

EPT 40/2.4



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JUL 11 2014

Southwest Key Program
C/O Hector Melchor, Program Director
Social & Welfare Service
315 E. Franklin Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mr. Melchor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of El Paso and all surrounding communities for your support over the last month. Other border communities have found themselves in need of assistance due to thousands of people who have traveled from places as far as central and South America and crossed into the United States without permission. Smuggling routes have brought these people to cities and communities in south Texas and the El Paso Border Patrol Sector is part of a national effort to receive and process these individuals while their disposition is determined.

Regardless of the circumstance in which they were encountered, they are still people in need of assistance. When it comes to humanitarian concerns, it is the communities that really provide the fortitude and the resources to overcome the challenge. I want to express my gratitude to the civic organizations such as Annunciation House, the El Paso Catholic Diocese, Southwest Key Programs, the Border Network for Human Rights, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, Las Cruces Diocese and the citizens of all the communities in and around El Paso. Without their involvement, the mission of helping others in this time of crisis would not be successful. These efforts not only help the migrants, but they also help the greater El Paso community as well by facilitating a smooth transition through the community.

I also want to commend the outpouring of compassion and giving that the El Paso community and the surrounding areas have shown. We have received many calls and emails from the community asking where they can donate items and time in order to help these migrants. Although the U.S. Border Patrol cannot accept donations from the public, I would recommend those that wish to contribute to consider the civic organization mentioned above.

Thank you to all of our civic leaders and law enforcement partners who have always lent their support for a community in need.

We ask for your continued patience and support as we traverse through this situation and rest-assured that together, as a community, we will overcome any type of adversity.

Hector Melchor
Page Two

Sincerely,



Benjamin C. Huffman
Acting Chief Patrol Agent