

Creating things together brings people together!

Kiara and her siblings and cousins live in a community called Gamerco, in New Mexico, USA. As ATD Fourth World facilitators, we met them because we started going to her community to set up the **Story Garden** which brought children and a few adults together around books and craft every Friday afternoon.

One day in the winter of 2018, we started a project which involved sewing our names onto colorful fabric. We learned how to pick the color of threads that would look perfect on the fabric that the children chose, how to put the thread through the needle, and many details about sewing by hand.



Adult's hand showing support to children's work.



We decided to trace the parents and grandparents' hands on fabric, and after the children decorated them, we attached the hands onto the back of the banner. When we saw the finished banner, we understood how our effort was worth it! It was beautiful!

In August of 2019 the children of the Story Garden used colors and designs to prepare an official invitation addressed to their parents and grandparents.

On the **celebration day** we set up a canopy, played music as a rallying sign, and we all got together. Grandma Esther, a dear grandma and facilitator of the Story Garden in Gamerco, said a few warm words and talked about how she met the people working with the Story Garden and how she asked them *"When are we going to make our own banner?"* We asked the kids how many children's names and how many adult's hands we had on our banner and we got plenty of answers! Kaylie, a 4-year old who is Kiara's cousin, cut the pink ribbon that finally unveiled our **GAMERCO BANNER!**

Kiara told us:

"The Gamerco banner is important because we put our names on one side and our parents' hands on the other side."

We have **34 children's names** and **19 adult hands** showing how many parents and grandparents supported their children in their work.

In the end parents and children stood in line to get some snacks and cake. We also prepared plates for people who were not able to make it. We all enjoyed the food and one another's company! **Creating things together brings people together!** that's the lesson of this project.

