



RIO GRANDE BORDERLAND

Advent 2021

My Friends,

As many of you know, the Diocese of the Rio Grande through the Rio Grande Borderland Ministries (RGBM), has become a leading voice in the Episcopal Church on issues relating to migrants and asylum seekers. The whole of the Church has seen our bravery and our obedience to the teachings of Jesus in our love for our migrant neighbors.

As a means of solidifying and growing this work, in 2020 we called Ms. Ana Reza to serve as our diocesan Bridge Chaplain. She began her ministry just two weeks prior to the first COVID shutdowns. Ana is one of the great unsung heroes of our migration work and someone we deeply treasure.

Over the last two years, Ana has worked closely with Padre Hector Trejo to assist him as he has sheltered over 1500 migrant families. Over the last year, with a slow opening of the border, Ana has worked to welcome and provide pastoral care to migrant families as they successfully made their Asylum Petition and arrived in El Paso. She has strengthened our relationships with partners both on the US and Mexican sides of the border. Her work with Episcopal Migration Ministries to train our congregations in how to be a neighbor to new asylum seekers and refugees in their communities has been invaluable.

Everything we do at RGBM is funded by the contributions of churches and donors from around the country. As we reach out to those congregations and individual donors at the end of this year, it is my hope that our own DRG community would discern supporting Ana's ministry among us, and the gifts she continues to bring to the diocese by directly contributing for to Ana's compensation for 2022 as a way of sharing and celebrating her important ministry.

On the reverse of this letter, you will find a simple summary of support. Please know how grateful we all are for your prayerful support of this important ministry.

Peace,

The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Hunn

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande