

## **2003 Annual Report Executive Summary**

### **Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone**

We've Come A Long Way! The Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corporation (RGVEZC) has ended its 9th year of operation. Since its creation, the Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corporation has allocated over \$40,000,000 dollars in projects and has leveraged over \$365,042,099 from other sources for a grand total community investment of \$405,042,099.

The RGVEZC continues to promote and create community partnerships to enhance assets, resources, and capacities in our low-income neighborhoods, families, and communities. The Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program is designed to afford communities real opportunities for growth and revitalization. The framework of the program is embodied in four key principles: Economic Opportunity, Sustainable Community Development, Community-based Partnerships, and Strategic Vision for Change.

This report underscores our belief that community, economic and workforce development are critical keys to opening doors leading to prosperous growth and revitalization. Working together cohesively, legislators, local elected officials, partners and most importantly our communities are committed to continue, "to improve the quality of life" for all citizens.