



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted

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Fall 2019

ROSALIE RENDU C E N T E R

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Dear Friends & Faithful Supporters,

Seasons are changing and so are the lives of our wonderful students. Two new teachers have joined us this Fall to help us continue to offer level-appropriate ESL classes at times that fit the students' schedules. Jason brings a fresh perspective to our Level 3 students, and Megan keeps our evening students motivated and learning even after a long day's work. Sr. Pat, DC, and Maria work with returning students and a new class of beginning English language learners; and Sr. Teresa, DC, helped in our classes and also taught our volunteers some Spanish conversation.



July's Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Stanford Community Outreach Partnership Efforts (SCOPE)

The Center is a warm and safe place for our families to grow and better their lives. Many individuals and groups have motivated and mentored our families to dream bigger and reach higher. Our volunteers coach students preparing for their citizenship tests in a new class offered this year; and our Language Partners meet weekly with students, bolstering their confidence and comfort level when speaking English.

Our collaborators give help in many diverse ways. Dr. Peter Kono donated dental supplies that were distributed by his hygienist, Kelly, who also instructed our students on the importance of good dental health and proper cleaning techniques. The Menlo Park Live Oak Lions Club is providing a student with an eye examination and glasses so she will no longer need to squint in the classroom. Mike, from the Menlo Park Fire Department, instructed students on how to put together a home emergency kit. During our ice-cream social, staff and students received hula dancing lessons. And we had several folks share their cooking skills with our classes, including exotic cuisine and fragrant foods from other countries.

Christmas is a happier time for our families because of the generosity and loving spirit of Susan Knox, The Knox Playschool's families, the St. Charles Church St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference, the Villa Siena Residence and Jane Stern's book club.

You will read about our other important ongoing collaborations, including with Stanford University, and our new, vibrant Summer Camp Initiative in this newsletter. And, finally, we bid a fond farewell to our long-time board member and tireless editor, Marianne Stoner. (She will be missed!)

The world around us may be in constant flux but we are gratefully mindful of your constant and faithful support.

Blessings,

Sister Trinitas

✠ Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Summer Camps
- Collaborations Expand the Center's Impact
- Volunteer Spotlight: Tom Gold
- Thank You, Marianne Stoner
- Shop & Support with Amazon Smile
- Wish List



Children Engaged in Quality Summer Camps

Advance their Classroom Skills in the Process

While the regular adult English, writing and computer classes at the Rosalie Rendu Center continue apace, the Center has expanded family activities to combat the infamous summer learning slide.

Capitalizing on the enthusiasm for experiential learning generated by our popular family enrichment field trips, the Center launched its Summer Camp Initiative to support families who want to send their children to summer camp.

The best summer camps offer children opportunities for hands-on learning with talented and energetic counselors who model a natural enthusiasm for learning while encouraging children to follow their own curiosity and interests.

Examples of what the children learned this summer are: the importance of acquiring background knowledge before digging for fossils; the power of careful observation to capture just the right photograph; and the process of transferring an idea to a two-dimensional sketch and then creating a three-dimensional model—all valuable skills to make classroom learning more meaningful.

The Rosalie Rendu Center invested significant resources this year to ensure that children from the Center benefited from quality summer camp experiences. The Center supported the parents as they considered which camps were appropriate, wrestled with online registration, completed medical forms, assured that deadlines were met and, in some cases, made payments for camps that offered partial or no scholarships. When it came time to attend camp, the Center helped organize transportation to remove this final roadblock to attending.

Through our Post-Camp Survey and conversations with parents and children, we have been rewarded with reports of wonderful experiences! Parents observed that their children had grown in self-confidence, and children often noted that having made new friends was among the things that had made camp a memorable experience.

Eight-year-old Valeria shared her excitement about the two art camps she attended at the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) in Mountain View. In one, she learned sketching and painting techniques while imagining “time travel” to exotic places like Japan and Egypt, creating art pieces reminiscent of these places. In her other camp, Valeria created “wearable art” including an African mask, a shirt painted with the image of a fox hiding in grass, and a necklace. Valeria told us that her favorite thing about camp was that the teachers and their helpers were so nice. This venture outside of her usual environment has had a positive ripple effect. On the first day back to school, Valeria’s mother told her new teacher about the art camp she had attended. The teacher responded that she looked forward to learning more about Valeria and her interests. This simple conversation planted the seed of partnership between parent, teacher, and student. This kind of exchange is a victory for our English language learners and for our community.

Already an accomplished singer, Valeria is attending a weekend music theory class at CSMA this autumn and plans to take voice lessons in the spring. She performed a solo of “Fight Song” at the Center’s Ice Cream Social in July, which she learned watching YouTube. These experiences deepen and strengthen Valeria’s considerable talents, build her confidence, and open horizons of possibilities with a pathway to further success.

The popularity of this year’s summer camp enrollments has prompted the Center to hire a part-time staff person to support the camp effort for summer 2020. Bianca Trujillo, the Summer Camp Outreach Coordinator, will investigate which summer camp programs offer learning opportunities in addition to fun activities and which offer scholarships. She will then work with the parents and children to match the children with suitable camps and to support the parents through the enrollment process.

We eagerly anticipate hearing new stories about personal growth and excitement around learning.



A Rich Relationship with Stanford and other Collaborators Expands the Impact of the RRC

Collaboration with a variety of individuals and organizations allows the Rosalie Rendu Center to broaden the scope of its educational and cultural endeavors.

Our most multifaceted collaboration is with Stanford University. Retired faculty members and staff have been committed volunteers, involved in teaching, tutoring, and facilitating the Conversation Club. Via our partnership with Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service, students enrolled in the Cardinal service-learning course, "The Wellbeing of Immigrant Children and Youth," serve in the Center's ESL classes, youth Art Club, and as Language Partners. Students enrolled in the "Foundations for Community Health Engagement" course have led health workshops; Sr. Trinitas and Maria have participated in discussion panels for this course. This high-impact partnership deeply enriches the education of students from both the Center and Stanford. Generous with their time, Stanford students are role models and informal mentors for our youth: listening, encouraging, and providing perspective. Stanford Community Outreach Partnership Efforts (SCOPE) recently joined this list of partners, facilitating family activities at the Center's annual Ice Cream Social and a pumpkin painting session for the Art Club.

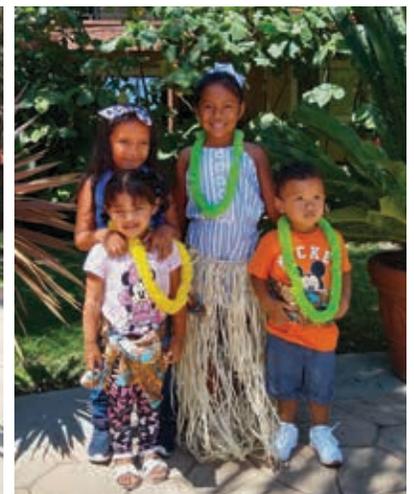
Staff from Able Works' LiveAble have made presentations to our classes outlining their program which empowers women to better the lives of their families. Three of our students graduated from the program this spring.

Collaborating with The Junior League was instrumental in the Center's development.

PHOTOS: Summer Camp experiences (facing page and this page top). Second and third from the top right, new ESL teachers Megan and Jason. Hula lessons at the summer Ice Cream Social.

Many of the original volunteers still serve on the Center's Advisory Board. Members of the Board graciously introduce us to people who share common goals and interests with the Center. Recently, a Google engineer, originally from Columbia, gave a motivating talk to our classes about his immigrant experience, attaining higher education, and working in the tech industry. A Menlo Park Fire fighter provided a presentation on emergency preparedness. Neighboring faith communities have been supportive in a variety of ways. Several of our Language Partners and a classroom volunteer are members of All Saints Episcopal Church. Members from Menlo Church and our students will partner on a "Serve Your City" service project this year, giving our students an opportunity to "pay it forward." In this spirit, students again will bring Christmas cheer to the senior residents of Laboure and Villa Siena with a readers' theater and carol sing-along this season. However, the celebrating will not stop there; we will also visit the Rose Kleiner Center as a result of a new collaboration with Avenidas.

Partnering with these stellar individuals and organizations encourages us in our work at the Center. More important, these relationships, forged through common goals, help our students and their families feel more connected to the English-speaking community which encourages them to persevere in learning the language.





Volunteer Spotlight

*Tom Gold, Stanford University Student
and Dedicated Volunteer, Sees Bright Future
for RRC Students*

Tom Gold came to the Center as one of the Stanford University students taking a service-learning class. He enjoyed his Cardinal Course so much that he became a teaching assistant for the course. Tom has been a great inspiration to the students at the Center and to their children. (During his quarter overseas in Italy, he even sent a post card with a note to the Center.)

“It has been my sincere pleasure volunteering at the Rosalie Rendu Center,” said Tom, a senior this year. “I joined two years ago and have enjoyed every minute of it. Sharick, Allison, Ashley, Elizabeth, Yasari, Jonathan, Oscar, Joshua, Ivan, Bella and I do art activities, hang out, talk about college and life, and get to be ourselves.

“I’m from New York and being 3,000 miles away from home is hard, but the Center has been like family to me. I’m forever grateful and cannot wait to see what these amazing kids do with their lives. They’re heroes to each other and best friends. My warmest appreciation to Sister T, Maria, and Elisa for making the art club possible.”

Thank you, Tom, for your work here at the Rosalie Rendu Center.



Thank you, Marianne Stoner!

Marianne Stoner joined the Advisory Board of the Rosalie Rendu Center in 2007, jumping right in as the editor of our biannual newsletter. We are sorry to see her move away! Marianne has lived, worked, raised her family, and volunteered for many organizations in our area for over forty years. She exemplifies the best in a good neighbor: thoughtful, generous,

reliable, funny and understanding of the foibles of humankind. She always sets the best example in how to enrich the lives of others. Thank you, Marianne, for all you have done for the Center for over twelve years and for your broader community for over 40 years!



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- Select the Rosalie Rendu Center to support and start shopping!

This year, give gifts that keep Amazon giving!

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:

- Money for camp fees, related equipment costs and transportation for the Summer Camp Initiative
- Monetary support for the Center’s programs and operations
- Volunteers to work one-on-one with our ESL students as Language Partners
- Volunteers to work one-on-one with our four college-bound students as tutors
- Come share a skill with our students on a one-time basis. Teach something you love.

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

