



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted
1760 Bay Road, #24, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 473-9522 • www.rosalie-rendu-center.org

Spring 2009

**ROSALIE RENDU
C E N T E R**

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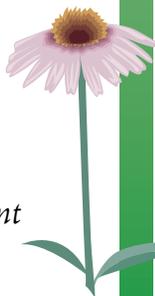
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A Message From Sister T



Dear Friends,

Now that spring is here, I watch the flowers blooming, and am reminded of our students and how much they have grown and blossomed. We will soon have six students ready to attend college ESL classes. This is never a comfortable move because the students have formed support groups and lasting friendships here. It is always difficult to leave a place that is warm and nurturing. But, as our slogan says, the RRC is "where seeds are planted."

Much of the progress this year is due to the addition of our Conversation Clubs where English speaking volunteers help students to speak English. I have already noticed a difference in the ease with which the students meet new visitors. Rather than responding with a simple yes or no, they are now able to answer in sentences and even ask questions. Students have said, "I don't get so nervous." "I am more comfortable speaking." And, "it is fun." The clubs meet twice a month and with more volunteers we would like to have a weekly Club. If interested, please give me a call. I know that you will enjoy the students and find it rewarding.

Cinco de Mayo was celebrated on May 3rd and it was wonderful that many of you were able to join us. While this is not a big day for celebrating in Mexico, it is a great opportunity for getting together, sharing good food (our students are truly wonderful cooks), good conversation and great Mariachi music.

Thanks to a grant from the Gilbert Foundation, volunteer Sam Battles and Program Assistant Ivan Barragan completed a much needed upgrade our wireless connection. Our Friday morning computer class has been growing. The students have made business cards and are e-mailing each other, their teachers and volunteers, and all in English.

All of our people are hurting during these difficult economic times, yet I hear no complaining; a good lesson for us all. The classes continue to have good attendance and if space permitted we could add a few more. Instead we try to cover as much as possible in our short time together. Many thanks to all of you for your caring and support; it is your support that keeps me going. I love what I am doing and am overjoyed to have each of you working along side me in this garden. Just as each student is unique, so too the gifts you give them and the Center. By being a part of this special garden, where adults and children can grow and blossom, you help break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sister Trinitas

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C.

Executive Director



Sponsored by the Daughters of Charity Ministry Services Corporation

Volunteer Spotlight: Arthur Deex

Arthur Deex first came to the Rosalie Rendu Center about ten years ago to help maintain the center's computers; he performed malware checks and hard drive maintenance, and installed software. When children wanted to do homework or play games, he was eager to help. The Rosalie Rendu Center became a rewarding hobby and he never left. Over the years he began teaching computer classes to adults. Today, he conducts a class for ladies to help them keep pace with their teenagers, who as everyone

knows, are really computer-smart. Rather than holding classes about what makes computers work or how to master Microsoft Office, the ladies learn how to make their own business cards and send-receive-forward emails. They take pictures on their cell phones and email or mail them to friends and relatives. Sometimes they Google; sometimes they visit EBay; sometimes they shop online. This may



Arthur (center) works with Fidelia (left) and Hilda (right) at the computer. In a little Photoshop trick, we've replaced the logo on Arthur's shirt with the RRC logo.

seem rather trivial, but if you've never sat down at a laptop before, this is really useful stuff. Thank you Arthur, for all the time you devote to RRC!

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Many thanks to our fabulous volunteers who help the RRC flourish!

HOMEWORK CLUB

Lynn Benas
Perry Marlon
Cathy Perga
Silvia Maraboli

CONVERSATION CLUBS

Nancy McGaraghan
Margaret Feuer
Sister Martha Garcia
Dan Marshall
Sister Mary Elizabeth
Dick Brennan
Anne Flegel
Ann Idzik
Sister Linda Ann
Barbara Gelpi

COMPUTER CLASS

Arthur Deex

ESL VOLUNTEERS

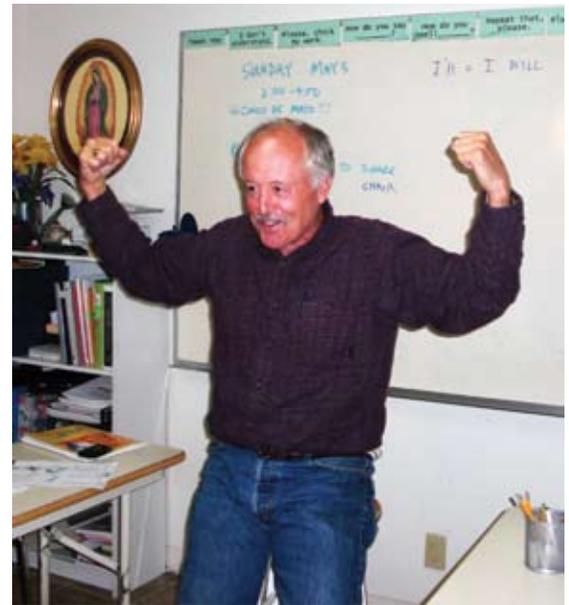
Rick Anderson
Joan L'Heureux
Nancy Kessler

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Joan Anderson – Story Hour
Stanford Students – Art Club

Volunteer Spotlight: Teacher Rick Anderson

Rick is a longtime donor to the Rosalie Rendu Center, who responded to our request for volunteers to teach evening ESL classes. He speaks a little Spanish, but he found that fluency in Spanish wasn't necessary for teaching the class. Rick says that his students are intensely interested in improving their English language skills, which inspires him to volunteer to help them achieve their goal. Sister T reports that Rick's students find him an engaging and inspirational teacher. After one class on food, including a discussion of favorite fruits, one of his students brought Rick a watermelon, his favorite, in appreciation for his teaching. Rick's students have persuaded him to teach three nights per week, which is a record number of classes for any volunteer at the Center.



Rick demonstrates "muscles" for the class.

Rick is a retired electrical engineer and avid cyclist (so avid that he completed the RAAM or Race Across America). He has served in a variety of volunteer roles, including on the Woodside Bicycle Committee and on the town Planning Commission. Rick, thank you so much for your dedication to the RRC and its students.

A Letter from Melanie Yunk

Dear Friends of RRC,

As Chair of the Rosalie Rendu Center Advisory Board for the past three years, I've had the honor of working with so many incredibly talented and dedicated men and women. The Center continues to thrive after its transition from the service of the Junior League of Palo Alto+Mid Peninsula to our current volunteer group of more than 30 teachers, mentors and assistants and of course our faithful donors and board members. Ivan Barragan came to us as Sister T's Assistant more than a year ago. He developed our adult computer education program into a thriving course for our adult students. Yet another Carriage Manor family recently purchased a 4-bedroom Habitat for Humanity home for their family, and one of our former students is a straight A student in college.

All these accomplishments bring joy to my heart because I know that the Rosalie Rendu Center is well on its way to reaching its vision of education, financial independence, community integration and computer literacy for each and every client.

Now it's time to turn over the lead of the Advisory Board to my fellow board member and good friend, Sally Falkenhagen. Sally's dedication to the Carriage Manor and Rosalie Rendu Center for more than 11 years makes her well qualified to lead us. I look forward to serving on her Board.

Thanks to all of you, our donors, volunteers, board members and friends, for all your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Melanie Yunk

Help the Rosalie Rendu Center Reach our Vision!

At the Rosalie Rendu Center, we strive to help our families reach this vision:
Every client is educated, financially independent, integrated into the community and computer literate.

DONATE!

Your continued support will help us serve the East Palo Alto community. Here are our current needs. We hope you can contribute!:

1. **\$69,000 – Operating Expenses**, including assistant's salary.
2. **\$12,000 – Tot Spot Babysitters**. The Rosalie Rendu Center provides child care for the children of ESL students during our daytime classes.
3. **\$6,000 – Computers** for our adult students. (For computer donations, contact the Center for specifications.)
4. **\$1,000 – Backpacks**. Each year, the Rosalie Rendu Center provides backpacks containing school supplies for approximately 70 children who live at the Carriage Manor Apartments and the children of our ESL students.
5. **\$5,000 – Shoes**. Help us buy a new pair of shoes for the children for Back to School!

VOLUNTEER!

The Rosalie Rendu Center provides services for the entire family. Have fun and help us teach parents or children in an intimate environment. Training is provided and we have classes that fit most schedules. Here are three ways you can help:

English Instruction

Do you enjoy working with adults? Come teach an Evening English class! Classes are held on Tuesday or Thursday nights, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Daytime opportunities available Monday through Thursday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Summer classes are forming now. Lesson plans are provided and are very easy to learn and teach each week. Training is provided. Teachers can start any time.

Conversation Club

Come have a conversation with a new English learner. Help the students at the RRC become comfortable speaking English. Current class is held on Monday morning from 10:30 a.m. to noon. More classes will form as volunteers sign up.

Homework Club

Help the children living at the Carriage Manor Apartments with homework and reading after school. This Club meets on Tuesday and Thursday and we ask our volunteers to come twice a month..

Want more info?

Contact Sister Trinitas Hernandez
at 650-473-9522.



**ROSALIE RENDU
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MISSION MOMENT

After 14 years at the Carriage Manor Apartments, Hilda Marquez-Madrigal, her husband Enecleto Marquez and their family, are now homeowners! Hilda and Cleto moved into their spacious 4-bedroom house in East Palo Alto on January 1, 2009.

Hilda and Cleto applied for the house through the Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco homeownership program. The selection process is very competitive—many families apply for the opportunity to purchase a home at cost, with a zero interest loan. Hilda and Cleto's application went through an extensive selection process, including a review of their financial status, job history and residency. Applicants must also be willing and able to perform 500 hours of what Habitat calls "sweat equity." The family members put in 500 hours of construction work at a Habitat project site in Redwood City, doing "everything, including hammering, painting, putting up walls,

moving debris and plastering." Even though Hilda and Cleto have jobs during the day, they completed the 500 hours in an astonishing 3 months.

Hilda and Cleto were all set to move into a 3-bedroom duplex on Gloria Way in East Palo Alto, when they got a surprise from Habitat for Humanity. A 4-bedroom house, on a HUGE lot, became available, and they were awarded the home. The interior was completely renovated, but the outside needed work. Cleto has planted a beautiful front lawn, put in flowers (including a geranium plant from the Carriage Manor Apartments), a large garden and several fruit trees.

Hilda says that "this house is a dream come true—we are able to stay in the community where we work, have friends and our kids go to school." After living in



Cleto and Hilda with their daughter Nancy.

a 1-bedroom apartment, the children "have more freedom to play."

We are so proud of Hilda and her family. Living in the Carriage Manor apartments allowed the family to save money to purchase this home. Hilda and her family were a huge part of the RRC and we are so happy that they are still close by!

For more information on home ownership, see the Habitat for Humanity website at www.habitatsf.org.

Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors!

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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@att.net

