

# Conchita Candelas



I first I came to the **Women's Intercultural Center** because I wanted learn English now that I had the opportunity with my son attending Pre-K. I was looking for a place that would provide me a more advanced English class as previous classes I had attended were provided at a lower level to that of my capacity and were extremely boring. Due to my schedule, I could only get classes in the morning and midday because I had to pick up my kids from school. Two classes were of major interest to me, the art and Reiki classes. Reiki got my interest because it said "*healing with your hands*" and it was something I wanted to explore. I was hungry for knowledge so I attended all the trainings and special workshops that were scheduled every Friday.

I felt happy to come to the Center... to see people that received you as if you were a member of their family. I used to think to myself, "*My... these people are friendly and here I had been isolated at home not even talking to my neighbors.*" It was nice to see the women bring their lunch and share it with each other. They would talk about their families, their classes and everything else going on around them. Afterwards some would get up to go to their next class and others would stay behind to clean up. I got accustomed to the Center. It helped me to socialize, appreciate the kindness and sharing of people, and it inspired me to do more. The dynamics of the Center taught me think about what I could do and how I could achieve it.

After observing me for a while, Sr. Kathleen, the Center's Executive Director and one of the founders, asked me what I wanted to do. I responded, "*Now that I know Reiki I want to learn massage therapy but I can't do it because I cannot attain financial aid to take the classes.*" She said, "*Maybe I can help you get a scholarship but I can't promise you anything.*" and that's how it was left as I continued taking my classes and eventually got my GED. It was when I attained my GED that I now knew I could advance my career and continued advancing my knowledge level of Reiki. The Reiki Master, Kathryn Jasper, was not only my teacher but my mentor. It was then that I was encouraged to attend El Paso Community College to attain my education in massage therapy through the financial assistance from the Center.

In a personal level the Center opened my eyes to see the future that I wanted to have and doing so I also learned to share my knowledge with other women. I was now able to encourage other women who also felt isolated in the same position as housewives and mothers that they could be the catalyst of change in their own lives.

At the Center we encourage each other and support each other. We take classes that light our desire to learn more and more and to advance... I consider the Center the foundation for the personal development of my career and the many careers of other women that I have met. It ignites a spark within you. The Center is the rock, the foundation of my life, it helped me attain my certification in massage therapy and become a Reiki Master.

That is why for so many years I shared what I learned just like the Center helped me learned, I imparted my knowledge. I also helped design the healing arts room at the center, researched the policies, procedures for starting a massage therapy business. I am a graduate of the Center's first Small Business Development Academy and am grateful that they gave me the opportunity to utilize that room to start my business doing Reiki and later finally becoming an independent consultant doing Reconnective Healing.

Not only did I attain an education in Reiki, one that where the cost to become a master is \$10,000, for only \$1 a class and massage therapy through their support, and eventually giving me the courage to venture out on my own as an independent consultant but the Center and its participants were there for me when I needed them the most. When my son had to undergo a kidney transplant, they were there offering their support and helping raise money for me to pay the high medical costs.

*"I am very grateful to the Center, so then that's why I taught classes to the participants as a volunteer Instructor because of all the support that the Center had given me and my family. I know that so long as the Center is opened, not one woman that walks through those doors will ever feel alone, will ever walk away empty handed...in some way the Center will make an impact in her life, just like they made in mine."*

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## **Where is she now?**

In 2013, Conchita Candelas passed the torch on to her pupil, Maria Baeza, making her a Reiki Master and leaving her in place to become the Reiki Instructor for the Center. She did it at a time that she discovered a passion for Reconnective Healing and decided to pursue her interest more in depth. She is currently an independent consultant for The Reconnection. If you wish to experience Reconnective Healing you may contact her at 915-538-7930 or via email at [cscandelas@yahoo.com](mailto:cscandelas@yahoo.com).

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