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CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17

As you all know, All Saints Lutheran Church has received the second distribution of funds from the incredibly generous Bibra bequest. These funds will have a remarkable effect on the future of All Saints Church and All Saints is, in turn, continuing to make an impact on our community with generous contributions to three more service organizations. In January, checks for \$9000 each were distributed to *Lutheran Campus Ministry (Luther House)*, *Barrett House* and *Border Servant Corps*. Each of these organizations expressed profound gratitude that we would so generously consider donating to them and described the impact that our donation would make on their organization and its contribution to the community. We are anticipating hosting the recipients of these donations at All Saints sometime in the future to learn more about their missions and their contributions to our community.

BORDER SERVANT CORPS (BSC)

Lutheran ministry identity – Border Servant Corps began in 1997 by a retired school teacher and some committed members of Peace Lutheran Church. The BSC is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and seeks to live out its calling in the world by centering its mission on Micah 6:8, “*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

Direct service to people in need – Border Servant Corps full-time year-long volunteers work with issues such as poverty, immigration, domestic violence, education, and health care with opportunities to work in churches, shelters, legal centers, after-school programs, clinics, and other social service agencies within the unique context of the border region.

Advocacy with regard to systemic injustice – Border Servant Corps volunteers learn about living simply, work for social justice, and explore spirituality. Additionally, BSC and Cristo Rey church host Border Immersion Programs which are opportunities for anyone to spend time at the US/Mexico border and learn about the issues that affect the lives of people living on the border.

We were welcomed in Las Cruces at Peace Lutheran Church by Pastor Jared Carson and Keri Lenander, director of the Border Servant Corps. We were given a tour of the church and Janaan’s House where the volunteers live during their year with BSC. The donation from All Saints is gratefully received to help replace a three-year grant that recently ended. We then drove to El Paso where we were welcomed by Pastor Rose Mary Sanchez- Guzman at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, a mission church ministering to people on both sides of the border.



This church is also involved with the Border Servant Corps as well as with housing and helping to relocate refugees. Pastor Rose Mary and Ceci, a volunteer, toured us around Cristo Rey and described their hosting this past week of 16 refugees who they housed and helped to relocate with families and sponsors in the US. BSC volunteer, Michael Dickson, is currently serving at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey.



“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Hebrews 13:2

UNM-CNM LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY/LUTHER HOUSE

Lutheran Campus Ministry is an open and affirming, progressive Christian ministry at the University of New Mexico and Central NM Community College. Campus Ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans. Luther House is located on the UNM campus. It is a great place to hang out between classes, bring your lunch, plug in your laptop, go online, watch TV, meet a friend, get some work done, make a cup of coffee, study the Bible, crash on the couch, talk with the pastor, take a nap, share a prayer and get connected. We were requested to meet with the Luther House Board of Directors to present the donation from All Saints so that everyone would be able to express their appreciation for the incredible gift given them. Pastor Anne Morawski, current pastor, will be retiring this coming year and a portion of the funds will be used for transition expenses preparing for her successor in the program so that the new pastor does not have to begin fund raising immediately. Additionally, there are much needed facility repairs such as rewiring and upgrading the plumbing in Luther House for which this donation will be most helpful.



BARRETT HOUSE

The directors, Eilene Vaughn-Pickrell and Connie Chavez, met us at Barrett House and gave us a tour of their facility which is extremely well organized with pleasant, comfortable rooms to house clients. They were incredibly thankful that we would graciously consider donating to Barrett House. Barrett House is a well-established shelter in Albuquerque for women and children who are experiencing homelessness. Causes of homelessness include poverty, personal tragedy, trauma, mental illness and substance abuse. Barrett House serves 40 women and children each night **315 per year**- and over 43,000 meals are served annually. The shelter provides comfortable beds, healthy meals, areas for children and supportive services including case management, life skills training, parenting classes, financial literacy workshops, transportation and an onsite wellness clinic. They also have their own garden which provides fresh food for meals. Women work with an advocate to develop a plan to transition into permanent, stable housing and eventually many move into one of Barrett's off-site housing programs. The Women's Respite Program is also the first program in New Mexico to offer a place for homeless women to recover after



discharge from a hospital. This donation from All Saints will enable them to replace the aging heating/air conditioning unit and will significantly help with ongoing maintenance and repairs. Barrett House welcomes groups who would like to prepare a meal for the residents in their large, well equipped kitchen as well as anyone who would like a tour of their facility.