

Donated mural reflects diversity of clinic, area

► *The tile design, representing the diversity of those involved with the health clinic, was sponsored by GRCC.*

By Gary W. Morrison
The Grand Rapids Press

The words on the ceramic mural are emblazoned in bold, colorful letters. "Juntos Podemos Hacer La Diferencia."

Together we can make a difference.

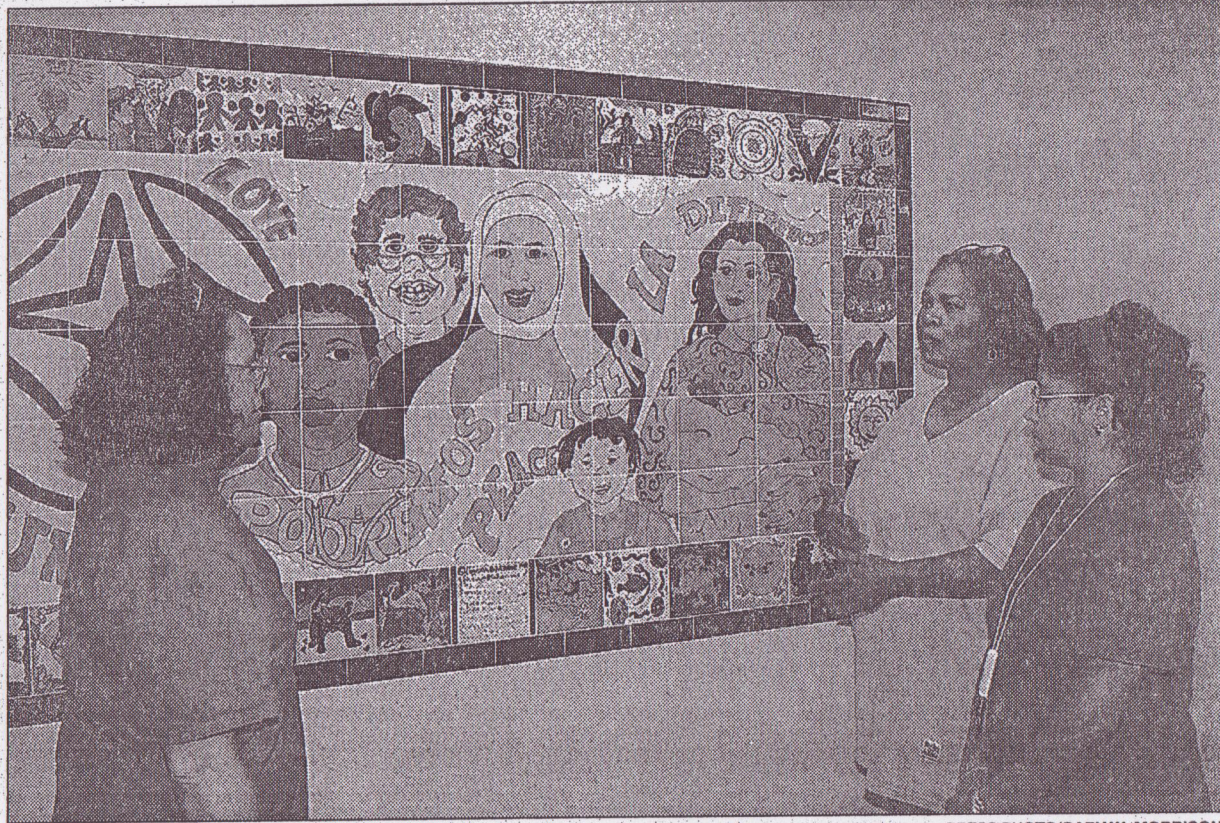
The words sum up Eugenia Marve's belief that art is a way to establish communication among races.

To Teresa Trevino, a medical assistant at Clinica Santa Maria on Grand Rapids' Southwest Side, it represents love and peace among all people.

"It is representative of the clinic," Trevino said. "We have a diverse group of people come here. We don't exclude people. We're here to serve the community."

The donated artwork is the result of Marve's community art mural project, sponsored by Grand Rapids Community College. It was to be presented today to the clinic, operated by Saint Mary's Health Services, after 18 young adults took a week to construct it.

Marve, a Grand Rapids Public Schools art teacher, has done four similar projects in recent years, in which youths of different ethnic backgrounds participated.



PRESS PHOTO/GARY W. MORRISON

Clinica Santa Maria received a ceramic mural today. Admiring the art that features peace and love are, from left, medical assistant Teresa Trevino, Eugenia Marve and Arleen Torres, also a medical assistant.

The result is a blend of art reflecting the culture of the Hispanic community surrounding Clinica Santa Maria, 730 Grandville Ave. SW, and the culture of the contributing artists.

"No matter where we live, when we provide our services we have to be conscious of the fact we live in a global community," Marve said. "We don't live on just one block. It is why we use the words 'love' and 'peace' so promi-

nently in the mural."

The project reflects elements of Saint Mary's Health Services and the people it serves. Unique pieces of tile reflect the diversity of contributors, including Egyptian, Asian, Jewish, African-American and Hispanic cultures. Even cartoon characters are represented in unique ways.

"There is also a black Fred Flintstone," Marve said.

Other projects by Marve have

resulted in murals displayed at the Grand Rapids Urban League, Baxter Community Center, Wyoming Jackson Park Middle School and Grand Rapids' Henry Elementary. All of the murals were donated and paid for by GRCC, Marve said.

"I see art as a tool for community involvement," she said. "Art is a nice way to touch people in a positive way without really meeting them." JUNE - 1998