



25 years making a difference in people's lives

In 2007, EPES is celebrating 25 years of working for health, dignity and justice in poor communities in Latin America. Celebrations stretched from south to north, starting with a wonderful concert by John McCutcheon in Minneapolis on March 10, attended by hundreds of EPES' friends and supporters, including Rev. Rafael Malpica, Executive Director of the Division for Global Mission of the ELCA. John McCutcheon also visited EPES in March to see for himself the work he supports through his art. In December, renowned singer-songwriter Holly Near and legendary Chilean group, Inti-Illimani, will wind up the anniversary year with a concert in a stadium near EPES' headquarters in Santiago. Co-hosted by the local mayor, the concert will bring together over a thousand people, including church leaders, local authorities, health promoters and national and international friends of EPES.



Dr. Marcelo Venegas (second from left) in the shantytown La Bandera with (from left to right): Rosario Castillo, Executive Director of EPES; Monica Maldonado and Jessica Pino, long-time health promoters; Karen Anderson, EPES founder and board chair; and folk musician, John McCutcheon.

Having begun under the brutal Pinochet dictatorship, we are proud of our 25-year history and deeply grateful to all of you who have supported and encouraged our work. EPES continues to **improve the lives of over 150,000 individuals** annually through direct action and outreach, at an **average cost of barely \$2 per person**.

EPES Highlights from 2007

- In conjunction with the Lutheran Church in Chile, EPES organized a 3-day training and planning **workshop on HIV/AIDS for the Lutheran churches of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru**;
 - A day-long conference on the invisible epidemic of HIV/AIDS in women brought together **70 teachers, health workers and women from poor communities**;
 - **180 young people** participated in ongoing workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention during October and November;
 - A dialogue on women and tobacco brought together **45 participants from throughout Chile** to discuss how to tackle the high prevalence of smoking in Chilean women – the 4th highest in the world and the first among adolescent girls in the region. Funded by the American Cancer Society and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC), the meeting was the first of its kind in Chile and generated enormous interest among tobacco control experts throughout the region;
 - With over **100 health professionals and representatives of community organizations**, EPES launched the commemoration of our 25 years with a seminar on women's mental health and violence led by Spanish psychiatrist Dra Ana Tavora;
 - **Twenty-two professionals from five public health clinics** participated in an EPES training course on HIV/AIDS counseling.
- As a part of the training process, over 2000 educational brochures on Women and AIDS developed by EPES were distributed in the community;
 - EPES Concepción provided educational trainings on issues such as healthy living, nutrition, sexuality and mental health for **120 seniors** and health professionals working at **rural health posts**, health centers and hospitals;
 - EPES Concepción trained **100 community leaders from 4 communities** in the 8th region about health rights. These leaders are currently carrying out promotional activities in their communities;
 - EPES' Fund for Women's Health continues to fund projects by **20 community groups in Concepción and Santiago** on topics such as adolescent sexuality, breast cancer, menopause and reproductive rights;
 - EPES' Educational Resource Centers for Action (CREA) continue to serve communities in Santiago and Concepción, and are used by **4900 groups and individuals** a year;
 - In collaboration with Chile's Ministry of Health, EPES produced educational materials to disseminate national and regional-level results of a national survey on quality of life; **30,000 accessible, comic-book-style reports were printed for national distribution and 15,000 were distributed regionally**.

EPES was born 25 years ago inspired by a vision of quality and fairness in health care for the poor and the belief that together we can make a difference. Thank you for helping us to make a difference in so many lives.