



# JEANETTE WALKER

A deep sense of service to others has never been foreign to Jeanette Walker. She attended a parochial school in southern California which inspired her to become a nun at a young age. She later realized the concept of what a nun represented to her was not restricted to nuns. The qualities of kindness, unselfishness, supportiveness, and being of service to others led her to realize that she could use those qualities in a number of professions.

Being the gypsy she claims, she moved from Texas to California to Nevada, to Washington, and sometimes back. She went from working in retail in San Antonio, to being business partners with her family in the mining business in Mexico and New Mexico, to protecting children, helping the homeless, promoting health, and becoming a counselor. Her greatest satisfaction was always in working in what might be called service-to-people industries, such as being a Vista volunteer. When asked where this instinct, this sense of self comes from, she replies that it was there since her first thoughts. In Jeanette's later years, her greatest passion has been working for justice for those who have been abused, misjudged and denied opportunities to prosper and develop a sense of well-being.

In the '90s, in Santa Barbara, California when candidate Bill Clinton visited, she got a taste of activism. While her participation was minimal at that time, she began following politics. She didn't realize she was hooked until the unfortunate Bush years when she finally understood political complacency was unacceptable.

But before that, she started working with the California American Heart Association to promote awareness of cardiovascular dangers and maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. As Program Director, she was one of the first to provide the newly developed CPR training to local fire and police departments. Later she volunteered with Vista for a year of service in Seattle, working with "Healthcare for the Homeless", a Robert Wood Johnson program, to develop and implement a comprehensive community health care system for the homeless.

After her year's commitment ended, she took time off to attend UTEP for an MA in Counseling. She then took a position as a senior investigative social worker with Santa Barbara, California Child Protective Services, work she loved.

When the Bush years began, she plunged into a totally unfamiliar world, POLITICS, hoping to make a difference and became a community organizer tutored by Mike Apodaca, OFA, El Paso County Democratic Party and the Obama organization.

Now she and her group of volunteers, who call themselves the Usual Suspects, are working at a local level, walking and talking and marching to bring about change in El Paso. Among her more recent involvements have been helping local candidates, such as Cissy Lizarraga who won a seat on our El Paso City Council this summer, bringing people to protest Rep. Hurd's office in the Mission Valley and to question his positions on national topics, organizing and marching in the Women's March, publicly and actively supporting DREAMers, advocating for the Affordable Care Act, helping to provide food for families in outlying areas of the county and voter registration.