

Rick & Jean's Challenge . . .

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others in the Tucson (Arizona) Refugee Support Group, and also with a number of local faith communities to form CASA, Communities Aligned for Sanctuary Assistance. This group, meeting at Newark United Methodist Church, originally recruited Jean Peacock and David Stucky to work as volunteers in Tucson assisting the community there through the federal trial of the Sanctuary workers, including Rev. John Fife and Jim Corbett.

At the end of the year, Jean suggested the formation of a new project to continue the work, and that the name be changed from *Border Outreach Project* to *BorderLinks*. She mentioned a young man who had visited the border looking for a place to serve, and she sent us his resume. A group from the project supporting partnership, including Meeting Ground and Tabernacle United Church in Philadelphia met and decided to take a chance with this persistent volunteer who had just left seminary and was eager to serve the Lord!

We invited Rick to Clairvaux

Farm to spend some time so we could learn about him and look into his sincerity and motivation. We recall his immediate energy and charm – he pitched in from the beginning to help us complete the dining hall we were building. We confess that we did everything possible to discourage him, knowing that if he were to accept the challenge the road would not be easy. But Rick was not easily scared away, and he readily accepted the commitment to help organize the new BorderLinks project.

Meeting Ground and BorderLinks have continued to work together over the years, and for the past 10 years through the joined publication of *Loaves and Fishes*. It has been a rewarding and joyful partnership which has enhanced the mission of both. Working together reminds us that *la causa*, the cause, is one and world-wide.

Rick's energy is his vision, but his source is a deep-seated imagination and love which come from his personal faith commitment. Our prayers are with you, Rick and Jean, in your new endeavor for our Lord!



Rick with Schaunel at Clairvaux Farm

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YOU DON'T NEED A HOME TO VOTE



National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week September 28-October 2

Getting Started: Election Day is just a few months away. Now is the time to turn our attention to empowering our communities by ensuring that people are registered to vote and educated about the election process. The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Low Income Housing Coalition have joined together to invite our allies to hold events encouraging homeless and low income voter registration and civic participation during the week of September 26-October 2.

1. Contact Michael Stoops at NCH (mstoops@national-homeless.org, 202-737-6444 ext 19) or Katie Fisher (Katie@nlihc.org, 202-662-1530 ext 222) at NLIHC. They will help you connect with other organizations in your area and can send you toolkits or other resources you may need when planning your event.
2. Join forces with other organizations to co-sponsor an event. Contact other service providers or reach out to clients, residents, staff, community activists, and the board of elections to plan your voter registration event. Decide what kind of event will work best for you and the resources available to you.

Some ideas for events include:

- Hold a block party or a rally with refreshments, entertainment, and elected officials.
- Set up a voter registration booth in a "high traffic" area such as a grocery store or near a shopping mall.
- Have clients who are already registered go door-to-door in low income areas or visit various homeless shelters in the area.
- Host a candidate forum where clients can meet elected officials from different levels and areas of the government.
- Have a "watch party" with clients when there are televised debates or speeches.
- Sponsor an essay contest for clients to write essays about the importance of civic engagement and voting.

3. Plan a media outreach strategy so the candidates and community can be informed about the level of concern among the homeless population about issues important to the community.

4. Publicize your event to local homeless and low income people and other members of the community so they know where and when to show up to register to vote.

www.nationalhomeless.org/vote2004
www.nlihc.org/vrem