



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted
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Spring 2014

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Greetings from the Rosalie Rendu Center

Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters,

Winter has come and gone bringing us to a new season with wonderful memories of past interactions. Let me start with Christmas, when the Caritas Business Services Angels got together to help our children celebrate the birth of our Savior with gifts bought and wrapped with love. Head Angel Marian led her troupe with great joy, bringing much happiness to the children in the Carriage Manor Apartments and to the children of our ESL students.

After our Winter break, our students returned ready to work and enjoy a pot-luck whenever an appropriate occasion arose. These ladies are the best cooks ever. They are always ready to party—just ask Ann, who was given a surprise 80th birthday lunch, complete with hugs, gifts and many kisses.

We also started a second Conversation Club with our 8:30 a.m. class, a little short of volunteers but with the determination that more would soon join us. If anyone is interested or has any questions, please call me at (650) 315-7258 or stop by for a visit.

February found us walking the beautiful grounds of Stanford University hosted by the staff at the Haas Center. Tom Schnaubelt, Executive Director, introduced us to the wonderful work and services of the Haas Center, took our group to lunch and gave our students a tour of the campus. It was yet another broadening experience for our students.

Our children were treated to a special experience by Ally Benas. Lynn Benas, our head tutor, taught her daughters at an early age about saving and investing for the future. Lynn's daughter Ally thought that this might be a helpful skill for our children, so she started an investment club for them (see inside story).

These are but a few of the happenings at the RRC, where many hands are making light work helping our families to break the cycle of poverty. Many thanks to all of you who have shared your ideas, your time and your treasure. Without your care and support our garden would be devoid of flowers..

Sincerely,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director



Sponsored by the
Daughters of Charity Ministry Services Corporation



Family Enrichment

At the Rosalie Rendu Center, we are always striving to offer new educational and community building activities to our families, complementing our mission to break the cycle of poverty by educating, mentoring and raising the self-esteem of the entire family. Taking field trips to local points of interest is one way to expose our families to new experiences. Field trips help to promote an interest in life long learning for both adults and children, and offer new, culturally rich experiences to our families. The students of the Rosalie Rendu Center typically do not have the resources to take the entire family to a museum. Reliable transportation is often an issue. As a result, many of the children and almost none of the parents have had the opportunity to visit museums that can expand the walls of their classrooms.

So, we have been out and about lately, visiting a variety of places in the Bay Area. In February, Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service and the University's Center for Teaching and Learning hosted our 10:30 (advanced English) class for a tour of the Haas Center, a tour of Stanford campus and lunch at one of the dorms. In March, the 10:30 class was treated to a delicious Mardi Gras breakfast complete with a "Kings Cake", at teacher Jane Stern's home in Palo Alto. And thanks to a grant from the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation, along with contributions from Ira Ruskin's left-over campaign money and individual donors, twelve of our families from the 10:30 class, including children, husbands and grandparents enjoyed a fun filled trip to San Francisco on a Saturday in April. We hired a bus to transport us to and from the Rosalie Rendu Center to Pier 39, visited the Aquarium of the Bay (complete with an educational IMAX movie in English) followed by lunch on the Pier. Afterwards, the families took advantage of the beautiful spring day to take in the sights of the Pier and Fisherman's Wharf. Said Lupe, mother of 3 children, "This is so much fun! I have never been here before". The families enjoyed the trip and most of all, enjoyed doing the trip as a group! And thanks to the generosity of the funders, we have enough money to provide a similar experience to our 8:30 class with a trip to Gilroy Gardens in June.

PHOTOS: (Clockwise from the top): Stanford Tour, Day at the Aquarium of the Bay and Mardi Gras Breakfast.

Invest IQ

The Rosalie Rendu Center recently teamed up with Invest IQ and Ally Benas to teach middle school age students about investing and personal finance. Invest IQ led a four part class that focused on introducing the concept of equity to students. Students learned about the difference between debt and equity and discussed the costs and benefits of debt versus equity as a business, and as an investor. In addition, each student was asked to select a stock assuming a \$100 budget and convince the rest of the class why their selected stock was the best investment. At the end of the presentations the class voted. While certain financial concepts introduced during the classes such as EPS and dividends were considered, the class focused on long term viability of the business model and brand reputation. Given the criteria and the members of the class, it is perhaps not surprising that the group selected Sony (maker of Play Station) and Game Stop (a video gamer retailer).

The group also voted and agreed to dub themselves the Flying Squirrel Investment Group. The group continues to monitor the selected stocks as well as the stocks they did not choose (including McDonald's and Facebook). After holding the five shares of Sony and two shares of Game Stop for a year, the Flying Squirrel Investment Group will vote to either sell the shares and distribute the proceeds to members or continue to hold. Currently, the group is very pleased with their ~7% return of investment (to date).

Invest IQ is a not-for-profit organization that provides engaging, interactive financial literacy classes. Invest IQ's curriculum teaches concepts necessary for people to take charge of their personal finances. In addition to fundamental financial concepts, Invest IQ emphasizes the use of easily accessible, low cost personal finance tools. *For more information about Invest IQ, please visit their website: www.investiqorg.blogspot.com.*



RRC Friends Luncheon a Success

On April 9, more than 80 guests gathered for the biannual Rosalie Rendu Center Friends Luncheon. The theme was "Growing Through Education". We celebrated 16 years of breaking the cycle of poverty in East Palo Alto. The room was filled to capacity and a tasty lunch of quiche and salad was served by Rosalie Rendu Center students. The event's Emcee was Bill Somerville, a long-time supporter and fan of the Center. The keynote speaker was Amika Guillaume, Principal at Cesar Chavez School in East Palo Alto, followed by Ivan Barragan and Sister Paule Freeburg, D.C.

Bill Somerville made the comment that our donors are "investing in people" when they donate to the Center, not just giving money to a school. The Rosalie Rendu Center has many success stories. Ivan Barragan spoke about his work at the Center as Program Assistant. He also shared how his mother was an inspiration to him as she learned to speak English. It was her encouragement that led him to work hard in school, and he is now attending the University of California, Santa Cruz. Sister Paule Freeburg talked about the Perez Family and how their studies at the

Rosalie Rendu Center boosted their careers and helped them encourage their children educationally.

Amika Guillaume, the keynote speaker, spoke about the "Digital Divide", which is the biggest challenge facing her school. The students have access to a computer for only 20 minutes a day, and most don't own a computer. She mentioned that the Rosalie Rendu Center makes a difference by providing computer classes and computers for parents and children to borrow. The computers help them with their homework in their own homes and at the Center's after-school program for school-aged children.

Many thanks to Whole Foods in Los Altos for donating the quiches, Nothing Bundt Cakes in San Carlos for the Bundtins, the Advisory Board for all their hard work coordinating this wonderful event and to St. Elizabeth Seton School for making their wonderful venue available to us.

If you missed out on our event, please visit our website at www.rosalie-rendu-center.org for more information.

PHOTOS: (Left) Sister T, keynote speaker Amika Guillaume and Sally Falkenhagen. (Right) Ivan Barragan and his mother Theresa Barragan.



Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Donations received from May 2, 2013 to April 28, 2014. We do our best to include all donors in our list and apologize if we've inadvertently missed your name. Please send omissions to rosalierendu@yahoo.com.

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Jacqueline Zhang

New Advisory Board Members

The Rosalie Rendu Center is fortunate to welcome two of its long-time volunteers, Lynn Benas and Ann Idzik, to its Advisory Board. Lynn was born and raised locally, is married and has two grown daughters. She works for Palo Alto Unified School District as a teacher's aide. She shares her professional experience by teaching, coordinating and staffing the homework club, the Center's after school program for children who live in Carriage Manor or whose parents attend ESL classes at the Center. Lynn also volunteers at the Center's summer program for children, which aims to help them retain what they've learned during the school year with extra reading and enrichment activities.

Ann was born in Pennsylvania, married in Switzerland and lived in England, several cities on the east coast and in the Midwest. She has four children and eleven grandchildren. She moved to the Bay Area twenty years ago and now lives in East Palo Alto. She has a doctorate in Educational Administration from Columbia and has always been interested in education, serving on local and county school boards. She chairs the board of The Children's School of Art and Science, a new K-5 school in Palo Alto. Ann volunteers weekly for the Center's Conversation Club, where the adult ESL students practice conversation with native English speaking volunteers.

Ann says, "The women we meet with weekly are true warriors. They arrived in this country under great hardships, yet are raising their families with clear core values, and sharing with us ways they strive to improve their lives which makes it possible for their children to achieve in ways none of them ever dreamt possible. Along the way they are playful and celebrate! The strength of this class format allows the women to improve their communication skills while learning about our culture. Stories are shared; we have gotten to know about their families, and they hear about ours. All of this is possible because of deep trust of one another. I have never experienced such satisfying volunteer work! Sister T's leadership is brilliant, the right mix of encouragement and responsibility for all of us."

