

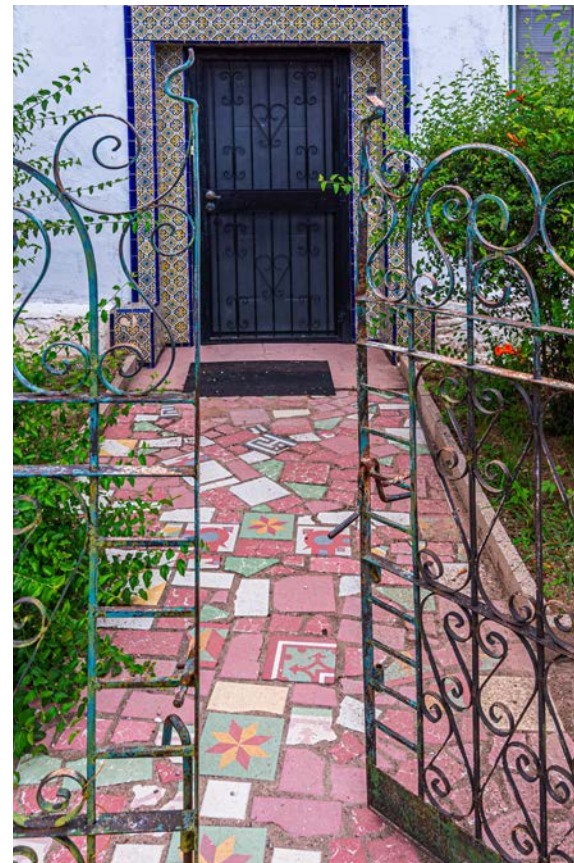
A Living Legacy

“At every turning point
in Arivaca’s story,
these walls have welcomed us in.”

Est. 1878



Welcome to el Corazón de Arivaca—a building shaped by time, memory, and the enduring spirit of our community. Since 1878, it has stood at the crossroads of Arivaca’s story, reinventing itself alongside the people it serves. Today, we invite you to join us in writing the next chapter—one of restoration, renewal, and hope. (*The Heart of Arivaca*)



A Living Legacy: el Corazón de Arivaca

At the heart of Arivaca's main street stands a building that has quietly witnessed nearly a century and a half of local history. Constructed in 1878 by Oscar Machols as a grand adobe hotel, the structure welcomed miners, travelers, and “strangers” with warm meals at all hours—a beacon of hospitality in a booming frontier town.

Its attached corral and barn, dating back even earlier to 1859, hint at a past when horses outnumbered cars and the desert stagecoach was king. The hotel's historic presence is confirmed by its appearance on the 1881 Roskrige map, a rare distinction for any building in the region. Through the rise and fall of the mining boom, it remained a gathering point for the community, later operated by John G. Bartlett and then as part of the Arivaca Land and Cattle Company, giving Arivaca its “company town” character.



From military officers' quarters during World War I to a rental for teachers, sun-seekers, and adventurers, the hotel's thick adobe walls have sheltered generations. In the 1940s, Melvin and Minerva Hoefle transformed it into a lively gambling parlor, dance hall, and bar—complete with extra doors for quick escapes during sheriff's raids. The front room once rang with church services led by Fred and Sally McGinn, and in the 1950s, the Schwanderlik and Prevor families lovingly renovated the property, adding an Arizona room, breakfast nook, and the iconic front wall.



A Living Legacy: el Corazón de Arivaca

**“If these adobe walls could speak,
they’d tell of laughter and loss,
of shelter given and hope restored.
Here, the heart of Arivaca beats strong—
past, present, and future
woven together in sun-baked clay.”**

The hotel’s two towering, high-ceilinged rooms became lifelines in 1956, when a fire destroyed the neighboring Mercantile. For four years, these rooms served as Arivaca’s temporary store and post office—proof that this building has always adapted to hold the needs and hopes of its community.

Ownership passed through many caring hands, each adding their own chapter. In recent decades, Connie and Bill Sparks revived the space as Casino “Rural,” hosting fundraisers and charity events. In 2018, they donated the property to Arivaca Helping Hearts (AHH), a nonprofit devoted to easing local hardship. For years, AHH used the building for everything from community gatherings to AirBnB stays, channeling every dollar back into humanitarian aid for Arivaca’s most vulnerable.



A Living Legacy: el Corazón de Arivaca

In 2025, AHH entrusted both their services and this beloved building to Arivaca Human Resource (AHR), ensuring its legacy would endure. Today, as it transforms into el Corazón de Arivaca, the building's spirit remains unchanged: a place where people come together, where history lives on, and where every brick and beam supports the health and well-being of the entire community.

With your partnership, we will breathe new life into these storied walls—honoring the past, serving the present, and building hope for the future. 🍷

“**With every repair and every new idea,
we honor all those who have
come before—the cooks and gamblers,
the soldiers and teachers,
the dreamers and helpers—who trusted
that this place could hold
the community's hope.**”

