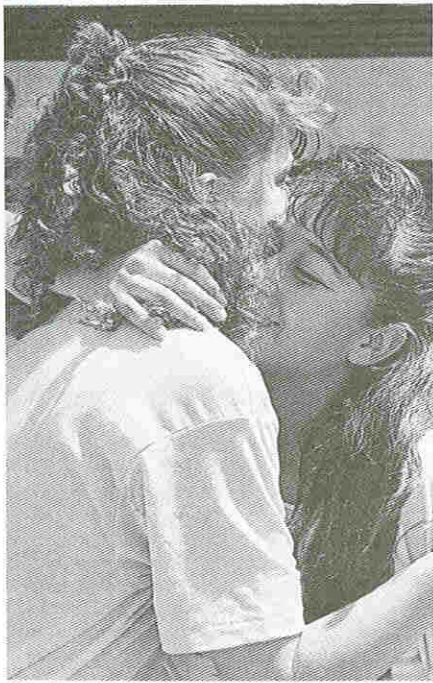


What is Hands Across the Border?

Hands Across the Border (HATB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving cultural sensitivity and understanding among citizens of the border states of Mexico and the United States through short-term cultural exchange programs.

While traditional cultural exchanges programs provide opportunities for individuals, HATB programs allow entire classes, as early as the fifth grade, to experience and learn about other cultures through a unique, two or three-way exchange.



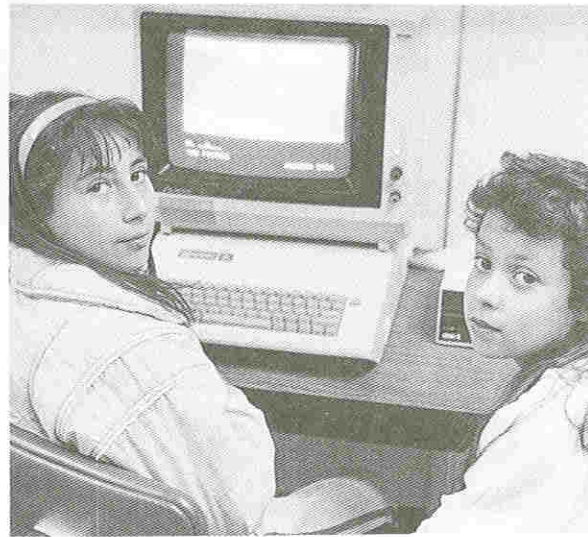
Good friends are reunited during a reciprocal visit.

HATB Impacts Lives

HATB programs have a significant impact on students, educators and business/community members. By learning different values, languages and customs, **students** build self-confidence in approaching multi-cultural situations. They also get to apply their knowledge of foreign language and geography in a real-world learning experience. **Educators** involved in HATB programs enjoy enhanced cultural, geographic and historical curriculum, increased parental involvement in education and an opportunity to exchange ideas with other educators. Likewise, **Business Community** members will benefit from students and future employees whose second-language skills and multi-cultural sensitivity are an asset in the work place.

How It Works

The 12-month program begins with extensive cultural sensitivity training of staff, students and families prior to their exchange opportunity. Humor, symbols, videos and roleplaying are part of student and adult workshops, which are followed by American student visits to Mexico and reciprocal visits by Mexican students to the United States. An evaluation stage concludes the program.



Students from both side of the border explore a computer lab.



An elementary school student from Herford, Arizona, and her Mexican peer share in one of many HATB extra-curricular activities.

Friendship Has No Borders

"This experience was so wonderful that I hope in the future everyone who wants to go can....I am so very deeply touched by four days of my life. I will never forget the love, trust, happiness and honor of being a representative of my country, town, school, and of my heart."

Crystal Bartos, eighth grade

"We had tons of fun and I learned more Spanish than I'll learn in Spanish class in two years...I think it was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Trisha Zawidski, seventh grade

"If the whole world had an exchange program like this, there would be no wars and no hate."

Anna Denton, seventh grade

"Prepare to make eternal friends with many people."

Kevin Baily Jr., eighth grade