



FRIENDS & HELPERS of MADRE BERENICE

PO Box 9739
San Diego, CA 92169
www.friendsofhmb.org

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IT IS THANKSGIVING TIME

As we come toward the end of the 2014, we'd like to update the 'Friends & Helpers of Madre Berenice' on the impact your generosity has made.

Betty and I just returned from Guayaquil, Ecuador in September. We were joined this year by one new missionary, and each of us have been blessed and humbled to see first-hand the fruits of all of your donations. Together, we have supported three unique missions in and around Guayaquil.

Fundacion Padre Damien, led by Sister Annie Credidio

Sister Annie and her staff provide housing, medical care for in and out patients and love for those with Hansen's disease. Our gift of \$18,000 made a significant impact on the daily lives of these patients – and ours -- as we saw our help in areas such as:

- Medical supplies and equipment for the wound care room, including a portable oxygen system, stainless steel treatment tables, IV poles and more.
- Funds to complete the Men's bathroom remodel – beyond the \$10,000 grant we procured for this project.



- Paint for outdoor patio, the many benches and the Chapel, as well as potting soil to enhance the men's garden area and a patio glider for the women's garden area.
- Assistance for a Hansen's patient to put in a well on his new property – enabling him to live there and run a small business to support his family.
- Assistance to Sr. Luz who works in the countryside where Hansen's is so prevalent. She works to identify and support children and adults who have symptoms of the disease, and provides medical and nutritional assistance to the families. (NB-Sr. Luz is a former Hansen's patient herself).
- Provided funding for one week's operation at Damien House – including food, salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc.

Parish of Jesu Cristo Pan de Vida and Escuela Julio Matevello, led by Missionary Father PJ Hughes

Father PJ Hughes, a missionary with the St. James Society, has been leading a faith community of 4 churches and an expanding K-7 school for the past five years. We provided \$14,500 and many joyous volunteer hours in support of this mission. Our support specifically provided:



- Scholarships for 35 students @ \$200 each, including their uniforms.
- Three computers for the computer lab plus two donated laptop computers. (NB. FHMB has provided 11 of the 13 computers the school has – all in the past 4 years)
- Funds for the government required annual bonus check (paid May1, 2014) for 10 teachers @ \$350 each
- \$1,000 cash to be used as needed toward the government required December bonus for the teachers
- Classroom supplies including: books, stickers, scissors, glue, colored pencils, pencils, pens, rulers, etc.
- Sport shoes for 25 children, as well as a volley ball and other sports balls
- Religious items including catechism workbooks, books for students and teachers, & Mass supplies
- Fiesta for all the students –juice and bread. This was primarily funded by collections from St. Brigid's CCD classes

Fundacion Madre Berenice, led by Sr. Eugenia and Janeth.

This foundation works in the community of Guasmo, near Guayaquil to support those diagnosed with HIV and AIDS. Our annual \$4,000 donation provides much needed funds for doctors' visits, medications, transportation, group meetings and nutritious meals for up to 25 children and adults.



As you can see, through your generous support, we have been able to directly support three faith communities who are impacting people who would otherwise be marginalized or forgotten. Instead, these people feel the embrace of our shared faith in a very tangible way.

Thank you again for your generous support of these projects. These are only possible through your donations. You are making an enormous difference in the lives of so many.

As the holidays approach – please help us to continue this work with an end of the year donation to:

**Friends & Helpers of Madre Berenice
PO Box 9739
San Diego, CA 92169**

Wishing you and your family the most blessed Advent and Christmas season - with our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Katie Brown
President and Founder

Betty Matteson
Secretary and Founder

PS – Save the date! Our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction will be held March 2nd at St. Brigid's Parish Hall.

**Friends & Helpers of Madre Berenice, A non-profit 501c (3) organization, Tax ID 20-8115700
Inspired by the teaching of Jesus and the call to have a preferential love of the poor, Friends & Helpers of Madre Berenice was organized to provide help and support to the missionaries of Ecuador.**

Assistance is given by acquiring healthcare and educational supplies, clothing, and funds to supplement the services of the missionaries. Members witness to the love of God by visiting, getting to know and serve the people personally.