



PARTNER NOTICIAS

PARTNERS FOR ARLINGTON AND GUATEMALA (PAG)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON
 4444 Arlington Blvd.
 Arlington, Virginia 22204
www.uucava.org

SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Since its formation in 2007, UUCA/PAG has built upon its initial decision to sponsor human rights Accompaniers in Guatemala to become a comprehensive Faith in Action Ministry with several partner organizations in Guatemala and in our local community. PAG's focus is now three-fold:

- *Sponsor human rights accompaniment with our partner NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala)*
- *Support Mayan middle and high school student scholarships with ADIVIMA (a grassroots Mayan community organization) and Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO; and*
- *Develop mutually enriching activities with local immigrants in coordination with the nearby Buckingham Outreach Center.*

While numbers certainly cannot tell the full story of PAG, following are some that may help give a broader understanding of this Ministry. Please also talk to members of the PAG Coordinating Team to learn more about PAG and how you can be involved. (They are Marilyn Baker, Bob Denniston, Nancy Hall, Joe Lowe, Anne McKnight, David McTaggart, MJ Schmelzer, Joe Schmitz, Chris Sutton, and Marcia Trick.)

17,000,000

people currently live in Guatemala; the median age is 21.5 years. Sixty per cent of the population is indigenous. (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs) In the 2010 US Census, there were 1.2 million Guatemalans living in the United States; nearly 50,000 resided in the metro D.C. area. Arlington is home to many Guatemalan Mayans from the highlands near Quetzaltenango.



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Women conversing in Mam in the village of Toj Chan, home community of many of Arlington's Guatemalan immigrants.

Distinct living languages are spoken in Guatemala. Of these, 23 are separate Mayan tongues. Although Spanish is the official and dominant language of the country, many Mayans - particularly adult women in rural areas - speak only their native, indigenous language. Greater access to education and cell phones has made communication among different communities, including immigrant communities in the States, easier.

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ACCOMPANIERs have been sponsored by UUCA/PAG since 2007. Each serves at least 6 months in Guatemala, and many extend for longer. As part of a 10-country international network of rights monitors, our NISGUA accompaniers provide a vital presence for Guatemalans who are threatened because they dare to defend their individual and community rights.

In the past 10 years, UUCA/PAG has helped sponsor more than 1/3 of the Accompaniers trained and placed in Guatemala by NISGUA. Their service is possible *only* because of your generosity and support. Contact Marcia Trick mtrick@nasadad.org



Dylan - UUCA's 1st Accompanier 2007



Chris - 17th Accompanier, serving until Nov. 2017



#18

is Clara Lincoln, who left for Guatemala on July 1st. Her family is from D.C., and this spring Clara graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio. Oberlin is home to another Sponsoring Community for Accompaniers, and it was there that Clara first learned about NISGUA and accompaniment. She has traveled to Guatemala with Oberlin folks since her freshman year and has led several student delegations herself. She hopes to be in Guatemala as UUCA's Accompanier for a year. Watch for her Friends and Family letters once she has settled in.

6

blocks from UUCA is the Arlington County Buckingham Outreach Center on 4th St. and N. Thomas. Buckingham is home to immigrants from many countries, but UUCA has developed especially close ties with those from Central and South America. UUCA volunteers participate in the Center's computer lab, the thriving Jobs Bank, consular clinics, joint cultural celebrations, and much more. It's a short distance to venture for an opportunity to meet such amazing people. Contact Nancy Hall: nancyrhall@hotmail.com



Ric and Aster work together in the Computer Lab



Romelia & Jacomina get acquainted



Guatemalan dancers at UUCA



Fun at the Spring family fiesta



Bea Ann leads combined children's choir



2015: Rev. Aaron and travelers meet with resisters of the Tahoe Resources silver mine.



2013: Rev. Linda and delegates with ADIVIMA scholarship student

delegations to Guatemala have included UUCA travelers since 2008. Six of these were arranged specifically for our congregation to provide delegates with firsthand experiential understanding of both human rights and Mayan community culture. Travelers have spent time with survivors of the 1980's genocide; communities opposing international mining and hydroelectric projects on their ancestral lands and rivers; accompaniers who stand with these brave, resilient rights defenders; families of immigrants unable to return to visit their relatives in Guatemala; and students receiving scholarships from UUCA to attend middle and high school. More than 50 UUCA folks have traveled to Guatemala and are happy to share their life-changing experiences with you.

NEXT UUCA DELEGATION

February 10 - 20, 2018. This trip is jointly led by our two Guatemalan partners: ***NISGUA and ADIVIMA.*** Travelers will meet accompaniers, local mine resisters, and scholarship students and their families. This tour is a very special opportunity to be part of the history and culture of Guatemala. Contact ***Anne McKnight:*** [***amcknight4646@gmail.com***](mailto:amcknight4646@gmail.com) for details.



2010: Lavona meeting children in Toj Chan

130

Mayan middle and high school students have received scholarships funded by UUCA and Jefferson Unitarian Church in partnership with ADIVIMA. Without our financial support, these future community leaders could not afford schooling beyond elementary grades, when free public education ends. All of the recipients are from families that lost relatives in the massacres committed by the Guatemalan military during the genocide of the 1980's. Of these 130 students, who are eligible for scholarships for 6 years, 29 have completed high school since 2007, and 10 have gone on to university.

Join the upcoming UUCA delegation to Guatemala to meet these inspiring young people and their families in their homes. Trip dates: February 10 - 20, 2018. Contact Anne McKnight: amcknight4646@gmail.com



Student's family welcomes delegates to their home.



High school students w/ADIVIMA co-founder Juan de Dios.



Alvarado attends University.

937

Guatemalan immigrants participated earlier this year in a 2-day Consular Clinic held in Arlington and coordinated by the Buckingham Outreach Center. Many UUCA volunteers were on hand to assist with this event. Because the Guatemalan Consulate is located in Maryland and opens only on week-days, these week-end clinics are often the only chance that many immigrants have to meet with consulate staff, complete passport applications, attend Know Your Rights workshops and talk to public health officials. Volunteering at local immigrant events is just one of the ways you can get involved in PAG. Contact Nancy Hall: nancyrhall@hotmail.com

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new jobs bank requests have been filled this past year, matching Buckingham workers with people at UUCA who want assistance with a wide range of tasks. Often these paid work pairings result in long-term repeat requests and personal one-on-one relationships. Just another way to connect with our immigrant neighbors. Talk to Nancy Hall.: nancyrhall@hotmail.com

270

PAG supporters have already asked to receive updates and important notices about upcoming events, the letters sent to UUCA by our Accompaniers, and urgent requests from our partner organizations to advocate for justice. Contact John Sutton: jds42cps44@verizon.net to add your name.

*Picture
Yourself
here*

1

*person is all it takes to make a difference for those who fight for individual and community rights in Guatemala and in our local area. **And that one is YOU.** Here are some ways to get involved:*

- *Donate to support accompaniers and scholarship students*
- *Help at PAG events*
- *Serve as an interpreter*
- *Go on the February 2018 delegation to Guatemala*
- *Hire a Buckingham worker through the Jobs Bank*
- *Advocate for immigrant rights here and for justice in Guatemala*
- *Staff the PAG table on Sunday in Fellowship Hall*
- *Volunteer in the Buckingham computer lab, with Secret Santa, at Back to School Night, or for a community clinic*
- *Participate in the Buckingham fall backpack and coat drives*
- *Assist with social media outreach to those who want to learn more*
- *Attend the annual spring fiesta and have a great time!*

Contact Chris Sutton: chrispete44@verizon.net