

Mid-Year Report from Feliberto

By the grace of God and the generosity of friends like you, we look back on a successful first half of 2016. Just in recent days, our loyal donors from the Coastal Plains Area have shipped this year's donation of tons of rice and beans to help us feed refugees and the poorest of the poor here in the Rio Grande Valley. We were also delighted that not once, but twice this year the talented opera singer Sheila Baker (spouse of SWGSM board member David Bondurant) graced us with fundraiser concerts. Rev. Sam and his team from First Christian, Edinburg, TX, again hosted a pancake dinner benefitting our ministries. Other highlights year-to-date:

True Meaning of Sanctuary



An invitation went out to church and community to gather in the pews of Iglesia Christiana Ebenezer on a Wednesday morning. Many responded. They came to hear, and to ask questions of, consuls from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. How appropriate that the gathering was in a sanctuary, as it promoted the God-inspired idea of community among nations. The diplomats represented their countries well, enlightening persons (in many cases their former countrymen) about services available from their consulates to persons who started a new life in the U.S. In one particularly poignant moment, a person asked: "I am here legally and by my own choice. Yet I still have family in my home country, and want to be buried there when I die. Do you work with the U.S. government for the border clearances necessary at such a difficult time for transporting my body to my homeland?" How many of us have to face that kind of dilemma? We were happy to help sponsor the gathering as part of our ministry to refugees here at Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries.

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Many of our loyal supporters have traveled to the Valley this year to offer time and talent. Often the individual or groups return year after year. Knowing that we have no extra resources for supplies for volunteer workers, the group from South Grand Lake Christian Church in Oklahoma raised nearly \$2,000 before coming to do painting, woodwork and signage at Bayview. What a difference our volunteers make, differences that often spill over to future groups! A team arriving a short time after the Oklahoma “angels” to do home improvement for a poor family in the Valley took time to improve fencing around a Bayview building the Oklahoma group had made improvements on. There was a group of friends from Montana and Texas who chose SWGSM for a mini-reunion. They were able to use paint purchased by the Oklahoma group to paint the two cabins at Bayview. Thanks to all who serve in this way. Please visit our website at www.swgsm.org to plan a work trip.



The South Grand Lake Team



Friends reunite & paint for SWGSM

With God’s help and the help of serving and giving “angels” like you, Dear Readers, the future is brighter for those we serve. We cannot thank you enough.

Your partner in Christ,