



MIGRANT HEALTH SERVICE-LEARNING PILOT

Tucson, Arizona
May 28-June 6, 2022

PILOT IDEA

2020: First trip planned to Casa Alitas but cancelled due to COVID two days before departure!

2022: Moira visited Tucson and revived the idea & added some experiences with migrant-serving organizations



CONCEPT

- **INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM:** med students/faculty, residents, public health students/faculty
- **EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE BORDER HEALTH EXPERIENCE THROUGH:**
 - Pre-departure training (expectations, PsychFirstAid, desert prep, team agreements)
 - shared living space (airbnb)
 - Service learning at migrant shelter (Casa Alitas)
 - Border exploration w/Tucson humanitarian orgs.
 - Assigned brief presentations and discussion (Policies, Gender, Desert Challenges, Children, Trauma, Language Justice)
 - Daily Guided Reflection over shared meals
 - Final Integrative Paper



GROUP LIFE

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS



CASA ALITAS



- Casa Alitas is a program of Arizona's Catholic Community Services org
- Provide assistance to migrants who have just been granted asylum cases
 - COVID testing and vaccines, food, clothing, temporary shelter, assistance in getting to sponsor family (e.g., transport to airport)
- Supported by volunteers

TUCSON SAMARITANS



- A people of conscience and faith who render humanitarian aid to migrants in distress in the Tucson Sector of the Arizona/Mexico border.
- Thorough training
- Water runs, look for migrants in need of aid/support
- 2022: 318 migrants encountered

HUMANE BORDERS



- Mission: to save desperate people from death by dehydration and exposure and to create a just and humane environment in the borderlands.
- Almost exclusively volunteer run
- Water stations throughout the Sonoran Desert
 - 55-gallon blue plastic barrels with spigots
- Water runs, ID trips, Casa Esperanza (Sasabe, Mexico)

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIES













FINAL EXCURSION: ARIZONA DESERT MUSEUM



2023 MIGRANT HEALTH SERVICE LEARNING

PLANS

Team-taught
Course: Dr. Laura
Torres Villa (Gillings
SPH) & Dr. Moira
Rogers (OGHE)

May 26-June
4, TUCSON
EXPERIENCE – Dr.
Evan Ashkin to join
as second
OGHE/SOM
faculty

Clinical Rotations
& PH Practicums –
2 weeks continuing
on from Tucson
experience (limited
number
of participants)

APPLICATIONS:
open Nov. 1, due
Nov 15 (& course
registration tba
shortly)



QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

Come see us! 1002 Bondurant

Moira_rogers@med.unc.edu