



PRESS RELEASE

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Casa Familiar Ribbon Cutting for Living Rooms at the Border Project

San Diego, CA – Casa Familiar is pleased to announce the ribbon cutting ceremony for Living Rooms at the Border project to be held **at 10:00 a.m. on February 18, at 114 West Hall Avenue, San Ysidro, CA 92173**. Presenting at the ceremony are the Honorable Greg Cox, Supervisor of the County of San Diego, Dr. Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor of University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), Carlos Vasquez, Chair of Civic San Diego, and Lisa Cuestas, CEO of Casa Familiar.

Living Rooms at the Border is a 13,469 square-foot mixed-use project in the historic heart of San Ysidro, a predominantly Latino community in the City of San Diego. Located less than one mile from the U.S.-Mexico Border, the project includes 10 units of affordable housing and expansion space for Casa Familiar's immigration services and for the *El K-Fe* Barista Youth Training Program. The project also restored the original Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, built in 1927, and transformed it into *El Salon*, a multi-media theatre performing space to expand border arts and culture programming in partnership with Teatro Máscara Mágica.

"Living Rooms at the border is about building arts and culture, affordable housing, workforce training, university community engagement, and the services that our community needs all in one place," said Lisa Cuestas, CEO of Casa Familiar. "It is place-based community development in San Ysidro, and we thank the many people and organizations who partnered with Casa Familiar and invested in San Ysidro to make it happen."

Living Rooms at the Border was designed by Estudio Teddy Cruz + Fonna Forman in partnership with UC San Diego's Center on Global Justice. Living Rooms will incorporate a UC San Diego Border Community Station to engage faculty, students, and research institutions with the unique culture and people of the San Ysidro-Tijuana border community.

Living Rooms at the Border is made possible by grants from the PARC Foundation, ARTPLACE America, and the County of San Diego, by new markets tax credits allocated by Civic San Diego, and by financing partners Capital Impact Partner and Citi Community Capital.

Incorporated in 1973, Casa Familiar is a 501(c)(3) community-based organization that provides more than 30 direct services, including computer classes, afterschool programs, affordable and transitional housing, and cultural activities, to the

residents of South San Diego County. For more information about Casa Familiar, please visit www.casafamiliar.org.

(Renderings courtesy of Estudio Teddy Cruz + Fonna Forman)

