

PROJECT SALVADOR

Updates on new and ongoing projects

FIRST DOCTOR *By Erin Kelly*

I had the privilege to attend the graduation of Johana Cardoza Lemus, Project Salvador's first scholarship student to graduate from medical school.

I first met Johana in 2007 when I was living and working in her village as a Peace Corps Volunteer. At that time she was one of the top students in her ninth grade class. She was planning on continuing her education in high school, with the dream of one day studying medicine in college.

Johana received a Project Salvador scholarship that helped her cover the costs of attending high school. Upon graduating from high school her generous sponsor offered to pay for her eight years of medical school!



Johana is the seventh of ten children and is the first of her family to graduate from college. Her father is a subsistence farmer and her mother operates a small store out of the house. Her family and community are incredibly proud of Johana for everything she has accomplished.

From the very beginning Johana said that if she became a doctor she wanted to stay in El Salvador and give back to her community, with the hopes of one day opening her own clinic. Dr. Johana Cardoza Lemus is currently working at a local hospital and hopes to continue her education and specialize in internal medicine.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are happy to introduce the newest member of our board, Wendy Prudencio. Wendy joined our team in February of 2018 and has been busy since the first day she joined.

Wendy is Salvadoran-American and grew up in a Salvadoran community outside New York City. Her immediate family immigrated to the US at the start of the civil war. Wendy remained connected to her roots, spending much time in her parent's homeland throughout her childhood to early adulthood.

Wendy has over 15 years of professional experience in non-profit and project management. In all of her positions she has developed programming aimed at improving

the lives of vulnerable populations. She currently works for the Citizens Crime Commission,

a non-profit that focuses on violence prevention, specifically working with youth involved in gang and gun violence.

Wendy is committed in helping Project Salvador's Scholarship Program. She is the first in her family to attend graduate school and is excited to help others reach their dreams.

We welcome Wendy to Project Salvador!



Our Generous Supporters

For the past several years, the Project Salvador scholarship program has received generous support from several chapters of Rotary and a chapter of the Soroptomists. Rotary is widely recognized for its charitable work throughout the world, and the Soroptomists are a remarkable not-for-profit group that promotes women's causes. In large part, the support of these groups provide emanates from the fact that they have visited El Salvador with Project Salvador board members and have witnessed first-hand the scholarship program in action.

On several trips to El Salvador with Project Salvador board members, representatives of the LaGrande, Oregon Rotary, Wallowa County, Oregon Rotary and Soroptomists in Enterprise, Oregon have visited El Salvador where they met some of the students and their families, heard about the students' studies and lives, visited their homes, and heard their presentations.



Project Salvador Board member John Kukankos had the following observation on the impact that visits by these groups have had on scholarship recipients: "Your presence validates these students. It is an intangible, but it is not difficult to see how your generosity of spirit is felt by these young people. They have so few advantages in life, and your support, presence and interaction helps these students believe in themselves and plays a big part in their success."

Quick Facts

Soroptomists sponsor:

- 4 High School Seniors
- 1 University Student
- All scholars are women

LaGrande & Wallowa

Rotary Clubs sponsor:

- 16 High School Students
- 22 students in previous years

Observations from Supporters

"I have traveled many places in my fifty-some years, but none that touched me like my trip to El Salvador." Beth Stewart, then-President of the LaGrande, Oregon Rotary.

"As we say in Pendleton, 'This isn't my first rodeo,' but it was certainly the most intimate in connecting with such overwhelming need ... and such incredible spirit within those we come into contact with." Susan DeMarsh, then-Northeast Region Rotary Director.

"All the students were so amazing! They were so humble and grateful. They work hard... give back to their families and communities.... I loved hearing their stories and their dreams" Joel Meyer, LaGrande Rotary.

Updates from Radio Victoria

Election Reporting

Starting at 4:30 a.m. on February 3rd, Radio Victoria 92.1 FM broadcast a team of 25 credentialed correspondents responding in real-time to the 2019 elections.

Our local audience in Cabañas and San Vicente stayed engaged, and even more Salvadorans tuned in globally, with thousands from the U.S. checking in via social media.

According to our community reporters, many voting centers were unprepared to open on time for reasons ranging from mismanaged Vote Reception Boards, to Salvadoran Civilian Police and Armed Forces members being denied ballot access (a violation of article 195 of the Electoral Code), to ink pads drying out, making it difficult to stamp ballots.

Radio Victoria worked into the night, reporting from Cabañas's 9 municipalities which represent 2.7% of all El Salvador's registered voters.

Project Salvador has funded Radio Victoria consistently since it was founded in 1993. A shout out to our generous donors who make this work possible! We are excited to continue funding Radio Victoria's wonderful work throughout 2019. Our funding commitment for this year is \$6440.



Politics and Women

"Women Also Talk About Politics" was a program presented before the elections to analyze each presidential candidate's platform to see if their programs took women into account. Our panelists found all to be lacking. The FMLN was the only group that made at least some clear commitments to social programs and laws that supported women. The rest of the candidates had only superficial and ambiguous "solutions" to common problems.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Project Salvador Gets a Logo

We are happy to announce that Project Salvador now has a logo! To ensure that we can continue attracting new donors we are expanding the way we do things, evolving with the times and growing our presence in the digital space. With so many competing images and messages, we want to be easily identified and noticed.

Inspired by Salvadoran crafts and artists we chose our logo's image and color palette. At the heart of the work we do is the people of El Salvador. Look out for our logo as we continue to make our mark in new spaces.

*For more information contact us at info@projectsalvador.org
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New Ways to Give

Project Salvador is now accepting donations online! Make a donation through the secure website, PayPal.



Go to bit.ly/PayPalPS
And set up your donation to
Project Salvador today!

Ways to Support

- Host an event
- Follow us on social media and share our page
- Shop through smile.amazon.com
- Ask your employer about employee matching

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