



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted

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Fall 2017

ROSALIE RENDU C E N T E R

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Looking at the news these days touches our hearts as we ask God to bless so many people who have suffered because of the fires, floods and earthquakes. So many people are in such need.

At the same time we at the Rosalie Rendu Center offer our praise and thanksgiving to God for our wonderful students. They bring joy to our days with their laughter and eagerness to learn and to help each other, despite the burdens they face daily. At the beginning of the Fall Session, when our student books arrived, we asked the students to pay \$10.00 to help cover the cost. Our newest student, from Honduras, isn't working yet and immediately one of the other students said, "Here is my \$10.00 and \$5.00 for our new student because she is not working." Whatever the students have, they are willing to share!

Another joy from this summer's activities came from Jane, a former teacher and faithful volunteer. She invited her Book Club to join our group of volunteers, bringing a richness that can't be imagined. We were enriched by Joan who worked one-on-one with Esperanza, Nancy who worked with Nancy, and her husband Jim, who helped me with a group of high school students, Kacy worked one-on-one with Irma and Gita with Maria. Three new Conversation Volunteers also joined us, Susan, Sushil and George. David, another longtime volunteer invited his friend Robert to join him in teaching writing to our advanced students. The summer was full of new "friends" for whom we are so grateful!

Volunteers have augmented our programs for a very long time and this summer was no exception. They gave their time to walk with our students, adding new skills to our summer activities. Carrie brought cakes, frosting and all the supplies for decorating doll cakes. John brought all the fixings and taught the students to make delicious scones. Jane taught the students to make jewelry and yes, she brought all the supplies. The students supplied the talent and smiles.

Despite all the local tension and stress we had a positive summer and are now getting ready to celebrate 20 years of service to our families. Mark your calendars for Sunday April 22, 2018. There would be no celebration without you, our friends and faithful supporters, who throughout these past 20 years have been at our side encouraging, mentoring and assisting us to help our families break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you and God bless each and every one of you,

Devotedly Yours,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director



Sister T



MINISTRY SERVICES OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Rosalie Rendu Inc./DBA the Rosalie Rendu Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Corporation.
The taxpayer identification number is 95-4709944

What We Did This Summer

This summer, rather than educate through our traditional classroom ESL classes, we decided to provide creative ways of learning and socializing in English through workshops.

The Spanish-speaking students and their families enjoyed exposure to cultures, skills and expertise not easily experienced elsewhere. It also provided a much-needed break from the rigorous school year.

Weekly Cooking Class

Our workshops and their teachers were fun and diverse. A Stanford student serving as a summer intern, Wint Thazin, shared her passion for healthy eating by leading weekly vegan cooking classes. In a spring quarter term paper, Wint described her vegan philosophy, "...food represents more than just survival: it is a symbol and embodiment of love and compassion... In my experience, there is no question that the act of cooking, eating, and nourishing is vibrantly social." Through experimenting with new flavors, products, and recipes such as vegan sushi and steamed buns, the students gained a sense of adventure and risk taking (two mental attitudes that contribute to successful second language acquisition).

Carrie Du Bois, known here as being instrumental in helping to launch the Rosalie Rendu Center, is also known among her appreciative family and friends for her elaborate cake baking and decorating. She shared her expertise with the students and was amazed at how quickly they caught on.

Walking Club

The summer walking club afforded an opportunity for students to converse in English while exercising in the fresh air along with their little ones and to build stronger ties with one another. Our Art Club teacher, Elisa Madrigal, orchestrated a special art project for our adult students. Focusing intently on their creations, the

students' talent immersed and was displayed in vividly painted picture frames that reflect their colorful culture. Other adult workshops included jewelry making, relaxation techniques, haircutting, and citizenship test preparation. All were

led by generous volunteers willing to share the joy they find in their hobbies or professional fields.

The summer session concluded with a potluck where it was the students' turn to teach Wint about Latin American cuisine. Recipes were adapted to vegan standards. Conversation and laughter blended so well with chopping and stirring that we stood eating in our kitchen/classroom and never made it out to the patio picnic tables. The short prayer on our refrigerator magnet was answered in multiple ways this summer, "Lord, bless this tiny kitchen with joy and love."

Ice Cream Social

Finally, on a hot Sunday afternoon in August, wrapping up a summer of fun, we held an ice cream social. The young children of our ESL students and residents of the Carriage Manor Apartments loved the ice cream and were almost as excited about picking up new books and back-to-school supplies. Our volunteer music teacher, Hannah Steuer, rallied her shy young singing students into providing us entertainment for the social in the form of a little concert. One of their greatest hits included lyrics, "People who make music together cannot be enemies ... we are friends forever when we sing together." Other children's activities this summer included family nights, story time, Art Club, and cooking.



We are glad we experimented with workshops this summer. It provided a much needed change of pace and restoration for our staff, students and volunteers; it helped students apply what they have learned in the classroom in a more natural setting; and it provided the discovery and exposure of all kinds of talent and creativity among our volunteers and students.

We welcome volunteers and donors to brainstorm their own imaginative activities. We and our students are infinitely grateful for new, creative opportunities for our students, and for your generous contributions that make them a reality.

PHOTOS: Summer fun included lots of great food! (Top) Frosting princess cakes in cooking class. (Bottom) Vegan cooking class.



Welcome Jeanna

Jeanna Essick will be serving the Rosalie Rendu Center as Administrative Assistant. The Advisory Board and the RRC Staff are so pleased to welcome her.

While working this summer, she is already very involved with the Center's activities.

Jeanna and her husband have moved from Illinois. They are both huge Cubs fans.

In Wheaton, Illinois, Jeanna served as Treasurer of her church, supervising a 1 million dollar budget. She also served as a long time board member and Board President of the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center. This Center provides help to children acquiring the necessary skills in academics and social interaction to move successfully through school.

We think the Rosalie Rendu Center is a perfect match for Jeanna!



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

Field Trips Create Lasting Memories

We have learned over the years that field trips, both near and far from the Center, complement our English language learning programs and extend learning into real world contexts. The Bay Area offers an endless array of worthwhile and stimulating places to visit.

California Academy of Sciences

We have incorporated science and technology into our summer reading and arts programs, visited local science fairs, toured the local recycling center and taken two wonderful weekend family field trips. A Facebook grant provided funds to expose our families to STEM related activities. In November, over 85 students and their families rode buses to the California Academy of Sciences, enjoying an enriching day, learning about local and exotic habitats. We were even able to watch a spectacular planetarium show about the cosmos—complementing the books that our children read over the summer.

Maker Faire

There was enough money left over from the generous Facebook grant to contribute to the purchase of about 70 tickets for our families to attend the spring Maker Faire in San Mateo—a family friendly festival of invention and creativity.

Exploratorium

Our longtime supporter, the Gellert Foundation, again graciously funded a trip for about 90 people to enjoy a discovery packed day at the Exploratorium. There were hands-on activities for everyone, young and old, at this museum. The day was filled with building, learning, thinking, tinkering, and huge smiles. We had to tear ourselves away from this emporium of exploration to catch the bus home!

Thank You

2016-2017 was a big year for field trips for our adults and their families. We are extremely grateful to all the donors who contributed to these educational adventures. We plan to add many more trips to our curriculum this year. In particular, we are looking to add a vital “A” to STEM—incorporating theater and other Arts into our teaching. *Your donations toward our field trip account are very much appreciated and will be put to very good use!*

PHOTOS: Our field trips had a STEM focus at the Maker Faire (top left) and the California Academy of Sciences (top right).



Visit Our Website and Learn Something New!

The Rosalie Rendu Center website is much improved over the past year with improved navigation, detailed program descriptions, an easy-to-use donation page and Sister T's new blog. "Sister T's Corner" offers readers information about news, events, student profiles, success stories and more. Visit us at <https://www.rosalie-rendu-center.org> to see what's new! Make a donation, sign up to volunteer or read a story or two on the blog. Send us a note via our "contact us" page to tell us what you think, update your contact information or just say hello.

SAVE THE DATE

20TH Anniversary Celebration

for the

Rosalie Rendu Center

SUNDAY APRIL 22, 2018

2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Amado Padilla,
Graduate School of Education Stanford University
CARRIAGE MANOR, 1760 BAY ROAD, EAST PALO ALTO

Volunteer Spotlight

We are so fortunate to have these amazing volunteers!

New Conversation Club

Robert Redfern West
Susan Young

Stanford Summer Interns

Wint Thazin
Erik Van

Current Stanford Students

Kiki Couchman
Roxanne Dobson
Tom Gold
Clarissa Gutierrez
Asuncion Hampson-Medina

Conversation Club

Ruth Chippendale
Sushil Chacko
Robert George Clark
Debbie Denton
John Dhuey
Barbara Gelpi
Joan l'Heureux
David Riggs
Susan Young

Reading Buddies (One-On-One)

Gita Gopal
Jim Homlund
Nancy McClennt
Kacy McClure
Jane Stern
Joan Wilson

Computers

Ray Essick
Richard Hutsell

Children's Activities

Lynn Benas
Perry Marlon
Elisa Marquez

Spanish Literacy

Lupe Del Rio
Irma Hernandez



Help the Rosalie Rendu Center Reach Our Vision

Every Client is educated, financially independent, integrated into the community and computer literate.

Wish List and Volunteer Opportunities:

- Monetary support for the Center's programs and operations
- Children's books for all ages, including in Spanish
- Gift Cards for Christmas for families from the Center (Mi Pueblo, Target or similar)
- Our Educational Assistance Program helps fund the cost of field trips, science camp, art club, college.
- Come share a skill with our students on a one-time basis. Teach something you love.

