

OCTOBER 2021

Project El Salvador

U P D A T E

The Mission of Project El Salvador is to support the people of El Salvador in implementing their own vision of justice. We express our solidarity and deepen our relationship with El Salvador by creating awareness in the United States of the plight of the marginalized in Central America and by supporting grassroots community development through funding of projects in El Salvador.

Visit us at www.projectsalsvador.org!

Honoring Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J.

On the 10-year Anniversary of his death

Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J. went to El Salvador to live and work in place of the Jesuits who had been murdered in 1989. He wound up spending the rest of his life there. Those who participated in Project El Salvador delegations to El Salvador over the years remember their visits with him at La Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) during which he recounted the story of the murder of the Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter. He also spoke to us of the current political, economic, social and cultural conditions of El Salvador. More than that, Fr. Brackley bore testament to the healing power of the poor for our own lives. In his conversations with delegates and in his books, he invited us to let the poor "break our hearts". For many those trips offered an immeasurably rich, transformative experience.

Fr. Brackley not only taught at the university in San Salvador, he worked in a parish about 50 miles outside of the city. He was dedicated to helping young people get an education that would not only prepare them to find work, but would transform them to work for justice in their own communities and the world. He was greatly concerned that his work securing scholarships for young people not end with his death. You can learn more about Fr. Brackley's life and witness here: <https://youtu.be/Pcx2zpABJ8w>

To commemorate Fr. Brackley's life and work, Project El Salvador established a scholarship fund in his name. October 2021 will be the 10th anniversary of his death. We invite you to join us in supporting young people in their education, by contributing to our 10th Anniversary commemorative donation to the Fr. Dean Brackley, SJ Scholarship Fund. We will be sending the donations received to the Jesuits coordinating the fund by mid-November.

You can send your check to: Project El Salvador, P.O. Box 300105, Denver, CO 80203 Please put: Fr. Dean Brackley, SJ Scholarship Fund in the memo. Or donate on-line on our website: www.projectsalsvador.org or at bit.ly/PayPalPS



Fr. Brackley with scholarship students

...Changes...

by Linda Gottshalk & Patty Lawless



Name Change

Project El Salvador has undergone a few recent changes; the first of which is changing our name from “Project Salvador” to “Project El Salvador”. It might seem like a small change, but we feel it significantly enhances our expression of our mission: to aid the people of El Salvador in the implementation of their own vision of justice. Proyecto Salvador in Spanish means Project Savior, hardly a reflection of the spirit of our work!

Even after 35 years we continue to evolve!



**In Loving
Memory
of Susan
Corrigan
1932-2021**

*by Mary Alice
Bramming*

With a shy smile and an open hand Susan Abeyta Corrigan enriched the lives of all those she met and those she never met, especially the people of El Salvador.

Susan and her husband Jack and their children were faithful members of St. Dominic Parish in Denver. There she met Dominican Father Jim Barnett. When Fr. Barnett went to work in El Salvador and Project Salvador was organized, supporters were encouraged to donate monthly. Susan and Jack began donating every month and have continued beyond Susan’s death in July.

Scholarship Program

Second: This year, the majority of our scholarship program transitioned to new fiscal sponsorship.

1. Scholarships coordinated by Tony Gasbarro & John Kukankos are now administered through ConTextos, a Chicago-based nonprofit. Donations to the ConTextos project can be made out to “ConTextos” and mailed to John Kukankos at 821 Foster Unit 3C / Evanston, IL 60201.
2. The San Pedro Nonualco scholarships are now coordinated by Lucas Garcia and administered through a New York-based nonprofit called Pazitos. Wendy Prudencio, a former board member, also works with Pazitos to promote scholarships and fundraise for community development projects. Please visit pazitos.org for more information.

Project El Salvador will continue to support scholarships through the **Fr. Dean Brackley, SJ Scholarship Fund** and the **community of Papaturro** in rural Cuscatlan, coordinated by Patty Lawless.

Susan designated Project Salvador for memorials in her memory.

When Project Salvador began selling crafts from the artisan groups in improvised areas of El Salvador, Susan was a faithful volunteer, unpacking boxes, organizing shelves, packing boxes to go out to community and church craft sales. And then staffing hundreds of these sales all over the Denver metro area and through the years. When the crafts operation was closed down, Susan and Jack took boxes of unsold crafts to store in their garage. Over the ensuing years Susan gave away countless items always with the story of El Salvador and Project Salvador.

~Continued on p. 4

Project El Salvador Focus

The main focus of Project El Salvador will be on *supporting community-based organizations supporting marginalized communities in El Salvador*. We will continue funding the 30+ **microlending projects** currently operating as well as supporting the establishment of new microlending projects as we receive requests. We will also continue to fund projects like **Radio Victoria**, **community organizing through COFOA**, and the **Center for Arts for Peace**.



Microlending Committee at Agua Caliente



Loan recipient-Raisina rabbits



*Learning from one another-
Microlending Annual Evaluation*

Board Transitions and Recruitment

by Linda Gottschalk

We want to thank **Tony Gasbarro** for his years of invaluable leadership and wish him a well-deserved respite in retirement in Alaska. He has personally provided educational opportunities to hundreds of young Salvadorans, traveling to interview students, assess projects, and meet parents/leaders/former students. As mentioned earlier, **John Kukankos** has also left the board; he is the one who directed the shift of scholarships to ConTextos. John also traveled annually to visit scholarship recipients and find new students for the program.

Lucas Garcia has been able to broaden Project El Salvador's attention to students in his native Usulután area of El Salvador. He will be managing scholarships in San Pedro Nonualco and will continue supporting projects through the nonprofit Pazitos, a group in New York supporting students and projects in El Salvador. We are so grateful for his support - please visit pazitos.org to learn more about his work.

Joanne Quirk has also left our board. During her time on our board, she led People of Hope Crafts, volunteered many hours at craft sales, and visited our projects on occasions - she has been of invaluable service all these years. **Bill Anthony** has also fulfilled his last meeting on our board. Bill has worked with dedication to maintain and expand Project El Salvador's ties in the Denver community and previously traveled to El Salvador. He will continue to distribute our newsletter and advise our board members on meetings and agendas.

We are looking for new Board members to join Mary Alice Bramming, Linda Gottschalk, Erin Kelly and Patty Lawless. Meetings are held bimonthly (5 meetings per year) by Zoom, so are easily accessible to anyone with internet/phone access. Please contact Board President Mary Alice Bramming, bramming@earthlink.net, if you are interested.



Project El Salvador Board

Mary Alice Bramming (President)
Erin Kelly (Secretary)
Patricia Lawless (Treasurer)
Linda Gottschalk

Newsletter Coordinator: Bill Anthony

Project El Salvador Mailing Address:

PO Box 300105
Denver CO 80203-0105

Email: info@projectsalvador.org

Website: www.projectsalvador.org

Follow us on Facebook:
[@projectsalvador](https://www.facebook.com/projectsalvador)

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

JOIN THE BOARD, 5 meetings/year via Zoom or conference call

☀ Please contact Mary Alice Bramming, bramming@earthlink.net if you are interested

DONATE:

- ☀ Make a one-time donation to cover mailing costs of this newsletter.
- ☀ Make a one-time / monthly donation to Project El Salvador.
- ☀ Make a one-time / monthly donation to a specific project:
 - *Microlending, Radio Victoria, Center for Arts and Peace, Community Organizing, or the Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J. Scholarship Fund*
- ☀ Include Project El Salvador in your will.

Checks payable to Project El Salvador can be mailed to Project El Salvador, PO Box 300105, Denver, CO 80203-0105.
or donate on-line: www.projectsalvador.org

Fall Fundraising Appeal

We deeply appreciate your financial support for our work. We have enclosed an envelope, or we invite you to donate (fee-free*) via our website, www.projectsalvador.org
We will not be doing a separate fundraising mailing this fall.

*100% of on-line donations go to Project El Salvador through PayPal Giving Fund!

In Loving Memory of Susan Corrigan (cont. from p. 2)

For years Susan and Jack offered the hospitality of their home to Project Salvador board members who had traveled from Alaska and Boston for the Annual meeting.

Susan was born on October 25, 1932 at home in the small farming community of Tiffany, Colorado in southwestern Colorado. Her Hispanic ancestors had lived for generations in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. Her mother died when she was very young but her father insisted on raising her on the farm. After high school she traveled to Santa Fe for training as a radiology technician. Then with a girlfriend she traveled to California—then the mecca for so many young people from small places in the west. There she met Jack Corrigan and they were married. Eventually they moved to Denver which became their permanent home. Susan worked as a medical assistant for the same doctor in North Denver until she retired. She was a faithful volunteer at St. Dominic's, sharing her time and talents for countless organizations, ministries, and events.

Susan died July 11, 2021 surrounded by her husband, Jack, their 3 children, 9 grandchildren and a great grandchild. She will be missed by her countless extended family members and her many friends.

Project Salvador is eternally grateful for the years of generosity from this wonderful human being who made the world a better place for having lived.