

# Transforming neighbors and neighborhoods

“Before EPES I was a nobody,” Rosa said. “My first husband beat me and didn’t let me leave the house for five years. I attended an EPES workshop and from then on I couldn’t stop.”

Participating in EPES (“Popular Education for Health”) is transformational for Rosa, her fellow EPES Health Promoters, and for their *poblaciones* (communities) in Santiago and Concepción, Chile.

To be certified as an EPES Health Promoter, Rosa participated in weekly training classes for one year. Rosa is especially proud of her EPES certification, and what she has since achieved, because she did not finish high school. Rosa, widowed for a second time, went on to take training in micro-enterprise and runs a glass and frame shop out of her home.

Rosa and other health promoters lead workshops on



photo: Sue Edison-Swift

a variety of topics, including self-esteem, cancer awareness, HIV/AIDS, and natural remedies. They are community

organizers, achieving better sanitation and services for their neighborhoods. They get their neighbors’ attention by employing popular education methods, including street theater, wall murals, marketplace displays, and demonstrations.

Rosa’s group of health promoters produces a newsletter and distributes it door to door. When she encounters a woman shut in by abuse, Rosa shares her experience and advises, “Don’t remain silent. Speak out.”

*Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help fund EPES and its transformational work in Chile. Thank you.*



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