and arroz at her home.



Mexican singer, Eugenia León, (in black), sang at the Empire Theater in 2009 as part of an Esperanza series that brought her, Lila Downs & Susana Baca to San Antonio. With Eugenia are Graciela, her parents, Enrique & Isabel Sánchez & Bernard, their son—all assisted in these special events.

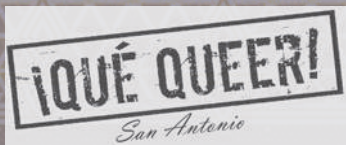


Isabel (center) joined in protests such as this one in front of the U.S. Federal Courthouse in support of the Free Speech Coalition that challenged the city's free speech ordinance.

abuela de la Esperanza



Isabel and Enrique donated food & conducted pláticas yearly at Paseo por el Westside celebrating the history & culture of San Antonio's Westside.



Isabel was at the Peace Market concessions stand every year selling her famous tamales, buñuelo corbatitas and cakes. In recent years, her daughter, Lety, (left), helped her with sales but in previous years many, many buena gente worked with her willingly including Coyote Phoenix (below).



El Grito de Esperanza

September 15 & 16 2000

I know that I have been very fortunate in being involved in a dream that was not mine, it was other people's dream.

I knew about the dream through my daughter, Graciela. It was a dream of several people who dreamt of a place for people to be able to meet, dance, sing, exhibit their art, a place which would not discriminate.

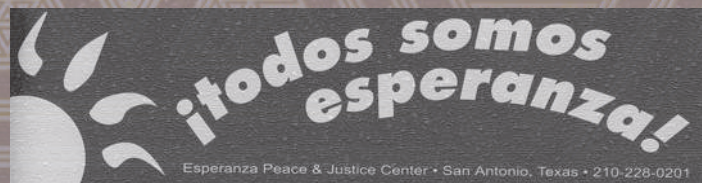
These people did not have money, only a deep vision and determination. It was hard, frustrating. Like me, I am sure people they talked to could not see that it could be possible since they had no money to invest. Each time Graciela went somewhere and did not get a response, she would talk to me. She also told me what other people were doing to make Esperanza a reality. This is how I got involved in their dream.

The time came when a place became available. Things began to take shape and through hard work, the Esperanza was created, thanks to these people who never gave up on their dream.

It was beautiful to be at the dedication on Flores Street and see what these people had accomplished through their efforts. Graciela had to go on to school but her joy was that the dream now was reality. She asked us, her parents, to support the Esperanza even though she would not be around for a while. We knew we would support Esperanza because our daughter asked us, but we also knew we would support Esperanza because we believe in what

Esperanza stands for, Justice for all!

—Isabel Sánchez



Angie Merla & Isabel often ran the kitchen at Casa de Cuentos during annual events like Paseo & Día de los muertos.

