



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM EPES: YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

We are deeply grateful to the many individual supporters who generously contribute to the mission and work of EPES through our U.S. partner, Action for Health in the Americas (AHA). We are also thankful for the board of directors of AHA who so generously give of their time to lead and coordinate all the activities that make AHA possible. We truly could not do this without you!

As we reflect on our community of donors, we are especially moved by the many long-time friends who continue to believe in and support our work. Many of you have visited us, joined anniversary celebrations in Chile, organized or participated in fundraisers, made donations in honor of loved ones, encouraged others to give, and sent messages of encouragement, care, and solidarity.

We truly appreciate all that you do. Your support is what sustains and strengthens our work every day.

In recognition of the breadth of this generosity, we would like to highlight two examples of exceptional support: Melanie Nelson, a major donor and member of the AHA board of directors, and Carla Olson who motivated and invited a group of friends to support a dedicated fund to provide scholarships for the EPES International School. Their initiative reflects the spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines our donor community.

With gratitude,
Sonia Covarrubias
Executive Director
Fundación EPES

THANK YOU

I support EPES because it proves what is possible when people are trusted to lead change in their own communities.

EPES is democracy in action — people identifying their own needs, raising their own voices, and building solutions together. Rather than imposing answers from the outside, EPES listens, mentors, and walks alongside communities as they create healthier, safer, and more hopeful lives for themselves and their neighbors.

Its work reaches deeply into the realities people face every day: violence, isolation, poor health, environmental challenges, and lack of opportunity. Through community leadership, education, and mutual support, EPES helps transform those challenges into collective action and lasting change.

Programs include:

- Nonviolence education and support for women
- Leadership development
- Support for immigrants and families
- Community gardening and environmental initiatives
- Nutrition and lifelong health education
- No-smoking education
- Community clean-up efforts
- General health and wellness education
- And much more

What makes EPES so powerful is that the priorities come directly from the people themselves. Communities decide what matters most, and EPES provides the financial, educational, and technical support to help turn vision into reality.

This is grassroots empowerment with real, measurable impact — not charity done to people, but change created with people.

Through its popular education model, EPES nurtures dignity, confidence, leadership, and solidarity. It reminds us that lasting change happens when communities are seen, heard, and empowered to shape their own future.

That is why I proudly support EPES.

— Melanie Nelson



MELANIE NELSON

I have known Karen Anderson literally all my life, growing up across the street from each other, with our fathers as business partners. When Karen left for Chile, I felt both trepidation and pride—pride that she was following her passion and pursuing a vision of starting EPES: an approach to education rooted in listening to community needs and empowering people to develop their own solutions.

Over the years, I have followed the growth and success of EPES and offered support when I could, but it was at EPES' 40th anniversary celebration that I was struck anew by what an extraordinary program it has become. Each year, EPES partners with communities to identify current concerns and work collaboratively to meet those needs. The program has now expanded into an international school, bringing its mission and philosophy to other countries—work that is urgently needed and deserving of continued support.

I also realized I am not alone in following EPES' journey. Karen's "family" of siblings and hometown friends are deeply proud of what EPES has accomplished and want to ensure that its vision and mission continue. Her "sisters and brothers" were especially excited to contribute to the Owatonna Sisters and Brothers Scholarship, which sponsors international and national students for the school held each January.

It is a privilege to help extend EPES' mission across borders, carrying forward more than 40 years of health education and community wisdom to new settings. We are profoundly proud of all the EPES team has accomplished and the thousands of lives they have touched.

— Carla Olson

"Sister" of Karen Anderson



CARLA OLSON