

Mission: El Paso!

Greg and Jackie Berdych

"Imagine...what God can do"

No better words can be used to describe the vision and work God is doing at this location and the heart of Chuck and Renee Parish.

There is a board in a dedicated prayer room that casts the vision:



- Gate #1 – Clothing Closet
- Gate #2 – Food Pantry
- Gate #3 – Community Garden
- Gate #4 – Senior Center
- Gate #5 – Home for Unwed Parents
- Gate #6 – Home for Youth
- Gate #7 – Thrift Store

Mission: El Paso! has ministry partners who donate household, clothing, and other sundry items. The fellowship hall was the storage area for all the clothing items and the sanctuary was the holding place for all the other donated items. Everything that came in needed to be tested, checked for parts, or deemed wearable.

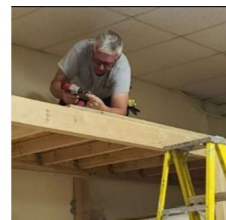
Our task:

- Build shelving along 3 sides of the fellowship hall
- Wash, process, and label/store all the clothing
- Move the items in the sanctuary into the fellowship hall for processing
- Open up the sanctuary for services to start in the fall
- Assist in collecting donations from ministry partners
- Miscellaneous

In addition to some small repair and building projects in the church, Greg was tasked in building the shelves. They were 4 feet wide in 8-foot sections, 5 feet between the shelves.



Another project we added to the list of things was a laundry table large enough to process the large amount of incoming clothing quickly with sorting bins and an area for washing and folding.



The Clothing Closet was my focus. The room was already designated with shelves built along the wall, but it was being used as storage. The clothing in the fellowship hall was in boxes and bins and in piles under and over tables all waiting to be washed, sorted, labeled, and hung.



Things we prayed for and God answered:

- Someone to repair the numerous bikes donated
- Someone to step up and take over the clothing closet after we were gone
- Funds to build the shelving units
- Housing for Chuck and Renee
- Impact on the community
- Interest in attending the church once services start up
- Immediate help as needed when Greg needed a second pair of hands building the shelves



Patricia who is taking over the clothing closet

We were humbled when someone stopped and asked to take the broken toys we were throwing out. She said there is a school in Juarez where the kids would be thrilled to have them. Or when the mother of a volunteer asked if she could take the items to her home area (also Juarez) because they have nothing and they make their homes out of cardboard boxes, so a little wear and tear on clothing means nothing to them.

It was humbling and exciting to play a small part in making a large impact to meet the needs of the local community. We also got to see God working in the church, the mission and in Chuck and Renee's life.

We plan to go back next January and February (2022) and unless God takes us in another direction this will be a yearly trip. It will be exciting to see what God has in store for us and this ministry in the coming years.