



IAF Grants along the Mexican Border

No. 34

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to nongovernmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its current Mexico portfolio contains 27 active grants worth a total of \$9,378,146. The IAF supports eight grantees, who received a total of \$2,397,554, along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte, A. C. (FCFNAC), Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, \$315,000 over three years. FCFNAC implements an innovative community participatory philanthropy process and supports improvement projects managed by community groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), benefiting more than 1,000 low-income people.

Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, A.C. (FESAC), Hermosillo, Sonora, \$372,500 over three and one-half years. FESAC is mobilizing more than \$630,000 from businesses and other private sources to support projects managed by community groups and NGOs along Mexico's border with Arizona. A foundation whose membership consists of 6,000 business leaders, FESAC works in partnership with civic leaders and NGOs to improve the quality of life for 1,200 residents in the state of Sonora.



Jeff Flory

Paty Leyva and Juanita Lopez at work in the Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia workshop in Piedras Negras, Coahuila as they prepared over 1,000 cotton bags and 1,100 t-shirts for export to the United States.

IAF Border Partnership

The IAF is a founding member of the U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership announced on March 17, 2003. The Partnership, a coalition of nine national and regional foundations and 20 community foundations, is making \$20 million available to fight poverty on both sides of the border.

Donors will contribute \$10 million, to be matched by the border community foundations for projects, to build and strengthen organizational leadership and local grant programs.

Other Partnership members include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ford Foundation, Fundación Gonzalo Río-Arronte, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Houston Endowment, McCune Charitable Foundation, Meadows Foundation and the Mott Foundation. For a list of community foundations and additional information, please see www.borderpartnership.org.

Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C. (FIC), Baja California, \$400,000 over three years. FIC is strengthening its partnership with business, NGO and philanthropic leaders; mobilizing \$400,000 to match the IAF funding; bolstering the organizational capacity of more than 200 NGOs and microbusinesses throughout the state; and supporting more than 60 small development projects managed by these organizations to benefit 1,800 people.

Fundación UABC, A.C. (FUABC), Mexicali, Baja California, \$425,550 over three years. FUABC is fostering alliances among universities, businesses, community organizations and governments. The project is supporting microenterprise development in rural areas, directly benefiting approximately 270 low-income women and their families; improving organizational capacity for more than 90 community groups and NGOs as well as promoting the development of stronger relationships with the Imperial Valley in California.



Ricardo Hernández

Pronatura Noreste, A.C. (PNE), Matamoros, Tamaulipas, \$290,600 over three years. The PNE grant is being used toward preserving the ecosystem of the Laguna Madre de Tamaulipas through alternative self-employment for fishing families, environmental education and ecological latrines. Stronger community organizations, reduced dependence on harmful fishing practices and the lagoon's improved sustainability, will benefit 2,700 community members directly and 10,000 other near-by residents indirectly.

Terra Peninsular, A.C. (Terra), Ensenada, Baja California, \$345,270 for three years. Terra is implementing a transnational project providing 350 marginalized Mexicans of indigenous Yuma descent the opportunity to strengthen their organizations, to implement income-generating projects and to promote the environ-

mental sustainability of fragile areas in northern Baja California, Mexico. This project targets the expanded production and sale of crafts and the growth of ecotourism businesses through the application of ecologically-conscious community management.

Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense, A.C. (FECHAC), Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, \$218,000 over two-years. FECHAC is strengthening democratic participation internally and in two marginalized zones of Ciudad Juárez. FECHAC, a nongovernmental organization of business people, is converting into a community foundation with a sub-grant program to encourage citizen participation in resolving community problems.

Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia (MDJ), Piedras Negras, Coahuila, \$59,300 over two years. MDJ is strengthening their worker-run garment enterprise on the U.S.-Mexican border, developing management and production skills as well as expanding their markets and labor force.

FESAC in Action

IAF grantee Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, A.C. (FESAC) has played a pivotal role in building the first emergency trauma center in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, an area bordering southern Arizona.

FESAC worked to mobilize construction funds and forge agreements among hospital managers and government, political, civic and business leaders in Nogales and the state of Sonora. The new facility will house equipment funded with \$365,000 from U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) channeled through a hospital in Tucson, Arizona. The center should alleviate some of the pressure on Arizona hospitals. Currently the IAF supports FESAC's promotion of local development in Nogales, Hermosillo, Ciudad Obregón, Agua Prieta and other Sonoran cities.

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