

Pacific Yearly Meeting Latin American Concerns Report to Representative Committee 2022

In 1997, PYM Annual Session established a standing Latin America Concerns Committee 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

Casa de los Amigos is a Quaker Center for Peace and International Understanding in Mexico City and the historic home of the Mexico City Monthly Meeting. The Casa remains paralyzed by an ongoing institutional crisis, but there is hope and progress. In 2019 the outgoing director illegally removed the majority of the Board (Asamblea) without their knowledge and hired a new director unfamiliar with Quaker work. Since then, most programs have ceased, most partners cut ties, and the building has been occupied. Since this past summer it appears that the people who instigated the crisis are no longer involved and that the occupants are overseen by Horacio Peña, a programmed Quaker from the Monterrey area and former board member. For reasons that remain unclear, he has refused the Board's efforts to meet and address our community's significant concern. The Board encourages anyone who might have an impactful connection with Horacio Peña to contact us. As the Board works diligently to return the Casa to its community and mission, donations are greatly needed and can be arranged by emailing asamblea@casadelosamigos.org. Please visit the website www.casadelosamigos.org.

El Salvador Projects

El Salvador projects of Palo Alto Friends Meeting have continued to adapt under pandemic conditions. In 2021 we had several students finish in our program and others who dropped out of the program and their studies. We finished the 2021 year with 15 continuing university students, the 2022 academic year we start with 19 students, including four bright young women selected from only seven applications, which is much below our normal number of 10-18 applicants. Our coed student house continues to function but like in 2020 and 2021 with limited use and a maximum of 11 of the 22 beds being used. All university students and residents at the house have received Covid-19 vaccinations and buster.

We continue to provide limited support to the public K-12 school and youth group in the village of El Barrio where our work started back in 1989. Public schools in El Salvador have asked students to attend in person classes but this is still voluntary with virtual schooling available for all, the majority of students have opted for in person classes attending 2 or 3 days a week in small groups.

To follow our work or for more information, you can visit www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org, or see our fan page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pafmelsalprojects>. You are also welcome to write to our Project Director, Robert Broz, at rpbroz@gmail.com, or Committee Clerk Hulda Muaka, at huldamuaka@hotmail.com.

Guatemala Friends Scholarship Committee (PROGRESA)

2021 was a second year of great challenges and significant achievements. 95 students were supported, and 19 graduated. About half of our students had sponsors. Despite heroic efforts of staff to support students, the

continuing pandemic took a toll. Worsening economic conditions forced over 20% to drop out: a much greater number than in the past. PROGRESA, like many other other programs, was unable to meet our new student recruitment goals, yet we continue to work towards our goal of 100. Vaccinations are required by PROGRESA, and two potential students declined. Staff continues to ensure that our students can connect with virtual classes. Workshops are held weekly to provide student support and promote community. Some students participated in an Alternatives to Violence Basic Workshop taught by PAV Guatemala; there are plans to offer the Advanced workshop followed by a trauma awareness workshop, Resilience to Trauma. A second successful virtual Teaching English class was U.S. Was are optimistically planning to return to Guatemala for Teaching English in December 2022. For more information visit: www.guatemalafriends.org or <https://www.facebook.com/progresaquakers> Or you can contact us: Miguel Costop, Director progresas3@gmail.com or Donna Smith, Progresas co-clerk at RedwoodForestFM dforestvil@aol.com

Sacramento Friends Meeting, Undocumented Student scholarship Project

Sacramento Friends Meeting has been working to support undocumented students at Sacramento State University since 2010. Our scholarship consists of a \$1,000 award per year. It is renewable and available to undergraduate and graduate students. In the current academic year 2021-2022, we awarded four qualifying applicants. Currently, we are supporting seven students. During the pandemic it has been more difficult to keep in touch with scholarship recipients. One student who graduated last year got a job as a music teacher at a private school. Another recent graduate said, "Thank you very much! I am super excited to begin my professional career as a school counselor! I will make sure to share your link and stay in touch as I am sure I will be working with many students who can benefit from this scholarship!" From providing support for DACA renewal fees, to buying materials for classes, and helping students pay for housing, our scholarship continues to give students hope that someone cares about their future. We at Sacramento Friends Meeting are grateful for the continued support from members of PYM and Monthly Meetings.
<http://www.quakerundocumentedstudentscholarship.org/index.html>

2022 Linda Rowell, Chico, Co-Clerk

2023 Sergei Agalzoff, Orange Grove

2024 Margaret Willis, Delta.

2024 Paty Constantino, M. City

Appt by Casa de los Amigo--Bart Czyz

Appt by El Salvador Project-- Hulda Muaka, Palo Alto

Appt by Guatemala Scholarship(Progresas)--Donna Smith, Redwood Forest, Co-Clerk

Appt by Undocumented Student Project--Patricia Portillo, Sacramento

Submitted by Donna Smith, Co-Clerk