

PROJECT SALVADOR

UPDATE

The Mission of Project 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 and marketing of fair trade crafts in the United States.

Visit us at www.projectsalvador.org!

August 2014

Archbishop Romero Lives On

by Mary Alice Bramming, President



On March 24, 2014 Project Salvador, St. Dominic Parish, Regis University, and the Romero Theater Troupe celebrated the memory of Archbishop Romero in prayer, song, and drama. A candle was lit in his memory and Salvadoran songs were sung by long time Project Salvador supporter Ellen Klaver.

The Romero Theater Troupe is a street drama group who took present day problems facing people on the streets in Denver--being arrested for being undocumented, being racially profiled by the police--dramatized them and then related what Archbishop Romero would have said of the situation.

Several students from Regis University told of the impact their visit to El Salvador, including praying at the tomb of Archbishop Romero, has had on their lives.

Project Salvador Board member, Bill Anthony, had put together a video with the help of a high school student featuring Project Salvador's projects. Board president, Mary Alice Bramming, talked about the projects and our efforts to walk with the people of El Salvador for 27 years. A generous collection was taken for the work of Project Salvador. Long time Project Salvador supporter, Marie Edgar, provided a beautiful environment in St. Dominic Parish Hall for the evening. She had help setting up from Board member, George McHenry.

The evening ended with pupusas provided by Regis University and fruit and rice drinks made and served by members of St. Dominic Parish. The food and drink accompanied visiting between new and old friends of Project Salvador.



Mary Ann Ceballos, MC and Ellen Klaver, musician



Romero Theater Troupe



Long time Project Salvador supporters and social justice activists visiting during the event.

Scholarship Student Spotlight: *Melissa Emperatriz Galicia Castillo*

by Tony Gasbarro, Scholarship Coordinator

Melissa began as a scholarship student with Project Salvador in 2005 while she was in high school. She is from the small coffee growing town of Juayua, located in western El Salvador. Her mother died when she was a child and she lived with relatives while her father worked away from home to support the family. Her father was a janitor at a private school in Santa Tecla near San Salvador. Because of her father's position Melissa was able to take free English lessons at the school and by the time she was ready to go to college she had a good command of English.



Melissa working at the TV station.

She entered the University of San Salvador in 2008 and she completed her undergraduate coursework in 2013. Melissa is currently writing her senior thesis, which is a requirement of all graduates, and will graduate in December 2014. She majored in Journalism and her dream is to become a TV anchorwoman. During her last years at the university she worked part time at a TV station and actually did some television broadcasts. She hopes to get full-time work at the TV station when she graduates.

Melissa's five years of undergraduate coursework was supported by four ladies who own and operate the **Ellis Group**, a financial planning firm in Palmer, Alaska. These women served as Melissa's "Godmothers" and from time to time sent her some useful gifts.

Paperless Newsletters!

Would you like to save a tree and a stamp?

Join our mailing list by sending us an email at newsletter@projectsalvador.org, and we will send you the next issue of the newsletter via email!

Shop at King Soopers and support Project Salvador at the same time!

by Bill Anthony, Board Member

I've never perceived myself as ever getting overly excited about fundraising and asking people for money or donations. It has always been one of those awkward necessities to support good or worthwhile causes. My sister approached me a few years back and asked if I would use a King Soopers gift card to support my niece's gymnastics classes. When I downloaded money on to the gift card 5% of what I used to buy groceries and gas went to offsetting her gymnastics training. I often purchase my groceries at King Soopers anyway, and 5% adds up over time.

This is where you as a Project Salvador supporter come in. Everyone needs groceries and gas, so if you have a King Soopers, City Market or a Krogers in your area why not let 5% of what you buy in groceries and gas benefit Project Salvador? In the greater Denver metro area Project Salvador is a registered non-profit with Kroger/City Market/King Soopers. If you are willing to load and reload the gift cards for purchases, Project Salvador will send you a gift card for you to use. The gift card can maintain a balance up to \$400, and each time you use it you will be donating to Project Salvador and the projects that we support.

How it Works

- Project Salvador will earn 5% on the amount of the reloads put on to the gift cards. You can reload the same card as often as you want in any amount, up to \$400.
- You can use the gift cards to purchase groceries and gas. It cannot be used for stamps, money orders, other gift cards
- The gift card given to you has \$2.50 on it. For the first use it would be a good idea to load the card upon entry at store.
- Gift cards can be reloaded at the register or Customer Service Desk. There is a five minute delay before funds are available.
- The balance left on the gift cards can be monitored by reviewing your register receipt. It is suggested that an adequate balance be left on the card before leaving the register. Just tell the cashier at the register that you would like to add money to your card.
- The gift card functions like cash and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen.

We would be happy to mail you a gift card(s) if you or anyone you know is committed to using it on behalf of Project Salvador. The more cards being loaded the more projects we can fund and support! **Please contact Bill Anthony at (303) 485-6669 or anthony_bill@svvsd.org to request a card.**

If 100 people put \$300 on the gift cards each month for one year, Project Salvador would receive \$1500 in the first month and \$18,000 in a year's time.

Support Project Salvador while shopping online through AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile?

It's a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that **Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.**

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Please select **Project Salvador Crafts**. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

You Buy and Amazon Gives! It's that easy!

Tinetti Childcare Center



The Mayor of San Salvador has established several childcare centers at large markets throughout the city. The purpose of these centers is to care for the children of the poor women who sell produce at the markets. Children from six months old through kindergarten can take advantage of the center, and are able to stay at the facility from early morning to late afternoon. These centers are spotlessly clean and the children are well cared for. They are given good, solid meals and receive refreshments two times a day. Depending upon their age, the children play with toys, play games and read, or are read to.

If the children did not have access to these centers, they would be playing on the floor of the market stalls midst the dirt, stray dogs and cats, and sometimes rats, while their mothers worked. Project Salvador gives the center pictured here, called Tinetti, just over \$1000 a year to help cover costs.

Meet the Board of Directors!

As in previous newsletters, we continue to feature short bios of our dedicated board members.

Kathy & Evaristo Ramirez-Aguilar, Boulder, CO:

Kathy, Secretary, manages a Green Labs Program at the University of Colorado-Boulder and is very passionate about sustainability, including the need to conserve resources and move away from carbon-based fuels to renewables. She continues to be drawn to Project Salvador because of the organization's strong commitment to social justice (one of the three legs of sustainability), and the organization's grassroots way which emphasizes the importance of having the people of El Salvador choose what is best for their country and community.

Evaristo, IT & Website, has been involved with Project Salvador in the support of computer installation and repair, Spanish translations, and Website design and support. He currently works for IBM in Boulder, CO as an IT Architect and was first connected with Project Salvador through his church. Evaristo enjoys using his computer skills to help Project Salvador because of the positive impacts that the various projects of the organization bring to the people of El Salvador.

Project Salvador Board of Directors:
Mary Alice Bramming (Board President),
Kathy Ramirez-Aguilar (Secretary), Patricia
Lawless (Treasurer & Project Coordinator),
Joanne Doyle (Development Coordinator),
Tony Gasbarro (Scholarship Coordinator),
Evaristo Ramirez-Aguilar, Linda Gottschalk,
John Kukankos, Erin Kelly, Bill Anthony,
George McHendry

Newsletter Editors: Erin Kelly and Tony
Gasbarro

Support People: Jack & Susan Corrigan

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~~~~~ **Mil Gracias!** ~~~~~

We would like to give a special thanks to all those donors who generously  
financed a 5-year university education for individual scholarship students:

From Fairbanks, Alaska: *Benny and Sally Benevento, Mary Matthews, Jim and  
Barbara Matthews*; From Palmer, Alaska: *The Ellis Group (Financial  
Planners)*; From Juneau, Alaska: *Mary Claire Harris*; From Houghton, MI:  
*Hans Lechner and Emily Gochis*; From San Francisco, CA: *Zachary Garinger  
and Janet Cody*.

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**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**

**DONATE:**

- \* Make a one-time donation to cover mailing costs of this newsletter. (\$10 suggested).
- \* Make a one-time / monthly donation to Project Salvador.
- \* Become a Proyecto Los Niños monthly donor @ \$25/month.
- \* Make a one-time / monthly donation to a specific Project Salvador project:
  - *Microlending, Scholarships, Center for Arts and Peace, PICO community  
organizing, CIJUVEN, or the Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J. Scholarship Fund*
- \* Donate new or used laptops for university scholarship recipients.
- \* Donate \$125 to cover the cost of an E-reader to allow students access to reading  
materials in areas with no libraries.
- \* Donate your car that we can sell to raise funds.
- \* Include Project Salvador in your will.

**Checks can be made payable to Project Salvador and mailed to Project Salvador, PO Box  
300105, Denver, CO 80203-0105.**

**HOST A SPEAKER:**

- \* Project Salvador is happy to speak to your group about our projects, life in El  
Salvador, and related topics.

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