



## December 2022

Last week a group from Holland went to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico where we saw, firsthand, the current challenges and experience of the people waiting at the border.

We saw a large group of Venezuelans- hundreds of tents along the border and the riverbank.

They can see the border. The wall is there. But it is built in such a way that you can see the other side easily. From the Mexican side, you can see US hotels, schools, cars, semis, and individuals walking on the street. Their destination is in sight, but they are waiting- without shelter, without access to bathrooms, without needed resources. They continue to wait.



### **Frontera de Gracia is expanding... a challenge and an opportunity**

Frontera de Gracia (FdG) is part of a network of shelters regulated by the local and national government to serve the immigrant community. Over the last four months, four shelters in the city have closed due to a lack of funding and leadership. The leaders of the network, recognizing the integrity and careful management of Frontera de Gracia, approached Pastor Samuel, asking if he and his team would consider managing two of the closed sites so the facilities can be used, specifically, for single mothers and their children.



Within the next couple of weeks, we will know whether or not FdG will have two additional shelters. If this agreement goes through, FdG will move their guests to the new shelters, and will have the opportunity to make much needed renovations to their current facilities. The challenge for FdG will be serving a larger population in two individual sites, continuing to lead in this capacity for the next three to five years, after which they would return to their own facilities.

These shelters belong to congregations that are part of another denomination and it is an opportunity for evangelical churches

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to work alongside each other in this ministry. The facilities are fully equipped with beds, bathrooms, and recreational areas for their guests. Frontera de Gracia would be responsible for providing food, clothing, toiletries, and medicine for individuals in their care.

### **Group Trips**

We are grateful for the opportunity to bring groups to visit the border and see what God is doing through Frontera de Gracia. It is hard to understand the daily reality of those living and waiting in a border town, but seeing it firsthand gives us the opportunity to start to understand their needs. For our brothers and sisters in Christ who receive our visitors and serve at Frontera de Gracia, it is always a blessing to know that they are not alone in this ministry.

### **Partner with us.**

Would you prayerfully consider supporting Frontera de Gracia through this potential expansion? Here are a few ways you can help.

**Pray:** For God's will to be done with the current shelters, for wisdom for the Frontera de Gracia team, and for the individuals who are daily seeking refuge at the border.

**Give:** We are currently asking for funds to help meet the immediate, tangible needs for individuals in the shelters. Money raised will go towards clothing, medicine, and toiletries for individuals in the shelter. You can give here: [www.rca.org/lopez](http://www.rca.org/lopez)

**Come:** Our hope is to bring three or four groups in 2023 to see the work that Frontera de Gracia is faithfully doing. Would you join us? Contact me at [alopez@rca.org](mailto:alopez@rca.org) for more information.

Our next learning trips to Juarez, Mexico are in 2023: February 16-20, March 31-April 5 (full already), November 8-11

Angel Lopez