



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted

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Spring 2018

ROSALIE RENDU C E N T E R

Advisory Board

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Sr. Estella Morales, D.C.

Martha Perez

Bill Somerville

Marianne Stoner

Melanie Yunk



Ivan Barragan, who served as Fiesta MC, presents Sister T with her custom 80th Birthday cake, created by Carrie Du Bois.



Folkloric Dancers, past and present students of the Center, entertain to the music of Mariachi Tapatios.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Where do I begin ... THANKFUL, GRATEFUL, WONDERFUL, HEART WARMING, *FELIZ, DIOS ES MUY GRANDE!* These are just a few of the feelings that are going through my head as I think of the months since our last newsletter.

Receiving a grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative that nearly doubled our request was like a ray of sunshine because we could hire the evening ESL Teacher that was in the planning for several months. The class began in March.

The response to our 20th Anniversary Fiesta was great. The attendance was so special. Past Junior League members were there, along with other long-time supporters, and students past and present with families and friends from our twenty-year journey.

The food was delicious, primarily prepared by our present students; the Mariachi Tapatio music was very uplifting; and the weather was perfect. Thanks to all who participated making it a day to remember, until the next big celebration!

Admittedly, these past 20 years have flown by all because of the support, friendship and encouragement of very special people like you. This is one garden that has grown because of the many helping hands doing different tasks along the way, some as benefactors, others as volunteers or teachers, and others as learners. I know in my heart that I have done very little by myself to make this garden grow.

God bless each and every one of you for all your love and support these past 20 years. May we together continue this journey of helping our families break the cycle of poverty and move together into a fuller life.

Devotedly Yours,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director



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

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Professor David and Sue Riggs. Retired from the Stanford English Department, David teaches English composition at the RRC two days a week.



Advisory Board Chair Sally Falkenhagen served watermelon.



Sister T and head teacher Maria Lozano.



Advisory Board member Martha Perez with her family, Robert, Robert, Jr., and Jeffrey. Robert, Jr. a college graduate, and Jeffrey, now in college, were once toddlers at The Tot Spot.

¡Fiesta de Veinte Años!

A Festive Tribute to Sister Trinitas and Her Twenty Years of Dreams for the Rosalie Rendu Center

“Love happens in this place. Dreams are alive. Fear dissolves. The Rosalie Rendu Center is truly a sanctuary,” said guest speaker Professor Amado Padilla of the Stanford Graduate School of Education.

Instrumental in forging an ongoing partnership with the Center and Stanford’s Haas Center for Public Service, Professor Padilla thought it was important to recall that Sister T has always had big dreams for the students and families at the Center: to get the best education possible and build happy and prosperous lives, including owning their own homes.

The answer to Sister T’s biggest hopes, dreams and prayers for the Center was vividly evident among the families who attended the party. Circulating throughout the celebratory Fiesta – besides music played by mariachis and Mexican tapas passed by students and Advisory Board members – was a palpable sense of excitement.

Past and present students and their families enjoyed seeing each other again. And the staff, the volunteers and the Daughters were thrilled to see children they had once known as toddlers in the Tot Spot, and elementary school children at St. Elizabeth Seton School, now grown up – college educated and bound for satisfying careers.

Hosted by the students and the Advisory Board members, the April fiesta – a long time in planning – was an all-hands-on-deck affair, with some hands going far above and beyond.

For days before the event, Carrie Du Bois baked twelve dozen cupcakes and created another extraordinary birthday cake for Sister T. Students made tostadas and hundreds and hundreds of tamales.

Head teacher Maria Lozano and Sr. Pacita Calica, D.C. orchestrated the kitchen for hours during the event, continuously sending out trays of delicious fare to hungry and appreciative partiers who enjoyed visiting and listening to music in the warm afternoon sun.

During the second half of the celebration, short talks were given by Founder Sister Trinitas, Advisory Board Chair Sally Falkenhagen, Professor Padilla, RRC student Lupe del Rio, and volunteer David Riggs.

David, formerly a Stanford University professor, began volunteering in the Conversation Club in 2011 when his English Department colleague, Professor Barbara Gelpi, introduced him to the Center.

“Sister T likes to point out that the volunteers take away at least as much from these interchanges as the students do,” said David.

“Rosalie Rendu Center is where I discovered what I had lost when I retired. It’s a place of learning where I could be useful.”

When Joan L’Heureux stepped down from her regular teaching position, David leapt at the chance to join Maria Lozano to teach a class in English composition.

“As you may recall, Freshman Comp is mostly about telling stories,” said David. “As any



Advisory Board Members Sister Fran, Sister Paule and founder, Sister Trinitas. Sister Fran served as Photographer for the event.



Stanford University’s Prof. Amado Padilla, guest speaker, provides Stanford students with opportunities to serve as interns at the Center.

writer will tell you, the most important element in good writing is having something to say. These ladies have a lot to say. They have wonderful stories.”

“Of course this is much more than a place of learning. It’s a monument to affordable housing in East Palo Alto. It’s a living environment where working families grow and thrive.”

In a fitting tribute to Sister T, David adapted a quote by the son of a famous architect about his father, Sir Christopher Wren.

“*Si quieres ver sus monumentos, mira a tu alrededor.*”

The audience understood and clapped immediately and heartily for Sister T, needing no translation.

“If you want to see her monuments, look around you.”

Sally Falkenhagen, the final speaker, celebrated the exciting news of the ongoing partnership with Stanford through the Haas Center for Public Service. Student interns will enjoy field work experience again this summer in the Center’s dynamic and popular Summer workshops.

Sally wrapped up the speakers portion of the event by pointing to the essential — if not always widely recognized — role played by the Daughters of Charity, supporting the Center year after year.

Our Fiesta celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Center and Sister T’s 80th birthday was reported to be a joy to one and all.



Advisory Board Members Marianne Stoner, Sally Falkenhagen (Chair) and Debbie Denton, with Ivan Barragan, in front of the art mural created by students and art instructor Elisa Madrigal.



Al and Barbara Gelpi with Joan L’Heureux (center). Barbara and Joan are long-time Conversation Club volunteers.



Sister Trinitas and Priscilla Chan, founder of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, attend the Community Grant recipients reception.

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Awards Grant to Rosalie Rendu Center

The Rosalie Rendu Center began this year with a generous Community Fund grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI). In the category of \$50,000-\$100,000, the grant far exceeded our expectations.

Our alignment with CZI Community Fund priorities, our leadership and staff, our track record of executing local programs successfully, and our fiscal responsibility were factors in receiving the CZI grant.

Collaboration is also a critical consideration for Community Fund grants. Our ability to connect, leverage and form dynamic relationships with other like-minded organizations and volunteers — such as students and faculty at Stanford — also played an important role.

Salaries and supplies for two years of evening ESL classes, and eight new computers for the staff and computer classes, will be covered by the CZI grant. It also provides \$5000 towards our family enrichment programs, including a week-long spring break program for school-aged children.

CZI Community Fund grants address many needs that coincide with our own vision, mission and concerns. Education, immigration, housing and workforce development are among its funding priorities.

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative for community grants is based on the premise that those most impacted by challenges should be guiding the development of solutions.

Launched in 2017, the CZI Community Fund supports organizations working in Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, and Redwood City to address the most pressing needs identified by residents and local leaders.

“The generosity of the Chan Zuckerberg grant, and the infusion of such significant funds, is making a big impact on our Center and the people we serve,” said Sister Trinitas. “We’re very grateful.”





Debbie Denton, Community Hero

Long-time advisory board member and Conversation Club volunteer Debbie Denton, was recently honored with a Community Hero Award given by State Senator Jerry Hill. A certificate of recognition was presented by Senator Hill to Debbie at his monthly “Java with Jerry” gathering. She was recognized for her “under the radar” outstanding volunteer service and advocacy for the residents of San Carlos and beyond. Nobody at the Rosalie Rendu Center was surprised to learn of this award. The Rosalie Rendu Center is very proud of her and her accomplishments. Her work at the Center as a Board member and a volunteer has been so well received. Congratulations!



We are happy to announce that the Rosalie Rendu Center is now a part of the AmazonSmile program!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

You can support the Rosalie Rendu Center whenever you shop at Amazon, but you must be sure to sign onto AmazonSmile.

To get started, just sign into smile.amazon.com

Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Then just select the Rosalie Rendu Center to support.

Thank You!

Thank you to our friends who supported us from April, 2017 through May 1, 2018. Our apologies if we have missed anyone. Please let us know if we missed your name inadvertently.

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| Lucie Marie and Keith Albee | Google | Jon and Danielle Mewes |
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