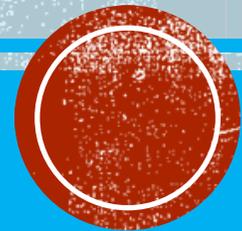


# ALONG THE BORDER

Mary Ann Drake

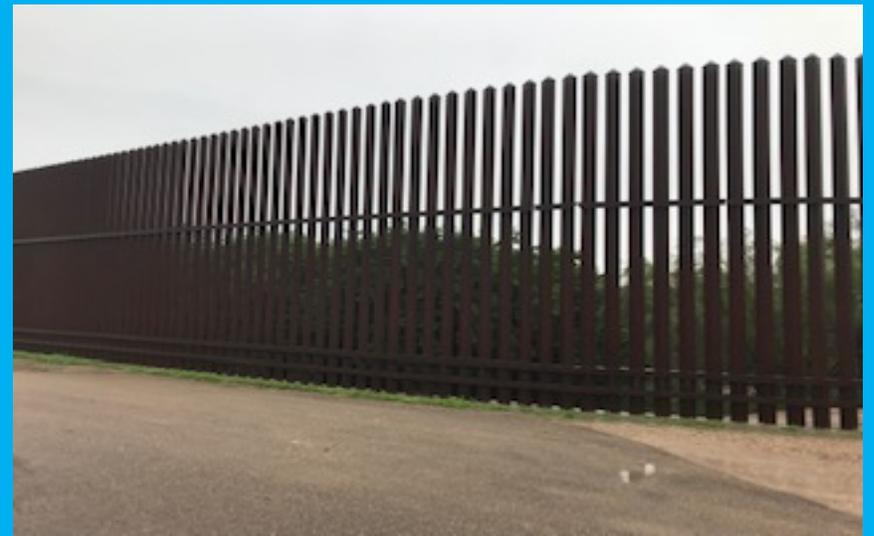
ACHNE Education Committee Plenary

May, 2019



# WHY?

- My involvement began with US family separation policy announced last summer along the US/Mexico border
- 3 trips
  - August, 2018 (by myself)
  - October, 2018 (**faculty** in Legal Studies and Spanish, **students** in Nursing and Journalism)
  - March, 2019 (**faculty** Legal Studies, Spanish, Photojournalism, **students** in Nursing and Legal Studies)





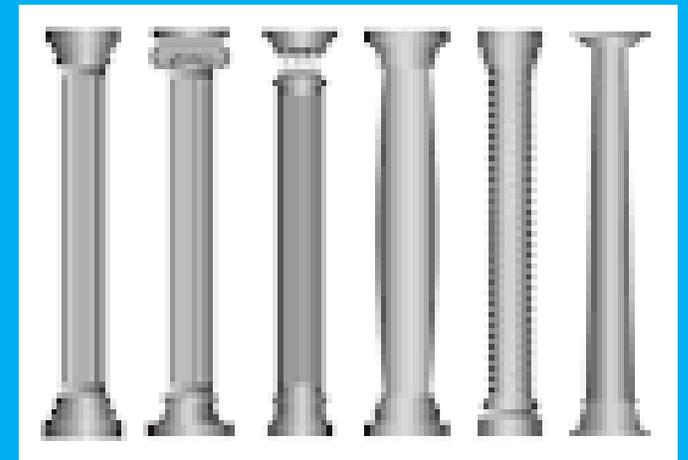
# ARISE

- Began 30 years ago by a Mercy religious sister
  - Empowering women and children in the colonias along the border



# COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

- ARISE organizes their work within 7 social justice pillars:
  - Environment/Health
  - Immigration
  - Education
  - Housing/Infrastructure
  - Civic Engagement
  - Leadership/Spiritual Development
  - Youth Programs



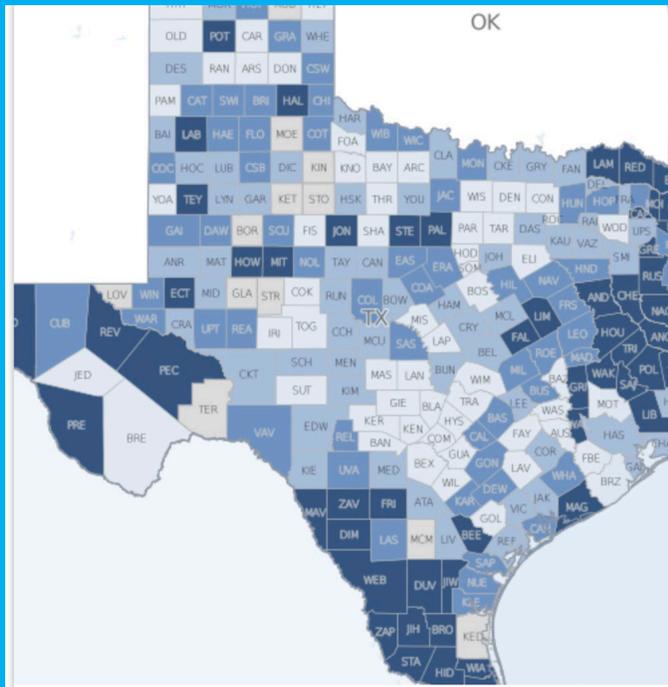
# TEXAS COLONIAS

- Colonias first started in the 1950s,
- The colonias lack many critical services (sewage, lights, paved streets, emergency services)
- One-fifth of the 500,000 colonia residents in Texas are children, most of which are US citizens.
- Many families stay in the colonias for generations
  - 61 percent of residents fall below or near the poverty line
  - 55 percent of adults earned less than a high school diploma
  - 45 percent lack English proficiency, as compared to less than 10 percent of residents in the US overall.
    - <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/11/living-edges-life-colonias-texas-161103082854630.html>



# COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

## Health Factors



- High teen births
- 41% of children live in poverty
- 30% uninsured
- Low numbers of PCP, dentists, and mental health providers
- High unemployment

■ [Countyhealthranking.org](http://Countyhealthranking.org)



# HUMANITARIAN RESPITE CENTER MCALLEN, TEXAS

Administered by  
Catholic Charities

Served 100,000 since  
opening in June, 2014

Not unusual to receive  
600 – 900 people/a day

In April, U.S. Border  
Patrol reports they have  
apprehended 99000  
crossing the border



# HEALTH EQUITY

- Health equity exists when individuals have equal opportunities to be healthy.
- Health inequities caused by uneven distribution of SDOH

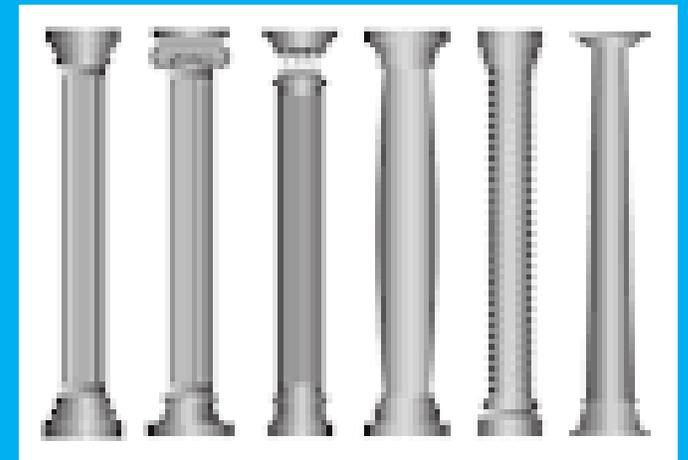


# Community-Driven Solutions



# COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

- ARISE organizes their work within 7 social justice pillars:
  - Environment/Health
  - Immigration
  - Education
  - Housing/Infrastructure
  - Civic Engagement
  - Leadership/Spiritual Development
  - Youth Programs



# CULTURE OF HEALTH



## MAKING HEALTH A SHARED VALUE

- \* Work along with the community
- \* Focusing work on 7 pillars



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- \* Work with members
- \* They have the lead



## GOOD HEALTH IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

- Health education & screening
- Donna Lake



## START BEHIND, STAY BEHIND.

- \* Focus on children and adolescents in the community
- \* Strong value on education



# IMMIGRATION AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

- Immigration is both a consequence of the social determinants of health and a social determinant of health its own right (Castaneda).
- One-quarter of the U.S. population consists of immigrants or the children of immigrants (Pew Research Center, 2015).
- “There is nothing natural about human displacement.”
  - National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine (2018)







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