



Inés Valdez aka Doña Ines, Mamá Ines

April 20, 1932 – June 219, 2026

Inés Valdez, mother, grandmother and great grandmother was part of *MujerArtes* in the late 90s and returned in the 2010s saying, “...seguiré aquí hasta donde yo pueda, porque en este espacio he podido plasmar mi vida en dedazos de barro y siento que dejaré algo bonito cuando ya no este aquí. Me siento orgullosa de lo que hago aquí, no le importa al mundo pero habrá alguien que si le improtará.”

She returned to *MujerArtes* for a time before the pandemic hit and was able to be part of the group in the new adobe building at the *Rincón-cito* for a bit. She returned because she felt she would leave a little bit of her life story in the clay pieces she built that would matter to someone.

As Buena gente, Doña Inés was active in *Esperanza* activities, marches and rallies. She was also part of *Fuerza Unida* as well *Domesticas Unidas*. Fiercely independent, Doña Inés lived out her life in her casita tending to her plants and her cats. The *Esperanza* staff, board and Buena gente will remember Doña Inés fondly and she will remain in our hearts. Condolences to her familia and comunidad.



Thank you for your BIG GIVE donations!



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We give thanks for all Buena Gente who have given over these many decades and who gave to the 2026 Big Give SA campaign, an annual giving opportunity, in which Esperanza has participated since 2014.

“Mil gracias” to each of you who gave abundantly to Big Give’s goal in 2026 that was \$26,000.

When we finish counting up the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollar bills, we will let you know how much was contributed this year. Change matters when it comes to donations and your donations will make change in the months and years to come. *Todos Somos Buena gente y Todos Somos Esperanza*. Buena Gente are the hope for our future. Gracias, gracias, gracias!

—Richard Aguilar, fundraising@esperanzacenter.org