

# ABARA HOUSE

## A BORDERLAND CENTER



DEAR FRIEND,

ABARA RECENTLY HOSTED 75 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, FROM 15 MEXICAN STATES, AT ABARA HOUSE IN COLLABORATION WITH UTEP. THE STUDENTS CREATED BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK THEY DEDICATED TO THE HISTORIC HACIENDA. THE ARTWORK IS CURRENTLY HANGING THROUGHOUT THE SPACE, AND OUR TEAM RECENTLY NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE STUDENTS WROTE, "**TOGETHER WE ARE HOME.**"

THIS PHRASE MOVES US AS WE REFLECT ON THE REALITY THAT YES, TOGETHER, WE ARE HOME, NO MATTER OUR BACKGROUND, CULTURE, OR JOURNEY. WE ARE MADE FOR ONE ANOTHER, OR IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION OF UBUNTU: "I AM BECAUSE WE ARE."

AS WE REFLECT ON ABARA HOUSE, LOCATED ON ONE OF THE OLDEST CROSSINGS ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER, AND, AS SO MANY HISTORIES CONVERGE INTO ONE PLACE, WE BELIEVE NOW MORE THAN EVER THAT THIS FUTURE BORDERLAND CENTER WILL BE A GATHERING PLACE TO INSPIRE CONNECTIONS ACROSS DIVIDES FOR NARRATIVE, SYSTEMS, AND PERSONAL CHANGE.

AS A BORDERLAND CENTER, THIS 4-ACRE SITE WILL INCLUDE THE HISTORIC HACIENDA, ADOBE DESERT CHAPEL, OFFICES/TRAINING SPACE, MARKETPLACE, AND OVERFLOW HOUSING FOR REFUGEES AND VISITING GROUPS FROM AROUND THE UNITED STATES.

**WE ENVISION ABARA HOUSE JOINING A FAMILY OF PEACE BUILDING CENTERS AROUND THE WORLD WITH A SHARED PASSION FOR THEMES SUCH AS NON-VIOLENT PEACE BUILDING, CONTEMPLATIVE ACTIVISM, MUTUAL FLOURISHING, AND HEALING ETHNIC WOUNDS.**

WE KNOW THAT THIS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PROJECT WILL REQUIRE ALL SORTS OF VOICES WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD COMPLETION. FOR WAYS TO ENGAGE OR GIVE, PLEASE REACH OUT ANYTIME TO CHAT OR MEET AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. ATTACHED IS OUR LATEST UPDATE AS WE PREPARE FOR 2023.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND PARTNERSHIP.

WITH LOVE,

*Sami DiPasquale*

PS - WE ARE WORKING TO CONTINUE **WIDENING OUR CIRCLE OF PARTNERS** AS WE DIVERSIFY OUR INCOME BLENDED WITH TRADITIONAL FUNDRAISING. **WE INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING US TO ANYONE YOU RECOMMEND** WHO MIGHT HAVE INTEREST IN SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT.

# ABARA HOUSE

## SUMMARY + BACKGROUND



IN AUGUST OF 2021, FRIENDS OF ABARA HELPED SECURE HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITH A DREAM FOR "ABARA HOUSE" LOCATED AT THE HISTORIC LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT.

THIS PROPERTY SITS DIRECTLY ON ONE OF THE OLDEST KNOWN CROSSINGS OF THE RIO GRANDE RIVER, AN ANCIENT INDIGENOUS PATHWAY PRE-DATING SPANISH COLONIZATION IN 1598, LATER BECOMING THE FAMED "CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO." IT REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL LOCATIONS IN THE REGION.

**WE HOPE TO HONOR THE STORIES OF THIS LAND BY EXPLORING OUR HISTORIES, THE BEAUTY AND THE TRAGEDY, AND THE STORIES THAT ARE YET TO BE WRITTEN.**

ROOTING OUR WORK OUT OF THESE HISTORIC PROPERTIES PROVIDES A GATHERING SPACE TO LEAN INTO OUR MISSION, AS WE INSPIRE CONNECTIONS ACROSS DIVIDES. ABARA HOUSE WILL BE A SACRED SPACE AND GUEST HOUSE FOR PEOPLE OF PEACE TO CONNECT, LEARN AND ENGAGE, PARTICULARLY IN RESPONSE TO STORIES ON THE MARGINS.

**IN THIS LIMINAL SPACE WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCERN OUR ROLE IN SOCIETY, AND TO CREATIVELY RESPOND TO THE COMPLEX ISSUES FACING THE WORLDS' BORDERLANDS TODAY.**

WE CURRENTLY HOST HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS EACH YEAR FROM A VARIETY OF NONPROFITS, CHURCHES, BOARDS, DENOMINATIONS, UNIVERSITY GROUPS, AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS FOR BORDER ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCES. ABARA HOUSE WILL ALSO SERVE AS A PLACE OF HOSPITALITY FOR THESE GROUPS AND AS OVERFLOW HOUSING FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES.

**ABARA WILL ENTER A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN 2023 TO PURCHASE AND RESTORE THE PROPERTIES.**