

# Pacific Yearly Meeting Latin American Concerns Committee Report to Representative Committee 2020

In 1997, PYM Annual Session established the standing committee Latin America Concerns to gather and disseminate information to Pacific and other Yearly Meetings regarding Friends groups and service projects in Latin America with special attention to Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program (Progresa). The intention is to support rather than replace spirit-led projects already supported by Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and individual Friends. In 2017, the Undocumented Student Program of Sacramento Meeting became the fourth project in LACC

## **Casa de los Amigos**

For the last year, there have been serious difficulties in the Casa de los Amigos organization. As there is not agreement among those in Mexico City (such as 2 different boards claiming to be in charge), Ministry and Oversight has been monitoring the situation. As of now, there is no clarity or unity. Acknowledging the important work that the Casa has been involved with over many years, we continue to hold those in Mexico in the Light.

## **El Salvador Project**

*Pafmelsalvadorprojects.org*

Report pending

## **Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program (Progresa)**

*www.guatemalafriends.org*

Progresa is currently supporting 87 students. Most are studying at the university level. In January, 30 North Americans joined 30 students in our annual Teaching English Work (TE) Tour in Antigua. Following TE, 11 were taken on a tour of the Highlands. Our next Teaching English will be December 1-8, 2020 and we already have 10 enrolled. We continue to provide our students with four leadership development trainings each year. We have established several mini-libraries for the preservation of Mayan language and culture. A committee comprised of staff, board members and health professional alumni was established to assist students with health conditions that interfere with their studies.

## **Sacramento Friends Meeting Undocumented Student Scholarship Project**

*www.quakerundocumentedstudentscholarship.org*

Our current Undocumented Student Scholarship Project Committee chose seven recipients for the Sacramento State University scholarship. We had one returning graduate student carry over from the previous year because ours is a renewable \$1,000 annual scholarship. In an effort to have some contact and better understand the needs of the students we reach out to them and have at least one gathering at Patricia Portillo and Alvaro Alvarado's home during the year. We are planning a fundraising dinner for the end of March, where some students will share their experiences with our community.

The Committee consists of Patricia Portillo, Paty Constantino, Hulda Muaka, Linda Rowell (Co-Clerk), and Donna Smith (Co-Clerk)