



HUMANE BORDERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



HUMANE BORDERS

Humane Borders, motivated by faith, seeks to create a humane and just border environment.

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Juanita Molina

Executive Director

Joel Smith

Operations Director

Working Toward Humane Borders

We offer you Humane Borders' first annual report, with humility and sadness. As we started to work on the report, some people expressed surprise that in our fifteen years of incorporated existence in Arizona, we had never produced an annual report. But the good people who founded Humane Borders as migrant deaths began to rise in the early years of this millennium, truly believed that they were organizing a temporary, intense effort to prevent as many deaths as possible in the desert. Surely, they thought, as the public and their representatives become aware of the unintended consequences of policies that shut down urban entry points, policies would be reconsidered and the remote crossings and deaths would stop.

Sadly, those idealistic founders of Humane Borders were wrong. U.S. government officials who had designed and implemented the policy were wrong. As former commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Doris Meissner, has said "We did believe that geography would be an ally to us. It was our sense that the number of people crossing the border through Arizona would go down to a trickle once people realized what it's like." The biggest tragedy, of course, is not that people made a mistake, but that the mistake was not corrected once it was realized. We, as a society, have failed to address the causes and effects of migration in a way that would remove or reduce the likelihood of death. Indeed, we see many public figures advocating for more of the same failed policies. So we realize we are in this for the long haul—as long as people are dying in the desert.

The Arizona-Sonora border is but one of many pinpricks on a worldwide map of despairing, dying migrants. Even we as write this, we see news reports of a boat with hundreds of migrants feared



Dinah Bear and Juanita Molina with water truck.

dead off the coast of Africa... more boats being pushed off toward Europe with no one at the controls... boats floating for months with hundreds of thirsty, starving, sick and dying migrants in Southeast Asia. There is a pattern—desperation, civil unrest, violence and then mass migration. From the wealthy receiving countries we see denial, rejection, and then a few individuals banding together to help save lives. Humane Borders is one such flicker of hope in southern Arizona.

Join us.

Dinah Bear
President

Juanita Molina
Executive Director

OUR WORK IN 2014: WATER STATIONS

PROVIDING FOR SAFER PASSAGE

Migrants traveling through the US-Mexico borderlands on their way north face many life-threatening challenges—challenges that have led to the deaths of more than 6,000 migrants over the past 20 years.



Humane Borders Water Truck

One of the greatest of these threats is limited access to water in the Sonoran Desert. Humane Borders' foremost priority and action has always been the establishment and maintenance of water stations to aid migrants in distress.

Currently we manage and assist in maintaining 38 water stations spread throughout northern Sonora, Mexico, and southern Arizona.

All of our water stations are established with permission of the landowner, in the case of private land, and land managers in the case of government property. Humane Borders follows a strict ethic of complying with all permit conditions, rules and regulations.

Where possible, we relocate stations to better meet migrant need. In certain areas, we also flag existing water sources so they can be better found and identified by those in distress.

In 2014, we maintained water stations in Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Organ Pipe

Cactus National Monument, Ironwood Forest National Monument, the City of Tucson, and on private land spread throughout southern Arizona. We also worked with Grupos Beta, an agency of the Mexican government, to maintain five stations in Sonora, Mexico, which we established in 2013. Humane Borders provides water for these stations, and Grupos Beta distributes the water where it is needed.

In 2014, we also flagged two water resources in Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and three in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, a very large refuge in the west desert.

Maintaining this network of life-saving water resources requires significant ongoing human resources. All of our water stations must be checked periodically for water quality, supply and needed repairs. Humane Borders and our operations manager, Joel Smith, rely heavily on volunteers for this essential work.

Outreach in 2014

Internationally acclaimed singer Lila Downs performed at the Rialto Theater in Tucson on August 25. Humane Borders worked with Downs at this performance to raise awareness about the plight of migrants and our work to provide humanitarian aid.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LILA DOWNS

BOARD PROFILE GARY WOLFE

Gary Wolfe, a board member and treasurer, began his involvement with Humane Borders in 2002 as a volunteer.

Wolfe had worked in San Jose, California, for 25 years as general manager of FET Test, Inc., a semiconductor test equipment manufacturer.

Upon retiring, he moved to Tucson in June, 2002. Almost immediately, Wolfe began volunteering his time for Humane Borders. He started riding along in the Humane Borders water truck for several



months before taking on the responsibility of a driver. After that he drove the Ironwood Forest water run for five years. In May 2009, Wolfe took on the role of treasurer for Humane Borders but he continues to drive water runs and do ride-a-longs as time permits. "This endeavor, along with regular volunteer activity with Habitat for Humanity, has been one of the most rewarding things I have done," Wolfe says. "The volunteers at Humane Borders are such a dedicated and focused group with a never-ending goal of removing death from the undocumented migration equation. I hope to continue with this organization until our services are no longer needed to save lives along the Arizona border."

OUR WORK IN 2014: DEATH MAPS

MAPPING A TRAGEDY

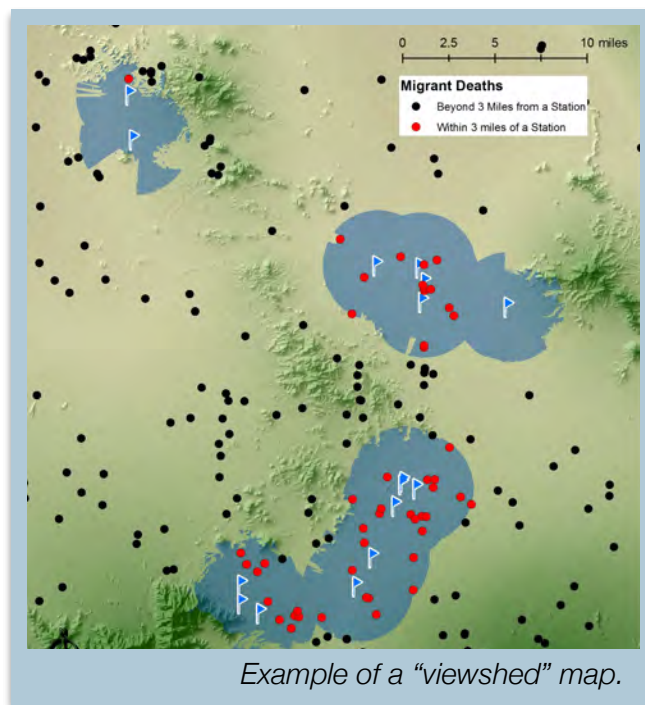
One of the cruelest realities of the borderlands' tragedy is the obscurity in which many unidentified migrants die. Humane Borders is working to change that.

Beginning in 2002, Humane Borders began collecting data on migrant deaths in Pima County, hoping to find clues to the identities of the many migrant bodies routinely found in the Arizona borderlands.

This effort grew into a partnership with the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner and in 2013, we unveiled the Arizona OpenGIS Initiative for Deceased Migrants. This is an interactive system that can be used by families of the missing and deceased, researchers, law enforcement, media and the general public. The system provides layers of information about the locations, timing and nature of migrant deaths in southern Arizona. It helps families track known pathways of loved ones; allows researchers and agencies to isolate seasons, years and locations of high migrant mortality; and provides the news media and public a better understanding of the hardships faced by migrants traveling a rugged and heavily militarized border zone.

"The Arizona OpenGIS initiative allows medical examiners, consular officials, law enforcement, scholars and the general public to ask questions about who Arizona's deceased migrants were, as well as when, where and how they died," says Humane Borders board member John F. Chamblee, who spearheads this project.

The mapping system has some strategic uses for Humane Borders. We maintain 30 to 40 individual water stations annually and we know these stations save lives, but migration patterns are constantly



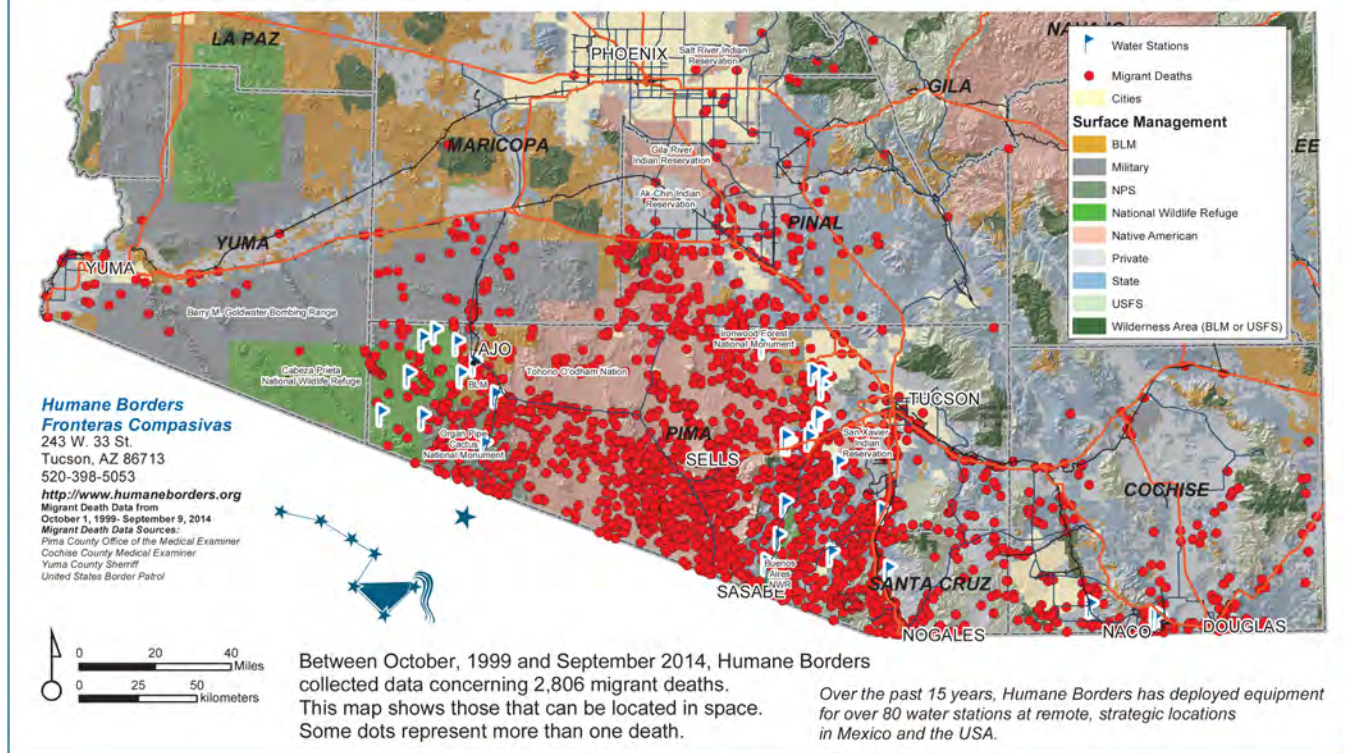
Example of a "viewshed" map.

changing and we have to be careful about where to put limited resources.

For example, Humane Borders uses the station location data and information about terrain and migration patterns to estimate the places where migrants are likely to be able to see our water stations. We compare these "viewsheds" to death locations to determine where water resources are most needed. We also look at water distribution to see which stations are being used heavily and which might no longer be in the current paths of migration. Since every station has the potential to save a life, the decision to close or move a station is agonizing and we do so only when water distribution drops for two or more consecutive years.

Our efforts yield results. Prior to 2004, 15 percent of the recorded deaths annually were within potential sight of our water stations. That year we installed more stations in strategic locations and the percentage of deaths within sight of our stations dropped to 8 percent or less, in some years as little as ½ percent. Data mapping has been a critical tool in achieving this life-saving success.

1999 - 2014 RECORDED MIGRANT DEATHS AND HUMANE BORDERS WATER STATIONS



You can access the Arizona Open GIS Initiative for Deceased Migrants at: www.humaneborders.info

BOARD PROFILE JOHN F. CHAMBLEE

Understanding the landscape of the Arizona borderlands and the geographic realities of migrant movements and perils is critical to the effectiveness of our humanitarian and outreach work. For this reason, Humane Borders was thrilled when John F. Chamblee joined our board of directors in 2007.



John is an adjunct professor of anthropology at the University of Georgia, specializing in digital mapping and the relationships between landscapes and human social boundaries. His life's work is dedicated to contributing to environmental conservation and human dignity through scientific and geographically-based research.

Our gratitude goes out to John's wife Ruby Basham, both for her dedicated work as a volunteer, and for getting John involved with Humane Borders. In 2003, Ruby recognized that the organization needed a geographic information system to manage migrant death maps. She suggested John join us on a water run that summer, and the rest is history—John has managed the migrant death mapping program ever since.

"As an anthropological archaeologist, I am committed to the use of data to provide as complete a picture as I can of how those who are no longer with us lived — and died," Chamblee says. "And as a board member of Humane Borders, I plan to keep the GIS platform available for as long as it is needed."

OUR WORK IN 2014: CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRATION

MOBILIZING IN A CRISIS

In 2014, unprecedented numbers of women and children made the long journey from Central America to the US-Mexico borderlands, seeking refuge from poverty and violence in their home countries. Humane Borders was there to aid them.



PHOTO BY FELIPE LUNDIN

Early in 2014, large numbers of Central American migrants began traveling north on a sojourn to the United States. Some percentage of migrants crossing the southern Arizona border have always been from Central American countries, but it soon became clear, this was different. An extraordinarily large number of people, including many children, were fleeing from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. On the ground investigations by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Conference of Catholic Bishops revealed the breakdown of civil society in these Central American nations had progressed to the point that many children could no longer attend school and whole families were trapped in their houses for fear of being killed by gangs.

By the time the travelers arrived at the United States border, they were fatigued and many were sick and needed immediate care. And many were too young to care for themselves. By late July, Customs and Border Protection identified more than

By late-July, more than 7,500 unaccompanied minors had crossed the border into the Tucson sector.

7,500 unaccompanied minors who had crossed the border into the Tucson sector. Many were then put in temporary, makeshift government facilities.

Humane Borders joined with other religious, civil and humanitarian organizations to develop an immediate response. That response began at the local bus station, with volunteers who brought food and clothing and arranged for medical assistance. As migrant numbers grew and more community members became involved, volunteers worked shifts throughout the day, providing a wide range of support. Donations of clothes, baby food, toys and books, and other items were gathered from far and wide. We came together as a community to meet this humanitarian crisis.

Humane Borders would like to thank the law firm of Holland and Hart, and in particular James Holtkamp and Janna Lewis, for their collection, organization and shipment of many boxes of wonderful donated goods to Humane Borders for distribution to women and children. And a big thanks to Jamie Iguchi, Nicole Day and finally Thomas Jensen, for their legal research and assistance.



Dinah Bear, Ed Asner and Rabbi Samuel Cohon at the Freedom Seder

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY FOR JUSTICE

The celebration of “freedom seders” began during the civil rights era of the 1960s, and these gatherings remain a powerful statement of solidarity in the struggle for justice.

On April 21, 2014, Humane Borders and Temple Emanuel, the oldest and largest Jewish Reform Temple in Tucson, came together to celebrate a traditional Passover seder with a modern focus.

Passover is the holiday that celebrates the Jewish people’s deliverance from bondage in the land of Egypt, a historical story of adversity and perseverance that resonates with many of the human rights challenges of our time. The freedom seder tradition began during Passover celebrations at the

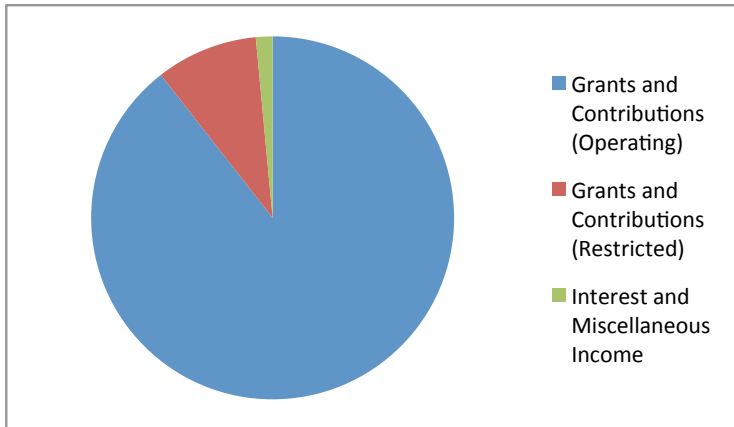
time of Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination in the tumultuous civil rights era of the 1960s. Some of these seders, usually called “freedom seders,” integrated the traditional telling of the Passover seder with reflections on current struggles for freedom and justice in the United States and around the world.

Today, as we all know, the struggle for justice continues. Our freedom seder was led by Rabbi Samuel Cohon and special guest Ed Asner, a seven-time Emmy Award winner.

Humane Borders members and volunteers participated and provided information about the ongoing crisis of migrant deaths in the desert. Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Tucson Border Patrol Sector Chief Manny Padilla also participated, as did the Rev. John E. Kitagawa, Rector of the St. Philips-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church and approximately 200 other community members.

Financial Report 2014

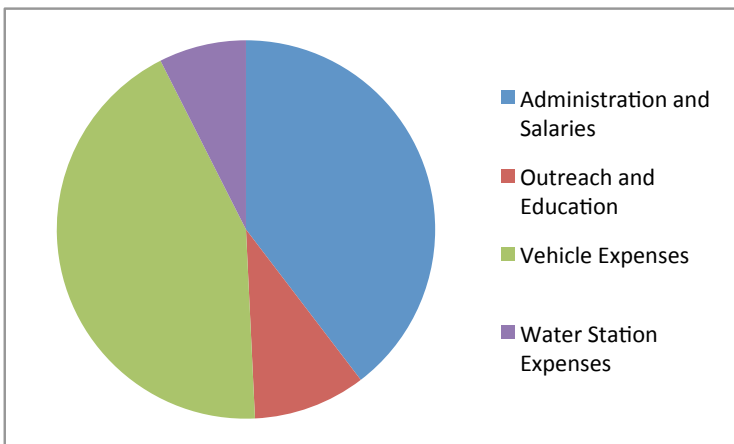
Our work to aid vulnerable migrants and make our borders more humane would not be possible without our generous donors. As outlined in this report, this funding has allowed us to support distressed families throughout the Arizona borderlands and in northern Mexico, as well as to create a unique database that documents the grave and deadly reality on our border. We do this work with gratitude to all of our supporters.



Source of Funds

Grants and Contributions (Operating)	\$62,593
Grants and Contributions (Restricted)	\$6,356
Interest and Miscellaneous Income	\$1,038

Total Revenue: \$69,987



Use of Funds

Administration and Salaries	\$13,381
Outreach and Education	\$3,249
Vehicle Expenses	\$14,622
Water Station Expenses	\$2,520

Total Expenses: \$33,772

Assets and Liabilities

Operating Cash	\$19,533
Restricted Cash	\$16,506
Restricted Assets	\$13,008
Fixed Assets	\$32,853
Liabilities	-\$1,918
Total Equity:	\$79,982

Meet Humane Borders Executive Director Juanita Molina



Migration and borders have been a central theme of my life. I have often thought about my family's migration in the 1960s from Chile, and how my parents would have fared under the current conditions.

Back in 2004, I had heard about the humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border, but could not imagine the extreme conditions people endured to cross into the United States. While working at an HIV clinic in California that served the Latino immigrant population, I was approached by a young man from Mexico who led me to a car, telling me that I needed to see his friend right away. I could see the hope in his eyes as we approached his partner, who was skeletal and non-responsive.

As I sat in the car with the sick young man, rubbing his hands and talking to him, I prayed he would respond but feared he was already dead. Suddenly, the breath came back to his body. He

looked over and smiled. During the four days that he survived, I spent every moment I could with these men in the emergency room. They told me how they had crossed into the United States and when the sick young man became too weak to walk, his partner took a piece of fabric, tied him to his back, and carried him for 20 miles to meet up with family members who waited for them.

These men and their incredible journey changed my life. The love, the determination and the difficulties they endured together inspired me, and though I did not realize it then, they set me on a path I had to follow.

Since I have been with Humane Borders, I have met with survivors and families whose loved ones are deceased or missing. I have heard about countless acts of love and heroism on the border as well as accounts of cruelty and defeat. I look out at the vast Southwestern wilderness under a relentless sun and I wonder how anyone can survive this journey. I recognize the water that Humane Borders provides as a blessing, and I am truly grateful to serve in this movement.

Humane Borders Supporter: ANNE LOWE

Anne Lowe is a volunteer and donor to Humane Borders and the former outreach director of The Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona.

What connected you to Humane Borders?

A little over a year ago, I was on a border-issues bus trip and Bob Feinman showed us a Humane Borders water station near Arivaca and explained its purpose. I was hooked from the word "humane."

Please share a memorable volunteer experience.

One Saturday morning, I was delivering 300 gallons of water to Byrd Camp, and I was chatting with one of the volunteer EMTs there. I noticed she had an accent that sounded familiar to me. I asked her where she was from, and she said Israel. The other



volunteer said she was from Holland. The "guests" that morning who were having a hearty breakfast, and had received medical care, were from Guatemala. And the three of us from Humane Borders were from the U.S. Between us, we represented, the Middle East, Europe, Central America and North America—a little slice of global humanity meshed together in the Sonoran Desert. A couplet from John Donne's poem, *No Man is an Island*, would not leave my mind: "Any man's death diminishes me, Because I am involved in mankind."



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