



December 18, 2013

Dear Hidalgo County Commissioners:

Outreach International, is a 501(3) c nonprofit organization operating in the state of Texas. Outreach International worked with low income colonia families to improve their quality of lives in the rural areas of Hidalgo County more specifically in the City of Alton area from 1991 through 2012. In recent years the organization made a strategic plan to expand our work into other areas of the valley and decided to reduce our presence in Hidalgo County.

History

In 1992 the colonias of El Paraiso and Los Ebanos located on North Los Ebanos Rd and 6 mile line had many early successes that benefitted neighboring communities and its residents. The need to address trash burning was addressed through the creation of a local curbside trash pickup for residents. Through a small monthly fee, residents would get a weekly trash pick-up. Jobs were created for residents who were interested in driving the trash truck and trash collection. In 1993 recycling was introduced to educate residents on the problem with overfilled landfills. The colonias of El Paraiso and Los Ebanos were also successful in installing street lights throughout both colonias making streets safer for the families. In 1994 the colonia residents were able to create and establish their own 501C3 legally recognized as Paraiso Ebanos Inc. (PEI)

1996 - Paraiso Ebanos Inc (PEI) was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund grant to purchase the five acre tract of land on Los Ebanos Rd and mile 61/4 north where the community center building is located.

1997- PEI with the assistance of Outreach International received funding support from different sources and with volunteer labor completed the construction of the 6,000 sq. ft community center building. .

The Warranty Deed (as attached) governing the use of the land property and community center building was signed.

2000- PEI was awarded the Self Help Program grant - a home rehabilitation program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

2002- The 1,200 sq. ft tool building facility was added on to the property as part of the Self Help Program grant.

2002 -Under the Self Help Program grant PEI reconstructed a total of 34 homes (more than the required 20 homes) to meet the housing standards.

2003- Outreach International signed a 5 year lease agreement with PEI for the use of the community center and the five acre tract of land.



2005- to present the community center has been kept open for community programs and for other non-profits to provide services to the people in the surrounding area.

2008- community residents led the work on the development of a soccer field and four "palapas" project on the property with a total of \$12,000 investment.

2009- 2010- the families from the surrounding area enjoyed the access to the field and the soccer league that was established.

In 2003, Outreach International entered into a lease agreement with Paraiso Ebanos Inc., a non-profit organization from Alton, Texas. The lease agreement was for a period of five years with option to renew for an additional 5 years. After signing of the lease, Paraiso Ebanos Inc. (PEI) officers ceased to have any involvement with the community center building and its operation as a non-profit organization. The members of the board vacated their positions. Outreach International decided to continue the efforts in implementing development projects in the area and covering the expenses of maintaining and upkeeping the community center building and property.

In 2012 Outreach International as part of its plan began to reduce its presence and operation in the Alton area and to focus its efforts in a food pantry and related development projects in Cameron County. With this decision, Outreach International no longer utilizes the community center building and property in the same manner as in previous years.

In 2013 with Paraiso Ebanos Inc. (PEI) not functioning as an organization, Outreach International explored ways to turn over the community center and property to Hidalgo County and focus its work in Cameron County.

Without the presence of Paraiso Ebanos Inc. and based on the Warranty Deed the 6,000 sq. feet community center building, 1,200 sq. feet tool building and the five acre tract of land should be transferred to the County of Hidalgo.

We look forward to your decision on how we could best turn over the community center building, tool building and five acre tract of land to an agency of County of Hidalgo.

Thank You,

Respectfully yours,

Valentin Leal
Latin America Field Director
South Texas and Nicaragua
Outreach International

PO Box 1644
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outside of building



Bldg = Parking area





Bldg —

— storage



Bldg

101-101K



Conference area



Classroom



Bldg sits on
5 acres. Runs
E-W - to where
Canal is located.

Kitchen



facility has 5 similar offices



Bathrooms



Parking Lot



outside of hedy



benches.

