



CREATING TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH WOMEN IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

ARISE ADELANTE is a Mercy-sponsored organization that empowers women living in low-income communities in the Rio Grande Valley to attain a better life for themselves, their families, and their community. Sister Carmen Armenta (Monroe IHM) is accompanying a group of women in one of ARISE's programs, teaching an arts and crafts class. The women in Sister Carmen's class are mostly Mexican, and many are undocumented.



Sister Carmen and the women have formed a trusting relationship, sharing what is happening in their lives and in the lives of their families. The activities strengthen a sense of community and foster talents and personal development. The women are delighted to learn new skills, such as embroidering on plastic canvas and making cord rosaries. Sister Carmen is also teaching them how to pray the rosary for family and community intentions.

In addition to these weekly classes, Sister Carmen has visited the homes of ARISE families to help assess and address necessities. Sister Carmen hopes to continue these visits in the future.



Sister Carmen teaches her class to embroider on plastic canvas.



Sister Carmen and Sister Mary Filan visit the home of an ARISE family.