

## Casa de los Amigos

### A Quaker Center for Peace and International Understanding Presentation

*"We wanted to show our faith in action and show it in a way that would both bring healing and at the same time take us out of self and selfish aims and carry us into the furnace where others were suffering."*

*Rufus Jones (Service of love in War Time)*

Petaluma, California, July 16, 2017.

Dear Friends, from Mexico I would like to greet you warmly bringing the community of Casa de los Amigos.

Thank you for opening this space and for your interest in the affairs of la Casa, this year has brought a lot of changes, the home team has expanded, we have received more visitors and guests and also more migrants and refugees.

The quote by Rufus Jones sums up our experience of the year, showing faith in action and showing it in a way that allows us to get closer to people who suffer, who have pain and needs for support, and thanks to Casa de los Amigos have a place of healing and recovery.

We have discovered the presence of light and spirituality in the daily coexistence with the community that meets in Casa de los Amigos. The people who are staying have been able to talk to migrants, refugees, students, human rights activists, researchers, children, women, the LGBT community, and many people who, regardless of their condition, gather there.

This meeting space allows us to build peace and international understanding, to reflect on our role in the world based on the inspiration and testimonies of Quakerism of simplicity, peace, equality, community, integrity and unity with nature, and has allowed us also share it to the Mexican community that visits la Casa, because now we believe in building more bridges of understanding between Mexico and the USA, and less walls that divide people.

The last year, la Casa received 24 human rights groups, 1897 guests, 2600 visitors who knew about Quakerism, celebrated our 60th anniversary and continued to give breakfast to those who need it for free.

This year, the number of migrants and refugees we attended increased, with 63 people from countries as diverse as Russia, Ukraine, Congo, Haiti, Cameroon, Togo, Venezuela, Honduras, Iraq and Iran among children, women and families. Our partners are: the United Nations, Mennonite Central Committee, and of course with our support of the Quaker community.

In 2017, we are working with 6 programs of peace; hospitality, human mobility, volunteerism, economic justice, environment, peace and spirituality.

In 2017 so far this year we have already served 94 people migrants and refugees, a sample of which the migration of people has increased strongly.

Thank you very much for the support provided by the Quaker Community of the Pacific Yearly Meeting. For example, LACC collaboration between programs, and thanks to the San Diego Monthly Meeting, la Casa building was able to be repaired.

We received in donation a property in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, where the Quaker Peace Center Lu Mattson is being created. We have projects for consolidation, such as the creation of the Quaker University of México.

**We are campaigning for funds to support migrants and refugees. We need 1,000 friends to donate \$ 2 a month to complete the care we provide.**

Work has become more complex. The cost of living in Mexico has increased, insecurity and violence and problems such as selling drugs outside la Casa, but always the inspiration and discovering the presence of the light, of the spirit, has allowed us to continue to give part of that light.

**We are now starting Quaker volunteers in residence, operated by la Casa, with the moral support of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Mexico. We seek persons if they are interested in a service experience where they can share all their inner wealth. In this space we seek collaboration with the community of la Casa. Friends and Quakers are invited to a stay in Casa de los Amigos.**

Thank you very much for your support, thanks to all the meetings that make up the Pacific Yearly Meeting, to all friends and friends who continue to support la Casa, thanks to your prayers, good wishes, financial support and light, in this place it is possible to continue to build peace, international understanding and that each person who enters la Casa, finds in his experience his inner light and the truth of his heart.

For more information contact; [direccion@casadelosamigos.org](mailto:direccion@casadelosamigos.org); [www.casadelosamigos.org](http://www.casadelosamigos.org)

Gracias Amigos!

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