



Volume IV  
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**Friends of Esquipulas Board Updates**

Visitors to and from Esquipulas nurture the connection between our parishes. 2015 is a big year for delegations--a group from St. William went in July and we are delighted to welcome a group from Esquipulas in the fall! Dawn Dones, Diana Pantalos, Ellen Buche and Allyson Ferry spent early July getting to know the people of Esquipulas and the projects under way in their community. For the first time since 2009, a delegation from Esquipulas will come to Louisville some time this fall: the current pastor, Fr. Jaime Montesinos, Leo Cisneros (leader of the Nutrition Project) and Sonia Espinoza (parish staff).



The Friends of Esquipulas is grateful for the assistance of three persons who recently joined the board: Ellen Buche, Diana Pantalos and Peg Schervish. Diana will coordinate the Nutrition Project committee, and Peg facilitates our connection with Casa Materna. New persons interested in working with the board, in a various capacities and levels of commitment, are always welcome.

**Photo 2015 St. William delegates, left to right: Ellen, Allyson, Dawn and Diana**

**A Friendly Connection**

*Reflection by Kitty Madden of Casa Materna*



It was early 2003 when Rosa Lanzas and Socorro Urbina, Casa Materna “promotoras,” first set out on their visits of outreach to former Casa mothers in six selected communities. One goal of this follow-up was to see how mothers and children were doing back in their home communities. It would be just a “sampling” of the over 8,000 mothers the Casa Materna had welcomed.

Rosa and Socorro were received with great enthusiasm and the program soon expanded to 12 communities with each community forming a Mutual Support group that would meet monthly with leaders chosen by the group. Follow-up leaders, often as many as 24, now meet twice a year at the Casa Materna, to evaluate their work from the previous 6 months and to identify together a focus for their ongoing education for the coming semester. There are now over 400 mothers organized in twelve rural communities.

In January this year, the mother leaders of the Casa’s follow-up group had the great delight of welcoming the Esquipulas Parochial leaders from the Nutrition Program and three of their “promotoras” for a presentation on their various works,



past and present. Pablo Diaz led the presentation using an informative power point and was accompanied by Leo, Chepe and three of the Esquipulas’ mother leaders, including Geronima (El Porton), Margarita Garcia (El Zapotal), and Albertina Morales (La Ceiba). For 2015, the Casa Follow-up leaders have chosen to focus on nutrition. Thus, Pablo and his team came to the Casa in early March to lead Casa staff and mother leaders in the process of preparing organic compost and the cultivation and use of “worms” (vermiculture). This “hands on” session was followed up by an overnight visit to El Porton that included 3 Casa staff and 6 mother leaders allowing them to have a sense of the Nutrition program in action.



Both programs, the Casa Materna and Our Lord of Esquipulas parish are thrilled with this beginning relationship linking the two programs together as they find ways of mutually supporting each other in the future. And as Leo cautioned the mother leaders, “Remember that things go slowly in the beginning and we now have had much success with our nutrition program because we have had many years of practice.”

*Photos are former mothers from Mary Ann Jackman Casa Materna in Matagalpa, Nicaragua with Nutrition Program experts and promotoras!*



## Friends of Esquipulas

1226 W. Oak Street  
Louisville, KY 40210

### An Outreach Ministry of St. William Community

## How to donate!!

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## Thanks for your support!

### GRANTS+GIFTS+GUTS

*By Jean Porter, Fundraising Committee*

Friends of Esquipulas (FE) provides about \$55,000 a year to three programs in Esquipulas, Nicaragua, as well as the salary of one worker at Casa Materna in Matagalpa. The money for all that comes solely from donations – grants and gifts from people like you.

This year, we had a special boost to our accounts, after Father Jim Flynn asked that anyone wanting to acknowledge his 60<sup>th</sup> year as a priest make a contribution to FE; those donations totaled more than \$5,000. We all are very grateful for Jim's work in Central America over the years, and for your gifts in his honor.

FE has also been blessed by wonderful grants in the past year from the SCN, Ursuline and Loretto religious orders.

We supplement those gifts with four main fundraisers – Solidarity Suppers in the fall; fifth-Sunday collections at St. William; soup sales in the winter; and participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program.

August marks the first year of Kroger's reworking of its Community Rewards program, which – as we feared -- has not been as profitable for us as the previous gift card program. Another wrinkle is that even those already signed up must re-enroll every year. That means that if you signed up when the program started, you will have to sign up again.

The only real way to increase the amount we get is to increase the number of people who have registered their Kroger Plus cards.



So, in order to keep our donations as high as possible, we humbly ask that Friends of Esquipulas supporters do a few things:

- If you have not yet enrolled and designated Friends of Esquipulas as your favored organization, please do. Go online to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and follow the prompts, or call 1-800-KROGERS, option #3.
- Please ask your friends and family to do the same.
- Re-enroll for the program each year and keep an eye on your receipts to make sure FE is named at the bottom. If not, check with customer service to make sure you are enrolled. (By the way, once you log into your Community Rewards page, you can see how much your own donations totaled in the previous quarter).

Please, if you have any difficulty enrolling, or re-enrolling later, contact Jean Porter at [jeanporter83@gmail.com](mailto:jeanporter83@gmail.com), or (502) 643-7842.

Check out the full color version of the newsletter on our webpage at <http://www.friendsofesquipulas.org/current-newsletter.html>