

## **El Valle Women's Collaborative Programs to Promote Economic Development and Health and Wellness throughout the Pecos River Valley**

### **BUENO PARA TODOS COOPERATIVE**

**Theme: Revitalize the valley as a rural corridor for sustainable land use and financial viability.**

This project actively supports individual participation and group cooperation, produces agricultural products in a sacred and sustainable way and creates relationships between buyers and growers to promote wellness and prosperity for our community and families.

### **BUSINESS/NOT- FOR-PROFIT INCUBATOR**

**Theme: Support economic development access to services.** This project would offer technical assistance and infrastructure support to for-profit and not-for-profit businesses in the start-up phase.

### **CHURCH TAPESTRY PROJECT**

**Theme: Develop the valley as rural corridor for the arts and history.** Promote/revitalize, the tapestry hanging in the Villanueva Church. The tapestry, completed in 1976 by community members, consists of 41 embroidered panels depicting the traditions, life and history in the valley.

### **CYBER CAFÉ/INTERNET COFFEE HOUSE**

**Theme: Support communication and access to resources.** This is a topic that continues to come up in discussions, suggesting a widespread and ongoing need felt by many in the community. A coffee house with Internet access could provide a central meeting point and workspace for residents in the valley, as well as offering an opportunity for Internet access to those without home service. The café could become a key anchor institution in the valley, drawing others into the region and increasing the market for local area businesses. If developed as an independent business, the café could also be an opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

### **EL VALLE ART TOUR**

**Theme: Revive the valley as rural corridor for arts and agriculture.** The valley is home to many artisans. The annual art tour that ran for many years is no longer happening. Reviving or re-inventing the tour would be another step in invigorating the art scene in the valley.

### **LAND-USE/FARMER EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**Theme: Retain farmland and agricultural practice in the valley by attracting new farmers.** This program addresses concerns about the dwindling use of productive farmland and the lack of young growers interested in food production in the area. The idea is to put fallow and unused valley land into production by attracting new farmers to the region through an exchange program.

### **LAVENDER PROJECT**

**Theme: Develop valley as rural corridor for arts and agriculture; generate income for growers and artisans.**

### **MICRO-LENDING PROJECT**

**Theme: Support economic development in the valley through micro-loans to entrepreneurs.** Micro-lending has become an increasingly important way to support the development and growth of small businesses within communities. Loans are for small amounts (generally less than \$5,000 and often under

\$2,000), targeting entrepreneurs with specific needs for new or fledgling businesses. Technical assistance would also be offered as part of this program.

#### **MOBILE SERVICES VAN**

**Theme: Improve community services, communication and health.** A mobile van could provide an array of services to include, distribution/exchange of locally grown food and other essential items, and a mobile art center (viewing, creative/educational opportunities). Other potential services could include informal elder and family support, Wi-Fi for internet connectivity, HIV testing, needle exchange, etc.

#### **PECOS RIVER RIPARIAN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR**

**Theme: Develop the valley as a rural corridor for sustainable land use.** The establishment and development of a riparian conservation corridor is related to the larger goal of preserving and highlighting the unique character of, and assets in, this area. This vision could include the restoration, preservation and protection of all the landscapes that play an important role in the valley, including the traditional wild ecosystems.

#### **SHARING OUR STORIES**

**Theme: Collect and preserve the stories of the rich culture, history and traditions of this rural corridor.** This project would be modelled after StoryCorps (<https://storycorps.org>), adapting it for our rural environment.

#### **WELLNESS PROJECT**

**Theme: Support family and community health and wellness.** This project will offer workshops in health related topics such a healthy eating and the importance of exercise and will increase access to a cadre of practitioners. There are many practitioners (herbalists, massage therapists, midwives, chiropractors, etc.) residing in the valley; however, it is difficult to access their services for a number of reasons. This program would identify the barriers to access and work to overcome those barriers. This project will be carried out in collaboration with the local clinic.

#### **YOUTH FARM TO MARKET**

**Theme: Revitalize and stimulate agriculture in the valley on a more sustainable model through youth engagement.** This project has been successfully underway for several years. Collaborating with the Valley School (K-8) is an activity that has not yet come to fruition.