

**Mexico Testimonial
February 3-11, 2007**

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Why did I participate?

My interest in this educational experience through Mexico was to gain a better understanding of why Mexicans are coming to Manitowoc County, and what happens to the family members left behind. I wanted to learn more about how the family structure is affected which would have implications for UW-Extension outreach locally.

What did I learn?

I learned, particularly from Dr. Nellie Salgato's presentation and travel observations, that families endure an incredible burden financially, economically, socially, and health wise during the transitions. In addition, experiencing the extreme poverty, the Mexican resident's lack of hope, and a corrupt government, all confirmed my understanding for a need to take the risk of crossing the border to seek a quality of life.

What will I do with my new knowledge?

Thus far, I have presented to the:

- Economic Development Board of Manitowoc County
- Manitowoc Noon Rotary
- Two Rivers Noon Rotary

I have future presentations set at the:

- County Health Department with the public health nurses
- April presentation for county employees
- Diversity Circles Action Forum in May