

2019

Quixote Center

Annual Report

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Making real change!

2019 has been a year of tremendous challenges. Along with much of the country, we wonder about the days ahead; about the chaotic governing strategy of those in the White House and its implications for the lives of the millions of people reached by its policy and practices. From Nicaragua to Haiti, to our own cities and the border, we have witnessed great harm done.

In response, we have sought to be a fulcrum for those seeking to change this world to one more just and loving. By staking out specific strategies and locations for work, we provide leverage to those on the journey with us who hope to make a difference. A donation, joined with hundreds of others, enables the work of people planting forests and building homes. An email sent to a member of Congress – along with other messages – prepares the way for a change in policy. Our participation in coalition provides a means to elevate our voice with others in making demands on political leaders. In this report, you will read more about these efforts.

During this year we made the decision to phase out Catholics Speak Out. Though the Center remains committed to change in the church, there are many other organizations doing this work with greater focus. During the year we did act as a sponsor and serve on the planning committee for the Marie Collins speaking tour on the sex abuse scandal in the church, organized by Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR). Quixote staff also served as voluntary chair of COR for the year. We continue to look for other ways to contribute to the struggle for a more just church.

As much as we talk about “dreams” here at the Quixote Center, we are working every day to make the impossible, possible. The programs of the Quixote Center have a real consequence in the lives of thousands of people. We are making **real change!** Thank you for joining us!

In Memoriam: We honor the lives of long-time friends Tess Ferrera, Sergio Valle Veniero, and Barbara Cullom, thankful that they committed some portion of their lives' journey to walking with us.

Program Updates

Haiti Reborn

This year we marked the 20th anniversary of the reforestation program implemented in partnership with the staff of the Jean Marie Vincent Formation Center in Grepen, just outside of Gros Morne, Haiti. Over the last 20 years, 2 million trees have been planted as a result of this program. About 10% of those, or 200,000, have been planted on the steppes of Tet Mon. 20 years ago Tet Mon was a barren mountainside, with its soil silting up the river that runs through town, and mudslides from its slopes blocking the national highway below. Now Tet Mon is a thriving forest and demonstration project, showing the community and the country what is possible through reforestation.

Through the years the project has expanded from reforestation to include a wide-ranging program of support to farmers in the Gros Morne area. This includes workshops on agricultural techniques and small business practices; participation in a seed bank; animal husbandry projects including a goat sharing program and chicken coop and a mobile veterinary clinic to treat animals.

This year, despite political demonstrations, fuel shortages, and road blockades, the staff have kept the program going by delivering saplings and sweet potato cuttings by mule, when necessary, riding moto taxis to get to communities for trainings when fuel was in short supply, and carrying supplies up hillsides when other options were not available. Though some program activities have been slowed, none have been stopped. The only program activity that has seen a serious drop off because of the political crisis are on-site workshops that require others to travel from outlying areas.

Meanwhile the program has delivered nearly 65,000 trees through the first nine-months of reporting, from the Grepen Center nursery – 15,000 of these in partnership with the Lorax Project. Another 18,000 trees have been delivered from satellite nurseries associated with the program. Trainings have directly reached over 300 farmers, and 1,000 families have gained access to the program's seed bank. A new chicken coop, with a solar water pump and planned capacity (not yet realized) to create all feed locally, opened in the fall selling 800 eggs a day to local schools and women's groups for resale in markets.

The political situation in Haiti remains tense. We have continued to monitor, and update on the Quixote Center blog when we can. As of this writing, tensions remain high: Jovenel Moïse is still president,



and people are still demonstrating daily for his departure. The United States continues to stand by Moïse, and the UN and other international organization are betting on new elections for Parliament – sometime next year – to calm the situation. While demonstrations seem to be running out of steam at the moment, and some members of the opposition have been detained (ostensibly those who have made grave threats of violence), the underlying grievances that resulted from decades of misrule, foreign intervention and grave inequality remain. New elections will not solve them. We continue to speak out against direct U.S. intervention in Haiti – and for international financial institutions to cancel debts and give the country room to breathe. Most importantly, though, we support our partners in Gros Morne who demonstrate an alternative path to a sustainable future every day.

Quest for Peace

This year we wrapped up our Homes of Hope campaign; a major fundraising initiative for two interconnected housing initiatives being implemented by our long-term partners, the Institute of John XXIII. The campaign successfully raised more than \$1.5 million dollars. The political crisis in Nicaragua in 2018 delayed some of the work on the ground for close to 6 months, but things are back on track, with a new cooperative housing site completed in San Marcos, as well as preparation for a new housing complex coordinated by the municipality of San Dionisio (Matagalpa). The two components of the Homes of Hope project are a community housing initiative and a family housing initiative. The community housing

Program Updates



initiative is based on work with housing cooperatives and involves building on a community plot for 12 to 20 homes (thus far). The coop decides membership and governance, as well as agreement on re-payment. The homes in the community initiative are built from Quixote Center contributions (primarily). Members of the cooperative repay the mortgages based on highly concessionary rates. The repayments flow into a revolving loan fund to help capitalize future housing. To date, 53 houses have been completed under this portion of the program.

The family housing initiative involves providing loan guarantees to individual families, most of whom are middle income by Nicaragua's standards, but unable to secure financing for mortgages in the country's tight credit markets. Funds from the Quixote Center are placed in a trust fund that secures mortgages for these families. Once repayment begins, the funds again flow into a revolving loan fund to capitalize future housing. In this part of the program, 60 homes have been built. Seven of these were recently completed in Terrabona, financed in cooperation with the local government, to provide housing for teachers.

The political situation in Nicaragua remains tense. Much as in Haiti, our focus is on the U.S. government's behavior, trying to reduce outside influence so that the Nicaraguan government and opposition may work toward an agreement to bring the crisis to an end. The government did agree to release people charged with crimes in relationship to protests in 2018 – leading to over 600 people released from prison and a general amnesty. The opposition, however, still demands Ortega's resignation has called for the release of additional prisoners. The government is also not giving in on early elections – currently scheduled for November 2021.

InAlienable

The Center launched InAlienable as a new project in 2018 to confront and seek change in our nation's immigration policies. InAlienable is based on three pillars: Education, advocacy and accompaniment. Over the past year we have gained more focus and deepened our commitment in each area.

Our efforts for public education are built around the Daily Dispatch. Every day we offer updates and analysis on immigration policy, local activism, and national legislation. The Dispatch's readership has grown threefold in the last year. In the upcoming year, we hope to add new features including occasional podcasts and/or video interviews with authors and activists.

Last year we joined the Detention Watch Network, and over the last half of 2019 have gotten more involved in this network's campaign Defund Hate, an effort to reduce, and eventually end, the incarceration of immigrants by working to slash Immigration and Custom Enforcement's budget. We regularly write about the coalition's work and other advocacy efforts, and provide ways for people to take action to impact immigration policy.

The Quixote Center has a long history of working to change policies while providing direct support to people impacted by those same policies, until they can be ended or transformed. The InAlienable program is doing this by launching a partnership with the Franciscan Network on Migration to provide accompaniment to migrants crossing through Mexico from Central America. During 2019, we established new relationships with members of the network, and will serve as a fiscal sponsor for some of its projects starting in 2020. This fall, Quixote Center staff travelled to a house for migrants along the Guatemala/Mexico border, and we launched an initiative to fund the expansion of a shelter in Mazatlán, Mexico – the only shelter providing services to Central America migrants between Mexico City and the U.S. border along Pacific coast migration routes. As the Trump administration has pushed enforcement measure into Mexico through controversial programs like Remain in Mexico and putting in place a transit ban on asylum seekers (denying asylum to anyone who travels through a third country before arriving at a U.S. border) we anticipate there will be much need in Mexico in the coming year and are preparing to be a part of providing assistance there.

Financial Report July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Balance Sheet	
Assets	
Cash/Equivalents	\$216,154
Investments	\$43,975
Pledges Receivable	\$170,912
Accounts receivable	\$19,123
Prepaid Expenses	\$4,426
Equipment Net Depreciation	\$4,952
Deposits	\$2,500
Total Assets	\$462,042
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	\$1,636
Accrued time off	\$6,956
Retirement liability	\$49,750
Net assets	
With donor restriction	\$1,604
Without donor restriction	\$402,096
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$462,042

Revenue	
Contributions/Grants	\$478,514
Bequests	\$45,455
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,360
Publications	\$2,537
Interest Income	\$3,507
Total Revenue	\$532,373

Expenses	
Program Services	
Quest for Peace	\$203,296
Haiti Reborn	\$65,443
InAlienable	\$63,127
Catholics Speak Out	\$25,322
Callahan Memorial Fund	\$17,499
Management	\$103,023
Fundraising	\$54,375
Total Expenses	\$532,085
Income over Expenses	\$(753)

Bill Callahan Memorial Fund: Activist in Residence

In the summer of 2019 we welcomed our first Activist in Residence. The Activist in Residence program was funded primarily through the Bill Callahan Memorial Fund- which was created in honor of Father Bill Callahan shortly after his death in 2010. The goal of the project is to provide support to someone with an innovative idea for activism in need of a home to get the project off the ground. Our activist in the first year was Sakiera Malone who came to us with the idea of confronting public health inequities in the city of Baltimore. Sakiera's specific focus was tracking rates of Hepatitis C across different neighborhoods in Baltimore, and then getting information out to social service providers about treatment options and the need for advocacy to



provide better equity in the delivery of health services. Sakiera created a heat map, demonstrating infection rates across the city and the neighborhood disparities that existed. She created an intake guide for social service providers. She participated in conferences, shared her work to community organizations in highly impacted areas, and launched a website to house all of the resources she created in the course of her residency with us. The website and the materials remain available at urbanhealthbmore.org.

Sakiera has returned to graduate school where she will continue her focus on public health as she pursues a Masters in Social Work.