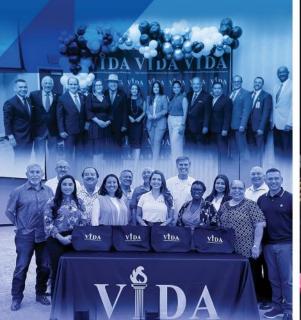


Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement



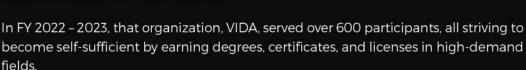
DA VÎDA VÎDA

I M P A C T I N G SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROUTH





In 1995, a group of Valley Interfaith leaders and industry leaders from across the Rio Grande Valley came together, formed a vision, and founded a nonprofit organization.



NSIG

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

It took years to develop the relationships and partnerships that have brought us to where we are today. Those years of development included building a strong reputation of success. **This year, VIDA participants reached a persistence rate of 96%.** Think of that. Ninety-six percent!

Consistent data like this has resulted in local, state, and national leaders recognizing the value of our strategic program model. They know, all too well, that while budgeting visionary projects is critical, we can't just pour money into our communities and sit back, waiting for them to flourish. Funders want to see a significant return on their investment.

VIDA accomplishes this through customized assistance based on each participant's needs. Our model keeps the participants as the foundation, adding financial assistance, individual and group counseling, industry speakers, and other supports to build them up so they can endure any challenges that come their way. The VIDA model also incorporates community service so our participants become actively engaged in communities throughout our region while showing our gratitude to these communities for sustaining us.

In 2022, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez created the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force, designed to provide more County residents with the skills needed to lead prosperous, fulfilled lives while simultaneously growing the economic prosperity of our region with a skilled workforce that supports local industries and attracts new ones. Judge Cortez quickly identified VIDA as an essential partner for the Task Force because we have been fulfilling this mission successfully for close to 30 years.

Today, our VIDA staff and Board take our places at many tables, sitting alongside elected officials; members of city and county management; and education, industry, and civic leaders on a regular basis. *VIDA is clearly recognized as a force for educational growth, job training and creation, and economic development.*

As many of you know, VIDA means "life" in Spanish. To sustain the work we do, we must rely on our investment partners. With the proper funding, we can educate even more of our people...one life at a time.

TONY AGUIRRE JR.

Managing Partner Riverside Dvlp. Services, LLC McAllen City Commissioner



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PRESIDENT and CEO

As I reflect on my second year of serving as president and CEO of VIDA, I am filled with utmost gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable support and dedication of my entire team and board of directors toward advancing VIDA's mission. iss the RGV. I am confident VIDA is poised for untold impact and success.



In addition to our internal growth, I am very pleased to witness an abundance of support from our community, strengthening

existing partnerships and building new alliances. Thank you to all of our partners--local, state, and federal government; economic development entities; institutions of higher education; private foundations; employers; industry leaders; nonprofits; and community-based organizations--for your continued collaboration and trust in our program to accelerate student success, educating one life at a time. I strongly believe that, as a nonprofit organization with a more-than-29-year trajectory empowering learners from low-income backgrounds, we have incredible potential to continue impacting our communities; but working alongside our partners and through a collective effort, we can truly be limitless in promoting the economic development of our entire region through equitable education and workforce-training opportunities.

I am excited about the bright future ahead and look forward to the opportunity to unite efforts and resources that will continue to improve post-secondary educational outcomes for all while aligning career training with local industry demand.

> We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. —Cesar Chavez

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2022 - 2023



TONY AGUIRRE Chairperson



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MOSES ROBLEDO

ABDIEL RAMIREZ

ECONOMIC STUDY

BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY Sai Mullapudi | Economic Development Research Manager In March of 2024, researchers at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Data and Information Systems Center completed an economic impact study for the Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement. The summary of this study reads, as follows:

The economic impact analysis assesses the overall influence of VIDA on the local economy, primarily through its operational expenses and the wage increases earned by its graduates. In the fiscal year '22-'23, VIDA allocated \$3.3 million toward its operating budget for administering programs and services. Additionally, VIDA graduates contributed \$25.2 million in wage increases. These expenditures, both by VIDA and its graduates, generate a multiplier effect, creating and supporting additional jobs, income, taxes, and output in the local economy. Collectively, the spending by VIDA on operating expenses and the wage increases of its graduates support 651 jobs, resulting in \$33.6 million in labor income, adding \$13.7 million to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP, and generating \$1.3 million in state and local taxes. This translates to a total economic output of \$51.9 million in the local economy.

Based on this economic output, for every \$1.00 invested in VIDA, there is a return of \$15.69 to the communities served. Table below provides a breakdown of the economic impact:

	EMPLOYMENT	LABOR INCOME	VALUE ADDED	OUTPUT
Direct Effect	651	\$ 26,512,042	\$ 1,001,157	\$ 28,706,821
Indirect Effect	7	\$ 336,844	\$ 547,436	\$ 1,280,245
Induced Effect	159	\$ 6,819,746	\$ 12,187,180	\$ 21,971,760
Total Effect	817	\$ 33,668,632	\$ 13,735,773	\$ 51,958,826
State and Local Tax				\$ 1,389,573

This comprehensive analysis demonstrates the significant positive impact of VIDA on the local economy, benefiting both the community and its residents.

METHODOLOGY

This study estimates the economic impact created by VIDA. With the local unemployment rate very high, an economic impact analysis of VIDA aims to help local leaders, the business community, and the investors gain perspective on how the funding invested in VIDA benefits the region. Using public information and audited financial data VIDA provided, this study estimates the aggregate value added to the local economy, plus direct and indirect jobs created by the program.

The economic impact study of VIDA was conducted using IMPLAN economic impact modeling software. The software captures the regional dollar flows from purchasers to producers using inter-industry transaction information for more than 500 industries. Production functions describing how much is spent in each industry (and the proportions) are created using inter-industry transaction data. A predictive model and the associated multipliers are then constructed to show how output changes with a change in final demand.

IMPLAN is used by more than 1,000 public and private institutions to enable users to make in-depth examinations

of state, multi-county, county, sub-county, and metropolitan regional economies. It is a nationally recognized, economic impact modeling software.

Final demand drives input-output models. Industries respond to meet demand directly or indirectly (by supplying goods and services to industries responding directly). Each industry that produces goods and services generates increasing demand for other goods and services for multiple rounds. These iterations generate multipliers, which are related to three kinds of effects:

1. Direct effects are changes in the local economy caused by an economic change in the area.

2. Indirect effects are changes in inter-industry transactions as supplying industries respond to increased demands from the directly affected industries.

3. Induced effects reflect changes in inter-industry spending resulting from household spending. This spending comes from household income generated from the direct and indirect effects.

DEFINITIONS -

- Output (gross sales)
- Employment (jobs)
- Value Added (gross regional product) .

THE ONGOING

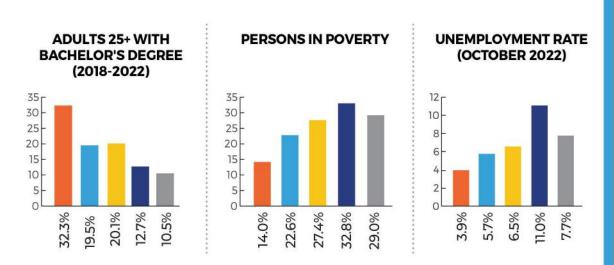
VIDA's official story begins in 1995, when community leaders from Valley Interfaith joined forces with private-industry leaders to address the significant number of underserved, underemployed, and unemployed residents in the Rio Grande Valley. The leaders recognized that by empowering these residents with tools, education, training, individual and group counseling, and personal development, they could thrive in their careers and in their personal lives.

VIDA founders also recognized the impact would reach far beyond the individuals to their families, their communities, and the entire region by increasing the buying power of the individuals, reducing the number of people in need of government assistance, providing existing employers with a highly skilled workforce, and attracting new industries to the region.

"The VIDA Effect" can be felt in homes and communities throughout our region and beyond, and the need for VIDA persists. Breaking generational patterns of poverty and teaching people how to surmount obstacles they face as they endeavor to do so takes an unflinching commitment. We remain steadfast in fulfilling our philosophy and our mission as we serve our people.

Texas	\$ 73,035
Cameron Co.	\$ 47,435
Hidalgo Co.	\$ 49,371
Starr Co.	\$ 35,979
Willacy Co.	\$ 42,839

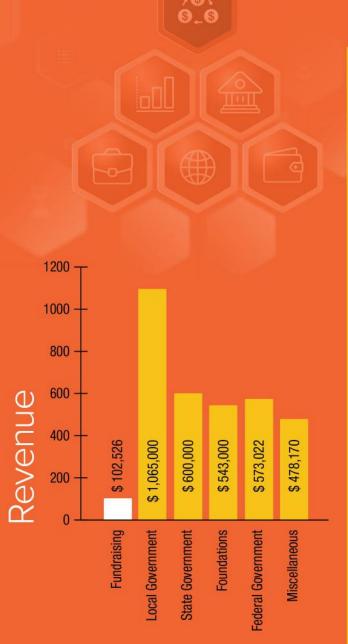
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

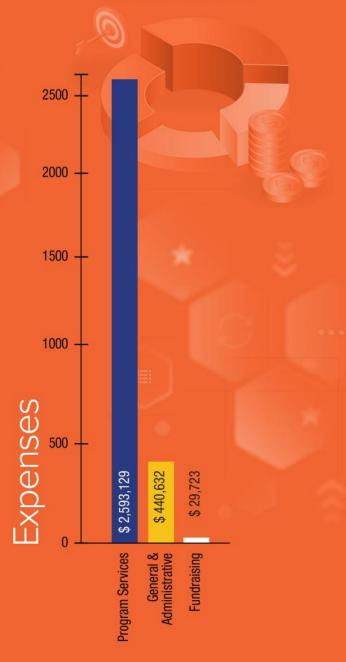


Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts

REVENUE & EXPENSES

Impacting Sustainable Economic Growth in the Region... One VIDA at a time





TOTAL REVENUE > \$3,361,718





\$3,063,484

> \$298,234

TOTAL EXPENSES

The opposite of success is not failure... it's being stuck. You have a unique gift that's meant to be shared. When fully aligned with this everlasting gift, an unshakable confidence becomes real!

—Jennifer Villarreal

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Through active engagement, alongside our dedicated participants, we illuminate various avenues of community service. This collaborative effort not only allows us to express gratitude to the numerous entities, institutions, corporations, and individuals who have sustained VIDA's mission for nearly 29 years but also emphasizes the transformative power of service in shaping our society.

Within VIDA, our team and student volunteers enthusiastically embrace community involvement by sharing our



time and talents while receiving the inherent satisfaction that comes from serving others.

We nurture individuals who embrace the principle of giving back and endeavor to enact meaningful change within their communities and beyond, igniting a beacon of hope for a better tomorrow.



EDUCATING ONE LIFE AT A TIME

It takes courage to admit when you need help. It takes courage to step out of a cycle that has spun for generations. It takes courage to fall and to get back up again. It takes courage to recognize an opportunity, grab it, hold on, and let it take you places you never even imagined.

Throughout this VIDA Annual Report, you will read stories of current VIDA participants and VIDA graduates who had the courage to take the first step and whose lives are forever transformed. They serve as models in their families, among friends, to other VIDA participants, and to our community.

SAN JUAN RESIDENT DESIGNING HIS DREAM

"I Have a Dream" is, of course, the iconic 1963 speech of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. For San Juan resident Carlos Pena, this phrase also expresses why he enrolled at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Pena, whose major is mechanical engineering, has a dream of working at Tesla as part of its design team. Tesla knows how to capture potential employees' attention, even on its website: "Using a first-principles approach, we solve some of the world's biggest problems. If you've done exceptional work, join us in tackling the next generation of engineering, manufacturing, and operational challenges." Pena plans to be one of Tesla's tacklers.

However, unemployed and receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits, Pena soon learned that a lack of financial resources, professional guidance, and emotional support can waylay a dream that once seemed so clear. Then, one day while at UTRGV, he heard about the Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement.

Valley Interfaith and business leaders in the Rio Grande Valley established VIDA in 1995, recognizing the need to empower underserved, unemployed, and underemployed residents through education and training, in addition to support from case managers who also serve as career counselors. VIDA's founders also knew that by building a skilled workforce, the nonprofit organization would play a key role in recruiting new business to the RGV while fueling the economy of our region with residents no longer dependent on government support for their daily needs. Nearly 30 years later, VIDA continues to work closely with its

CARLOS PENA

workforce, training, and community partners to provide financial support, as well as individual and group counseling, to individuals like Pena.

When Pena learned about VIDA, he saw his dream becoming clear again. He applied to the program and gained acceptance.

"It is a great opportunity," Pena said. "VIDA is helping me with school and with gas expenses."

VIDA also provides financial assistance to participants for books and the tools required for a number of training programs. Counseling sessions focus on topics

such as stress, time management, mental health and budgeting. Outside of class time, participants can often be seen across the RGV performing community service as their way of thanking the municipalities, businesses, foundations and individuals who make all of this possible.

Because of VIDA, Pena explains, he plans to graduate in the spring of 2024 as a professional, a mechanical engineer. "I have a chance to pursue my dream career."

Carlos' story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport.com, in February 2023.

VIDA HELPS SPARK ELECTRICIAN'S SUCCESS

After graduating from high school, McAllen resident Cain Ballesteros took the step many young people feel is expected of them; he enrolled in college. But after a year and a half, he realized college wasn't for him.

Ballesteros tried to find his calling through a number of career paths, including certified nursing assistant, but none felt right. His dad, Arturo Ballesteros, a master electrician for over 40 years who manages and operates Art's Repair Service, often invited his son to go on calls with him. The younger Ballesteros realized he enjoyed the work, especially the problem solving and hands-on aspect of it.

"Being out on calls always presents something different," Ballesteros said. "There are always new challenges and problems to solve."

For seven years, he worked full-time under his father's guidance. It began to weigh on him that his father would one day retire. He felt the desire to begin preparing to take over his dad's business when that time came. Although he had gained valuable experience over the years, he had never received formal training on the intricacies of electricity.

One day while at a supply house, Ballesteros noticed a Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement flier advertising VIDA's training for the licensed electrician career pathway.

For nearly 30 years, VIDA has provided financial, professional and emotional assistance to residents of the Rio Grande Valley who want to move from low-paying, often dead-end positions to careers in high-paying, high-skilled, high-demand fields. The program's wraparound approach incorporates individual and group counseling and strong relationships with its educational partners. This helps students bypass the roadblocks that often prevent them from finishing certifications and degrees.

LIGHTING A PATH

Ballesteros had an epiphany. If he was going to take over the family business one day, he would certainly need

CAIN BALLESTEROS

to be a licensed electrician. He called VIDA and gained acceptance into the program.

That was two years ago. Ballesteros has now graduated from the Level I and Level II commercial electrician training. He is also registered under the National Center for Construction Education and Research, a globally recognized credential. Furthermore, he earned his OSHA 10 certification, demonstrating completion of 10 hours of OSHA-authorized training in critical workplace-safety topics. Ballesteros has also earned his OSHA 30 certification, in-depth training that teaches supervisors and workers how to avoid safety and health risks on the job and covers workers' rights and employers' responsibilities.

The road for Ballesteros wasn't always smooth. Now married and a father, the journey required great sacrifice from him and his wife and discipline, working during the day and attending school at night. When he enrolled, the McAllen class did not have enough students to proceed, but determined to do this, Ballesteros enrolled in the Brownsville program, which required him to drive there four nights a week.

FULL STEAM AHEAD ...

Ballesteros is now eligible for the Journeyman Electrical License Exam. His training, through VIDA's program, has given him the knowledge about electricity and how it works and the National Electric Code, the United States standard for safely installing electrical wiring and equipment; the ability to read blueprints and to troubleshoot; the skills needed to work safely; and the confidence to put all of this into practice.

Now well on his way toward becoming a master electrician, Ballesteros couldn't be happier. An added incentive is that his father's company has seen an increase in business recently. Ballesteros is thankful to VIDA for its financial assistance with tuition, books, tools, and gas. He said VIDA's case manager and career counselor helped him stay motivated and focused.

Ballesteros now feels ready for anything!

WELDING TOGETHER A NEW LIFE WITH VIDA

Normally, a 10-year-old would be considered a child; however, at the age of 10, Diego Medina saw himself as a young man when his parents divorced. He began working in the fields and mowing lawns on the weekends to assist his mother with their household bills.

Over the years, Medina had countless setbacks, and he found it more and more difficult to get ahead. In his early 30s, he found himself married, the father of three children, and unemployed. Nevertheless, he had not lost hope. Medina had a strong desire to better

> himself and provide a financially secure future for his family. He saw becoming a skilled tradesman as the way to overcome life's obstacles and reverse the cycle of poverty for his family.

> > "I want to be a role model to my children and show them everything is possible," Medina said.

DIEGO MEDINA

tuition, books, tools, uniforms and other essential needs while pursuing certifications and degrees, VIDA provides individual and group counseling to address topics such as time management, studying, budgeting, stress, and interviewing skills, as well as guest speakers who inspire persistence and resilience. VIDA participants also perform community service, which allows them to show their gratitude for the benefits they are receiving because of the generous support of foundations, governmental entities and individual donors.

Medina applied to VIDA and earned acceptance. A resident of Brownsville, he enrolled in the welding program at Texas Southmost College. He envisioned himself as a pipefitter and a welding instructor, educating and training the next generation of welders.

Medina sees the field of welding as one that will provide him with job security and, as a result, peace of mind.

"Growing up, I had many setbacks," Medina said, "but now I am on the right track and I'm ready to make things right."

Medina graduated in October, earning an industryrecognized credential in welding. He has already been hired by Brownsville ISD as a welding instructor.

A LIFE-CHANGING DECISION

Medina heard about the Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement. Based in Mercedes but serving the entire Rio Grande Valley, VIDA provides comprehensive services that help unemployed and underemployed residents turn setbacks into stepping stones. In addition to providing financial support for Now, Medina not only serves as a role model to his own children but to all of the students in his welding classes.

Diego's story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport.com, in November 2023.

A MOTHER'S LEAP LEADS TO A BETTER VIDA

Palmview single mom Esther Carreon had several goals in mind when she applied to the Valley Initiative for Development in Advancement after hearing about the nonprofit organization from a friend. Already a licensed vocational nurse and a first-generation college graduate, Carreon knew she wanted to remain in the field of nursing, but she yearned to further her education in the field. She set her sights on a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Earning her BSN will allow Carreon to fulfill her professional goal but she has two other goals as well: serving as an example to her 13- and 15-year-old children, and providing a better life for them with the increase in salary and job opportunities she can expect.

As a single mother of two and a student, the costs associated with college, on top of her monthly bills, became daunting.

"I was interested in financial assistance for school and learning from the counselors in the program to assist in planning for success during and after college," Carreon said of VIDA.

The mission of VIDA, founded more than 25 years ago through the efforts of Valley Interfaith and business leaders in the Rio Grande Valley, focuses on helping residents in the region rise out of poverty and into high-demand, higher-paying jobs, which also has a significant impact on the communities where they live. VIDA does this by providing financial assistance with tuition, books, child care, equipment and tools, gas and other expenses that would otherwise build barriers from earning the degree or certificate sought.

"Leaving your job to focus on school 100% is not an easy decision," Carreon said. However, taking this leap made her goal possible.

VIDA's founders knew financial assistance, though critical, only impacted one graduation barrier. They added case managers – who also serve as college counselors – to provide individual and group counseling to students to help them manage stress, learn time management, and develop study skills. When they meet with VIDA

ESTHER CARREON

participants, case managers also counsel them on other issues that arise. San Juanita Sanchez serves in this role for Carreon.

"I want to thank Ms. Sanchez for being a great counselor and for helping me and other students to never give up," Carreon said. Sanchez is a VIDA graduate who gratefully accepted a job with the nonprofit to show current participants she understands their challenges because she lived through her own. "Ms. Sanchez shared her story with us and makes us feel welcome and heard," Carreon added. "The program has allowed me to manage my time and my stressful situations. The weekly meetings have helped me stay on track with my goals and have kept me motivated."

Carreon said her two teenage children are understanding of the time she must take to study; her example will have an invaluable impact on their futures, as well.

As Carreon looks toward her May 2023 graduation and passing the national exam that will give her the title of registered nurse, Carreon lovingly reflects on her parents.

"My mother only completed high school and my father, middle school in Mexico," she said. "I come from a hardworking family that has always been there for me and supports me."

With this support from her parents, her children, and VIDA, Carreon will walk the stage at her UTRGV graduation in two months.

"VIDA is important because it supports students like me following our dreams,"

Carreon said. "It also helps our community prepare future professionals who are willing to make a difference."

Esther's story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport. com, in March 2023.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT CONNECTS TO PROMISING CAREER

Brownsville resident Oscar Castillo had a job at the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport, working as a cashier for the parking vendor earning \$10 an hour. He knew he needed to develop his skill set if he ever hoped to be independent and financially secure, so he enrolled in the electrician program at Texas Southmost College.

At TSC, Castillo heard about Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement, a nonprofit organization based in Mercedes that has helped residents of the Rio Grande Valley avoid being a poverty statistic. For nearly 30 years, VIDA has partnered with institutions of higher learning in the RGV to provide a continuum of support for students pursuing degrees and certificates in high-demand, high-paying career fields. Because a lack of resources had created graduation barriers for Castillo in the past, he jumped at the opportunity to apply to VIDA. "School was always in my mind before, but I never really took that leap due to different circumstances," Castillo, a first-generation college student, said. VIDA accepted him into the program in the fall of 2021.

For Castillo, the continuum of support included financial assistance with his courses, books and tools, as well as VIDA's award-winning individual and group counseling sessions. These sessions address topics from time management and budgeting to developing a resume and rocking a job interview.

It is said that as we grow, we learn. Castillo personifies this adage.

"After receiving help from VIDA and the great skills they taught me, I learned so much about myself and what I'm capable of," Castillo said. "On a regular day at school, I learned about a program: computer information systems. What I heard about the program caught my attention because it involves working with computers and technology and helping people out." Castillo realized he loved working with technology and helping people, so he decided to research CIS.

OSCAR CASTILLO

The more he learned, the more intrigued he became. But first, he needed to talk to his father.

Castillo's father comes from a humble background, but his advice and the way he has inspired his son through his work ethic are invaluable. "His opinion really matters to me."

Castillo explained the field of CIS to his father. "He mentioned that the program fits my characteristics and my personality," Castillo shared. Castillo changed his major. VIDA's support never wavered.

In the spring of 2024, Castillo will complete his Associate of Applied Science in CIS. He has his heart set on working at SpaceX, and he will always appreciate what VIDA has done for him.

"VIDA's support helped me with new skills and tools to succeed in my classes," Castillo said. "The weekly sessions really helped this process go by easily. I will speak great things about VIDA and their values. VIDA is important for what they have to offer RGV students who want to continue their education but can't, financially. They have amazing values."

Oscar's story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport.com, in August 2023.

EDUCATING ONE LIFE AT A TIME >>>>> >

STUDENT'S VIDA JOURNEY **GOES INTERNATIONAL**

Every month, VBR publishes a story about a current Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement participant or one who has already earned a certificate or degree, altering the trajectory of his or her life.

This month, we feature Rhonda Diaz, who will graduate from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in December with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

"Before VIDA, I was attending college part time; with VIDA's help, I was able to attend full time," Diaz said. In addition to attending school full time, she has been working as an Apple Support College Program athome advisor, providing technical support to Apple customers.

Graduation in December will not be the end of the journey for Diaz. Her next destination is a master's degree. "I also plan to continue my career with Apple while actively searching for a role that complements my degree," she said.

VIDA has changed countless lives in the Rio Grande Valley for nearly three decades. Rather than having a traditional story written about how VIDA has changed her life, Diaz chose to write a letter to VIDA.

As I approach my graduation at the end of this year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my remarkable journey with VIDA and share my heartfelt appreciation for the support that has shaped my academic path.

My name is Rhonda Diaz, and I've had the privilege of being a recipient of VIDA's support over the past few years. I cannot express enough gratitude for the impact the program has had on my education and personal growth.

> One of the most transformative experiences during my academic journey was the opportunity to study abroad in London, U.K. As a computer science major, the course "The History of Computing" I took during my time in London was not only relevant but profoundly enriching. Ιt allowed me

RHONDA DIAZ

to connect the past with the present, in my field of study, providing me with a profound understanding of the evolution of technology.

VIDA's unwavering support with my college tuition and books made this study abroad experience a reality. Without the program's assistance, I wouldn't have been able to immerse myself in a new culture, gain a global perspective and further my education in such a meaningful way. VIDA not only lightened the financial burden but also empowered me to attend college full time, enabling me to pursue opportunities that have broadened my horizons.

I'd also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Ms. San Juanita (Sanchez), my VIDA counselor. Her guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in my academic journey. Ms. San Juanita's dedication and belief in my potential have motivated me to strive for excellence.

As I prepare to graduate, I look back with immense gratitude for VIDA's continued commitment to helping students like me achieve our educational dreams. The opportunities VIDA has provided have not only shaped my academic journey but have also contributed significantly to my personal and professional growth.

I am honored to have been a part of the VIDA family and I eagerly anticipate the bright future that lies ahead. I look forward to using the knowledge and experiences gained through VIDA's support to make a positive impact in the world.

Once again, thank you, VIDA, for being an integral part of my educational journey. Together, we have achieved greatness, and I am excited to embark on this new chapter with the skills and confidence VIDA has nurtured.

Warmest regards, Rhonda

Diaz' contemplative letter acknowledges the impact the organization has had on her life and on her future. This impact is possible because of the generosity of VIDA's collaborative, educational, fundraising and investment partners.

Rhonda's story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport.com, in October 2023.

LONG, WINDING ROAD LEADS TO A NEW VIDA

Sometimes a path is straight and narrow; other times it can be winding, making the journey longer but allowing us to see sites and have experiences we would otherwise have missed. Such was the path for Brownsville resident Marvelia Saldana.

Being a military wife meant "bouncing around from one state to another," according to Saldana. With four small children, she didn't have the time--or, likely, the energy--to attend school and pursue her own career goals.

Neither of her parents graduated from high school. Her dad, who grew up in Mexico, always encouraged his children to continue their education through and beyond high school. Saldana described her mom, born and raised in the United States, as far more traditional, finding her daughter's role as a mother one that completely superseded her desire to earn a college degree.

While supporting her husband's military service and raising their children, Saldana's desire to be a first-generation college student never waned. When her husband's military service ended, they settled in Brownsville.

Saldana's children are now adults. Now it was her turn to respond to the yearnings of her heart. Although she and her husband are raising their granddaughter, whose mother passed away in 2017, she knew she could dedicate herself to earning a degree.

Saldana knew she wanted to study something in the medical field, so she enrolled in a Valley technical school to become a medical coding specialist. After completing the program, however, potential employers repeatedly told her she needed more work experience...but she could work as a receptionist for \$7 an hour. Saldana knew she had taken the wrong path.

"While debating what I wanted to study, I came across an article about a clinical laboratory and it intrigued me," Saldana said. She discovered that Texas Southmost College offered a two-year program. "I reached out to Dr. (Consuelo) Villalon (Medical Laboratory Technology Program director). She was very helpful and I liked the fact that she would answer all of my questions."

Saldana applied to the program and gained acceptance. During orientation, Stephanie Florez, a case manager and

MARVELIA SALDANA

career counselor at Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement, gave a presentation about this nonprofit organization which aids unemployed and underemployed residents of the Rio Grande Valley in pursuing high-skill, high-demand, higher-paying careers. For more than 25 years, VIDA has provided financial assistance-- as well as individual and group counseling and service opportunitiesto students in an effort to help them complete a certificate or degree, get hired, and advance in their careers and in their lives.

"Thanks to VIDA, I've been able to afford school," Saldana said. "Without their help, I wouldn't have been able to attend school. They have helped me with tuition and books. I'm thankful that I have Stephanie's support. I enjoy that we have group counseling sessions. I hadn't been in school for the longest time, but they help me deal with stress and especially with my time management."

Saldana will graduate this month with an Associate of Applied Science and will then take the American Society of Clinical Pathologists exam; a passing score makes her a certified medical laboratory technician. MLTs, a field the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates will see an 11 percent increase through 2028, maintain and calibrate equipment in medical-facility laboratories and collect blood, tissue, urine and other samples from patients to help physicians diagnose illnesses and diseases.

VIDA has helped Saldana navigate the path that has led to her long-anticipated college graduation. Saldana knows her destination is near.

"I want to be in a field that the work I do helps others," she said. "My wish is that I get a goodpaying job--a stable job--one where I can work for many years, until it's time for me to retire."

Marvelia's story first appeared on the Valley Business Report website, valleybusinessreport.com, in May 2023.

JOINING FORCES WITH THE HIDALGO COUNTY PROSPERITY TASK FORCE



Our prosperity as a nation depends upon the personal financial prosperity of each of us as individuals. — George Clason, The Richest Man in Babylon

The mission of the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force, established in 2022 by Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez, is to provide a strong safety net for Hidalgo County's most vulnerable residents and to move a sizable percentage of our economically disadvantaged residents out of poverty. With our mission so closely aligned, VIDA President and CEO Felida Villarreal and VIDA Board Chairman Tony Aguirre actively serve on this Task Force.

Their involvement allows VIDA to contribute invaluable historical insight while also offering a presentday perspective of how lives can be transformed through collaborative partnerships; strategic workforce development; and comprehensive social, emotional, and financial assistance. Through our collective efforts, we aim to foster a more prosperous and equitable future for all residents of Hidalgo County.

The Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force has outlined several key initiatives aimed at addressing poverty and promoting prosperity within our community, including...

• Enhanced Support Services: We are committed to identifying ways in which the county can better serve individuals living in poverty. This includes implementing financial literacy programs to equip residents with the knowledge and skills needed to manage their finances effectively. Additionally, we recognize the urgent need to address health and wellness concerns, particularly the high rates of obesity and diabetes among our population.

• Investment in Human Capital: One of the primary goals is to create pathways to success through vocational training and higher education. We are dedicated to removing any barriers that may hinder individuals from completing their education or training programs.

• Job Creation and Economic Development: We recognize the importance of job creation in fostering economic growth and opportunity within Hidalgo County.

Through these and other strategic initiatives, the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force is committed to fostering economic empowerment, promoting educational attainment, and improving the overall quality of life for all residents within our community, and VIDA intends to play a significant role in helping the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force achieve these goals.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDERS AND THE RIPPLE EFFECT

You want to be the pebble in the pond that creates the ripple for change.

— Tim Cook

Hidalgo

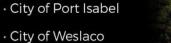
Willacy

Cameron

Starr

VIDA serves residents in a four-county region, which includes (from east to west) Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo, and Starr counties. The support of local governmental entities attests to their clear understanding of the ripple effect that reverberates throughout the region as the education level of its populace rises. VIDA gratefully acknowledges the unwavering support of the following local governmental entities:

- City of Alamo
- City of Mercedes
- City of Brownsville
- City of Pharr
- City of Edinburg
- City of Harlingen
 City of Weslaco
- City of La Feria
- eng of La Fond
- City of McAllen



Hidalgo County

VIDA GRADUATES' AVERAGE SALARY

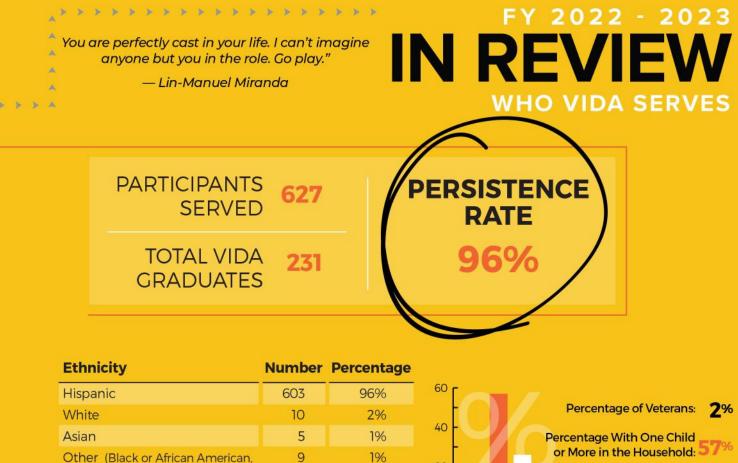
Pre-VIDA > \$5.70 Post-VIDA > \$22.96

GRADUATES' AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

Upon Graduation > \$47,756

VIDA TRAINING PROGRAMS

Industry	Number of Participants	Percentage of Total
Allied Health	392	63%
Business	30	5%
Educational Social Services	37	6%
Specialized Trades	138	21%
STEM	30	5%
TOTAL	627	100%

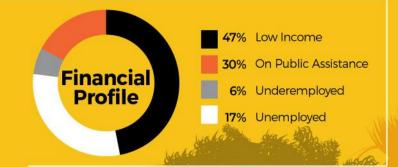


100%

20

Other (Black or African American,
American Indian or Alaska Native,
Native American, Native Hawaiian
or Pacific Highlander)9TOTAL627

Percentage of Single Parents: 26%
Average Age of Participants: 28



Gender	Number	Percentage
Female	421	67%
Male	206	33%
TOTAL	627	100%

WINTER WONDERLAND

Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement commemorated our accomplishments and honored our Partners of the Year at our third annual gala December 16, 2023, at the McAllen Convention Center. Our theme for 2023 was A Winter Wonderland.

J. Chris Coxon, managing director of Educate Texas, Communities Foundation of Texas, delivered an inspiring keynote address. Texas Workforce Commissioner Alberto Treviño III presented VIDA with the Texas Talent Connection Grant, allowing us to continue empowering RGV residents to achieve economic prosperity.

Guests enjoyed an enlightening cocktail hour with an enchanting violinist and a photobooth to memorialize this special evening, as well as dinner, music, and a live auction with renowned auctioneer Joe Brown.

Our partners are like shining stars, providing invaluable resources essential for serving VIDA participants each and every day. Their generosity fills us with gratitude and embodies the spirit of the holidays.

OUR 2023 PARTNERS OF THE YEAR

- 2023 Legacy Award: Texas Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
- 2023 Community Partner of the Year Award: Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez
- 2023 VIDA Graduate Recognition for Outstanding Academic Achievement: David Serrano, RN

VIDA remains committed to providing exceptional student-support services to economically disadvantaged residents, resulting in improved higher-education outcomes and workforcedevelopment success. Our unwavering focus centers on empowering Rio Grande Valley residents to achieve economic prosperity through market-driven training, resources, and career pathways. A WINTER WONDERLAND would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors. *

>

DIAMOND SPONSORS South Texas College South Texas Health System

GOLD SPONSORS

Brownstone Consultants ConZepto Magazine Decibel Communications DHR Health ELIVATE DRIP SPA IBC Bank Incredibowl Melden & Hunt, Inc. Pharr Housing Authority Red Rock Development Socialife Magazine State of The City—McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos

BRONZE SPONSORS

Carr, Riggs & Ingram Cynthia's Creations Glam Up with Ashley Nufo Salinas Photography Quintanilla, Headley & Associates, Inc. RGV Focus Texas School of Health Sciences Trillavision Media Valley Business Report















TESTIMONIALS

IMPACTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION...ONE VIDA AT A TIME



Dr. Rodney H. Rodriguez

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE, VICE PRESIDENT | STC FOUNDATION

"To the Esteemed Members of VIDA and Felida,

I write this testimonial filled with deep gratitude and admiration for the significant impact VIDA has had on our community under your thoughtful leadership and the dedicated efforts of the Board members. Over the years, our partnership has been a beacon of hope and a pillar of support for both our STC students and the broader adult population we serve.

VIDA's collaboration has been nothing short of transformative. Through your

generous resources funneled via the STC Foundation, you have opened doors to education that many believed were forever closed to them. Your commitment to providing scholarships across an array of educational pathways embodies the principle of "educating one life at a time" in the most profound way.

It is because of VIDA that countless individuals have been able to pursue their dreams and achieve their educational goals. You have not only supported them financially but have also inspired them to believe in their abilities and to aspire for greatness. The impact of your contributions extends beyond the individuals and into their families and communities, creating a ripple effect of positive change and opportunity.

Felida, your leadership has been instrumental in making all of this possible. Your vision, passion, and dedication have propelled VIDA to new heights, making it a cornerstone organization others look up to. Under your guidance, VIDA has truly become synonymous with hope, opportunity, and empowerment.

As we reflect on the years of fruitful partnership, we are filled with gratitude and look forward to continuing this journey together, making a difference in the lives of many more individuals. Your unwavering support has been a key factor in our success, and we cannot thank you enough.

Mil Gracias, VIDA! Here's to many more years of impactful collaboration and changing lives for the better."

Senator Morgan LaMantia

TEXAS SENATOR | DISTRICT 27

"Thank you, VIDA, for serving as a bridge between aspiration and achievement. VIDA's personalized support services and industry-relevant training enable our community members to overcome challenges and pursue fulfilling careers contributing to our local economy. This ripple effect of opportunity and prosperity continues to support new generations of change-makers in the Rio Grande Valley through transformative actions."





Mayor John Cowen Jr.

HONORABLE MAYOR | CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

I am proud to express my unwavering support and advocacy for the vital work being carried out by VIDA, an esteemed organization dedicated to empowering the people of the Rio Grande Valley. VIDA's mission--to facilitate economic prosperity through market-driven training, resources, and career pathways--is not just commendable; it is essential for the growth and wellbeing of our community.

The pursuit of economic prosperity is a journey that requires dedication, resources, and support. VIDA has been at the forefront of this journey,

offering invaluable services that transform lives and build futures. By focusing on market-driven training, VIDA ensures that the skills and knowledge imparted to its participants are relevant, sought after, and ultimately, transformative. Their commitment to providing access to resources and career pathways is a testament to their understanding of the diverse needs of our community and their unwavering resolve to meet them.

As the largest city in the Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville continues its successes in economic development and community empowerment. These are shining examples of what is possible when organizations, such as VIDA, are helping to pave the way.

I wish VIDA continued success in their noble mission. The impact of their work is a beacon of hope and a blueprint for how targeted, community-focused initiatives can create lasting change.

Together, we can build a future where every resident of the Rio Grande Valley can thrive, succeed, and contribute to our region's dynamic growth.

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up. — John Holmes





Felida Villarreal PRESIDENT AND CEO
Irma Garcia CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER
Isidro Ramos DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Veronica Montemayor DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Amanda Rodriguez DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS
Honesty Martinez PROGRAM SERVICES ANALYST
Priscilla Alvarez CAREER ADVISOR
San Juanita Sanchez SENIOR CAREER COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER
Kathia Martinez CAREER COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER
Felicia Adamas CAREER COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER
Claudia Martinez CAREER COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER
Marevelyn Salvador CAREER COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER
Joanna Delgado ACCOUNTING SUPPORT SPECIALIST
Celina Maldonado OUTREACH/INDUSTRY SPECIALIST
Marylou Saenz CASE AIDE/INTAKE SPECIALIST
Arianna Zamora INTAKE SPECIALIST
Cristina Yanes INTAKE SPECIALIST
Sabrinna Infante INTAKE SPECIALIST

valuable soft skills and professional development our program instills--alongside their academic studies. professional pathway to economic prosperity and long-term advancement.

— Felida Villarreal

EMPLOYERS WHO HIRED FY 2022 - 2023 VIDA GRADUATES

ABC Dental Abri at Edinburg Ageless Living Home Health Alamo Country Club Amtex General Contractors, LLC Art's Electric Austin Independent School District AutoZone Auto Parts Aveanna Healthcare, LLC Beachwood Services Bella Terra, LLC Bella Vida Senior Services, LLC **Big State Electric** Blattner Energy **Bobcat Power** Brownsville ISD Cache Valley Electric Cameron County District Attorney's Office Cathedral of the Immaculate Conceptions Central Lighting and Energy, LLC Chem-Pruf Fiberglass Door Company **Cintas Corporation** City of Brownsville CSL Plasma **D&F** Industries **DHR Health** DHR Health Women's Hospital DHR Health Rehabilitation Hospital Dr. William Long Elementary Driscoll Children's Hospital Edinburg Regional

Elite Functional Health **Express Employment Professionals Fisk Electric Company** Fox Hollow Post Acute **Gulf Stream Marine** H&S Constructors, Inc. Halliburton Harlingen Medical Center HMG Healthcare, LLC **Keppel AmFELS Knapp Medical Center** Law Office of Antonio Martinez, Jr., P.C. Maximus McAllen Transitional Care Center Medical City Plano Mercedes ISD Mike's Plumbing, Electrical & AC Mission CISD Mission Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Parra Furniture & Appliance Pas Home Care, LLC PB Materials Penske Truck Rental People, Inc Perdue Premium Meat Company **PSJA ISD** Rancho Viejo Police Dept Rental World Rio Grande Regional ER 24/7 **Rio Grande Regional Hospital Rio Grande State Center**

Rio Grande Surgery Center San Benito Police Department Senture South Texas Clinical Lab South Texas Health System South Texas Health System Behavioral South Texas Health System Heart Southern Careers Institute Spectrum Spirit Truck Lines **Superior Alarms** Target Texas State Veterans Home The Blake The Dove's Nest Treasure Hills Healthcare and **Rehabilitation Center Tri-County Healthcare Universal Plant Services** U.S. Customs and Border Protection -**Through Loyal Source** Valley Baptist Health System Valley Regional Medical Center Valley View ISD Veranda Rehabilitation and Healthcare Von'd Kids Weslaco Air Conditioning, LLC Willacy County Sheriff's Office Women Together/Mujeres Unidas **Xpress Dental** Zitro Electric, LLC

Thank you!

THANK YOU VIDA PARTNERS!

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Alton Recreation Center Angels of Love Aurora House Foundation Bailev H. Dunlap Memorial Library Bob Clark Social Services Center **Cameron County Workforce Solutions** Christian Manor RGV Consulate General of Mexico **Cornerstone Regional Hospital DHR Health** Donna Public Library Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc. Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library Goodwill Industries of South Texas Harlingen Housing Authority Harlingen Public Library Hidalgo County Head Start Program Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Advancement Center Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Community **Resource Center Hispanic Executive** JO-NIC BLOOM Pregnancy and Wellness Studio **Knapp Medical Center KRGV-TV** La Unión del Pueblo Entero Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library McAllen Housing Commission McAllen Public Library Mercedes Housing Authority Mission Regional Medical Center Nexstar Media Nuestra Clinica del Valle Office of Border Public Health Pharr Housing Authority Pharr Memorial Library Provecto Azteca. Inc. **Region One Education Service Center Rio Grande Regional Hospital** Salvation Armv San Juan Memorial Library Sqt. Fernando De La Rosa Memorial Library South Texas Health System South Texas Literacy Coalition Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Telemundo 40 Texas A&M Colonias Program Hidalgo County

Texas Border Business Texas Southmost College Texas State Technical College The GEO Group, Inc. The Literacy Center of Harlingen The Monitor Trillavision Unidos Con La Diabetes Unidos US Valley Baptist Health System Valley Business Report Valley Interfaith Valley Regional Medical Center Weslaco Housing Authority Women Together/Mujeres Unidas Workforce Solutions

> EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Brownsville CISD Adult Education Cameron County Education Initiative Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Region One Education Service Center Rio Grande Guardian Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC South Texas College STC Metal Trades Texas School of Health Sciences Texas Southmost College Texas State Technical College The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

FUNDRAISING PARTNERS

AT&T Bert Ogden Auto Group Breakaway Cruises **Brownstone Consultants** Bubba's 33 Carr, Riggs & Ingram City of Edinburg City of McAllen **Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages ConZepto Magazine** Cynthia's Creations **Decibel Communications** DHR Health Dr. Ruben Aleman & Associates Edinburg Economic Development Corporation ELIVATE DRIP SPA Glam Up with Ashley IBC Bank Kendra Scott La Plaza

Lone Star National Bank Melden & Hunt, Inc. Nufo Salinas Photography Pharr Economic Development Corporation Pharr Housing Authority Quintanilla, Headley & Associates, Inc. Red Rock Development RGV Focus Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC Socialife Magazine South Texas College South Texas Health System Texas School of Health Sciences Wagoner Real Estate Weslaco Economic Development Corporation

> INVESTMENT PARTNERS

Adult Career Education (ACE) Program Alamo Economic Development Corporation American Electric Power Foundation AT&T Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas City of Alamo City of McAllen City of Mercedes City of Port Isabel Department of Labor -Nursing Expansion Grant Edinburg Economic Development Corporation Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation Harlingen Economic Development Corporation Hidalgo County Knapp Community Care Foundation La Feria Economic Development Corporation Mercedes Economic Development Corporation Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas. Inc. Pharr Economic Development Corporation South Texas Health System Texas Mutual Insurance Texas Talent Connection The Meadows Foundation The Trull Foundation Trellis Foundation Union Pacific Foundation United Way of Southern Cameron County Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation Weslaco Economic Development Corporation

VIDA ARCHITECTS OF POSSIBILITES FY 2022-2023 NEW GRANT PARTNERS

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones over the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for our donors' unwavering support of VIDA's mission. Their generosity has been instrumental in driving positive change and empowering lives in our community.

In the pages of this VIDA Annual Report, we aim to provide a glimpse into the profound impact our donors' contributions have made. From funding lifechanging projects to supporting vital programs, your belief in our vision is the catalyst for transformation. Throughout the year, your grants have enabled us to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Whether it's providing access to education or economic opportunities, these investments have opened doors and unlocked potential for countless individuals.

These partnerships have not only provided essential resources but have also inspired hope and resilience in the face of adversity. In times of challenge, your support has served as a beacon of light, reminding us of the incredible difference we can make when we come together with a shared purpose. I make myself a relentless architect of the possibilities of human beings.

— Benjamin Zander

As we celebrate countless achievements over the past year, we do so with profound appreciation for your generosity and your commitment to our mission. Your belief in the power of transformation fuels our determination to continue striving for a brighter, more equitable future for all.

We look forward to the journey ahead, knowing that--with your support--we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve!

FY 2022 - 2023 New Grant Partners

- American Electric Power FoundationAT&T
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
- Knapp Community Care Foundation
- Methodist Healthcare Ministries
- The Meadows Foundation
- Texas Mutual
- Texas Talent Connection
- Trellis Foundation
- U.S. Department of Labor





I tell students that the opportunities I had were a result of having a good educational background.

— Ellen Ochoa

THE VIDA PHILOSOPHY

At the heart of VIDA philosophy lies a steadfast commitment to the well-being of the individuals we serve. Central to this commitment is our unwavering focus on fostering socioeconomic development across the Rio Grande Valley. Recognizing that economic growth hinges on a skilled workforce, we have developed a robust model that guides participants toward targeted, high-demand careers offering competitive wages. At VIDA, we understand that merely securing employment marks just one milestone on the journey to sustainable prosperity.

True success lies in ensuring job retention; it is through this stability that our communities truly flourish. By retaining their positions, our graduates not only achieve self-sufficiency but also contribute as active, taxpaying members of society, providing for their families while bolstering the companies they serve. Through our investment in human capital, we empower residents of the RGV to break free from the cycle of unemployment and reliance on public assistance, enabling them to play an integral role in fostering a vibrant and thriving economy.

THE VIDA MISSION

At VIDA, our mission is fulfilled by empowering Rio Grande Valley residents to achieve economic prosperity through market-driven training, resources, and career pathways.

OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAM MODEL

Within the Rio Grande Valley, numerous challenges-including poverty, limited support networks, financial stress, and the complexities of balancing academic pursuits with familial responsibilities--continue to hinder the path to success for many residents. These formidable barriers have historically obstructed the achievement of industry-recognized certifications and degrees, perpetuating socioeconomic disparities. It is precisely these circumstances that VIDA aims to address through its unique program model, targeting underserved demographics for empowerment and workforce development.

Through our strategic program model, VIDA has achieved a remarkable 96 percent persistence rate this fiscal year, a testament to our participantcentered approach. Each facet of our wraparound support services is meticulously crafted to address the specific challenges faced by our participants.

Our dedicated career counselors engage with participants individually, providing guidance on

budgeting, financial planning, time management, and coping with personal stressors during weekly counseling sessions. In group settings, participants receive soft-skills training, including interview preparation, resume building, and effective study habits. Additionally, guest speakers enrich our program through their expertise in various fields, broadening participants' knowledge and life skills.

Recognizing that financial hurdles extend beyond tuition, VIDA offers tailored assistance with textbooks, transportation, childcare, and other essential expenses, made possible through the generous support of local and state governments, private foundations, and individual donors. While education forms the cornerstone of workforce development, it is our community partnerships and collaborative efforts that ensure accessibility to higher education through our comprehensive student-support approach, which epitomizes the Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement.



1ST ANNUAL VIDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA) held its 1st Annual VIDA Golf Tournament at Los Lagos Golf Club July 8, 2023. This event was a resounding success.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this fundraiser an unforgettable experience. Our sincerest thanks go out to all of our sponsors, student volunteers, dedicated staff, esteemed board members, and golfers. Your unwavering support and commitment played an integral role in the success of this event, and we are truly thankful for your generosity and dedication.

A special acknowledgment is owed to Lone Star National Bank (LSNB) for the invaluable contribution as our Title Sponsor. LSNB's sponsorship served as the cornerstone of this tournament, and we are deeply grateful for our partnership.



Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to our Gold, Silver, and Proud Sponsors, whose generosity helped make this event possible:

AT&T Bert Ogden Auto Insider Bubba's 33 - McAllen Carr, Riggs & Ingram City of Edinburg Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages ConZepto Magazine Dr. Ruben Aleman & Associates -Family Medicine and Obstetrics Edinburg Economic Development Corporation Glazer's Beer and Beverage RGV Judge Rudy Gonzalez Los Lagos Golf Club Pharr Economic Development Corporation Pharr Housing Authority Rio Grande Valley Laredo Electrical JATC South Texas College South Texas Health System Tony Aguirre - McAllen City Commissioner, District 1 Villalobos Law Firm Yildirim Durak

Your support not only contributed to the success of this fundraiser, but it also directly impacts the lives of individuals in our community, empowering them to achieve economic prosperity and to fulfill their potential.

We are already looking forward to seeing you at our 2nd Annual VIDA Golf Tournament!



GENEROUS DONORS LIKE YOU

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, VIDA relies solely on our local, state, and federal government; grants; private foundations; and donations from generous individuals and companies across the Rio Grande Valley. As you can read in the Economic Impact Study inside this Annual Report, each \$1.00 invested in VIDA converts to a return on investment of \$15.69. And we've made it easy to donate! Just go to vidacareers.org and click on the "Donate" button. You can use PayPal or a debit/credit card. Your generosity allows us to continue fulfilling our mission of educating one life at a time.

Going to work is a joy every day when your entire team works collaboratively to fulfill its mission. That joy can be seen on the faces of Irma Garcia, chief program officer; Felida Villarreal, president and CEO; Isidro Ramos, director of workforce and economic development; and Veronica Montemayor, director of finance.



Photo by Cass Davis, Hispanic Executive

VIDA OFFICES

Mercedes Administrative Office | 417 S. Ohio Ave | Mercedes, TX 78570 | 956-903-1900

McAllen Library | 4001 N. 23rd St. | McAllen, TX | 956-681-3000 | (956) 903-1900 ext. 135

McAllen Satellite Office

STC Nursing Allied Health Campus | Building A | Office #128 | 1101 E. Vermont | McAllen, TX 78503

Brownsville Satellite Office

TSC Campus | Lightner Center Building | Office #100U | 80 Fort Brown | Brownsville, TX 78520 | 956-295-3670

WWW.VIDACAREERS.ORG



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