

2015

Quixote Center

Annual Report



Quixote Center

A gathering of people
who work and pray
with laughter
to reach for stars
that seem too distant
to be touched,
or too dim
to be worth
the effort.

We try to be friends
with people in need,
and to celebrate life
with people
who believe that
the struggle
to be like Jesus
in building a world
more justly loving
is worth the gift
of our lives.

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January 2016

Dear Friend of Justice,

The Quixote Center has been working for lasting and systemic change for forty years. We have used as our guide-star the infamous Don Quixote, with his penchant for tilting at windmills and his belief that a better world is not only possible, but necessary. Thus, we present to you our annual report.

As a friend of the Quixote Center, you have proven time and again that these impossible dreams can come to pass. We thank you for your radical faith in the Center that is shared by Noam Chomsky whom Dolly Pomerleau had the opportunity to meet in 2015. In his words:

"I can't tell you how much I've admired the work of the Quixote Center. In the face of intimidating odds, the Center has continually pursued social change at the systemic level, and they have often succeeded. They have maintained a spirit of hope and solidarity with those they seek to serve, and, in the process, have inspired so many across the country to do the same."

As 2015 drew to a close, we paused to reflect on events that shape our world-view, inform our dreams, and strengthen our resolve to make our world more justly loving.

We remember, in no particular order: Pope Francis' visit to the United States · Terrorist attacks in Paris and other parts of the world · the Paris Climate Agreement · The Republican presidential candidate circus · The Trans Pacific Partnership · Restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba · Multiple mass shootings in our country · The Black Lives Matter Movement · The Venezuelan election · Massive immigration from parts of Central America · The refugee crisis in Europe · and · finally · "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Quixote Center

CHRONICLES

Quest for Peace

FEDICAMP: Two successive years of drought have devastated farmers across Central America. Our partners at FEDICAMP are assisting those farmers by providing training in practical agricultural techniques that allow them to maintain a productive harvest even with minimal rainfall. The FEDICAMP *promotores* have spread the word about drought-resistant fruits and vegetables, the importance of crop diversification, and organic methods of production.

"Despite the drought, my plot has yielded black beans, fruit and vegetables. What has motivated me to think and act this way was the food shortage as well as FEDICAMP's exchanges and workshops...[where] we share successful experiences with one another because among farmers we talk and practice in a simple way, sharing good ideas as well as lending native seed when the other one needs it." - Orlando, 59 (San Antonio, Nicaragua)

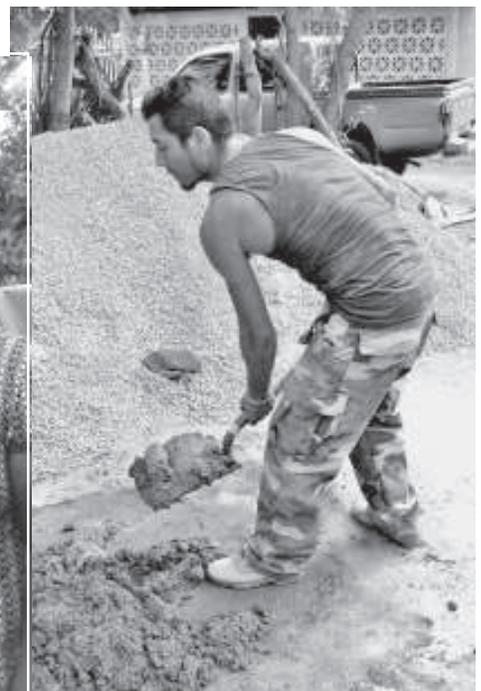
These families are on the front lines of climate change, and their "campesino-a-campesino" (neighbor to neighbor) model of sharing successful sustainable farming methods is having a major impact on families living on the edge of subsistence.

Homes of Hope: After nearly twenty years of success in building homes for impoverished Nicaraguans, the next phase of our Homes of Hope program took form in 2015 because of the hard work of our partners and friends

at the Institute of John XXIII and a ground-breaking agreement with Banpro, Nicaragua's largest bank (and an emerging force for social justice in business).

The first homes under this new agreement were constructed in and around Managua in 2015, with plans to expand to municipalities throughout the country during the coming years. The Institute expanded capacity for the coming year by hiring an additional engineer, a new lawyer, and a communications specialist for the program. They have also forged partnerships with local builders and suppliers to reduce costs and increase speed of construction.

The Homes of Hope is a social enterprise, and once fully implemented will require no further outside funding to continue. The program embraces the business principals of efficiency and profitability to maximize the greater good by providing homes to those who could not otherwise afford them. In doing so, it has developed into a premier program for addressing the crippling housing crisis facing Nicaragua, and perhaps, we hope, a model for other groups around the world committed to stopping homelessness in their own communities.



Here at the Quixote Center we have been busy securing the funding necessary to “prime the pump” of this program. We have a goal of raising \$2 million. In 2015, we crossed the \$750,000 mark thanks to the commitment of some incredible people. Thank you!

Haiti Reborn

In 2015, we purchased three additional acres of land for the Tet Mon model forest. This pushes the size of the forest to 47 acres of native born and grown trees. The forest has become a great asset to the region of Gros Morne



by improving the health of the soil, water, and air, and by becoming a recreational space for local residents to enjoy.

The satellite nurseries developed over the last two years are up and running strong, and have now distributed tens of thousands of trees to families across Gros Morne. These satellite nurseries are especially important to the more rural communities we work with, as their proximity improves the survival rate for the seedlings.

Training activities in 2015 included the “Goat Summit” training farmers in how to care for backyard goats and maximize their productivity. Farmers around the region learned valuable sustainable agriculture techniques. Students from the Green Schools Network joined the movement and learned about the invaluable functions of trees in the eco-system. Students also received fruit tree seedlings to take home and plant, with the hope that their families will benefit from the income that this new produce will generate.

Criminal Justice / GRIP

In 2015, we continued partnering with the Grassroots Investigation Project (GRIP) to investigate cases of inmates on death row or serving life without parole, who

are appealing the decisions in their cases. With the diligent efforts of our volunteers, Ericka Holland and Claudia Whitman, GRIP reviews dozens of calls from inmates and their families each month to assess the potential for further investigation into their cases. In many instances, GRIP is also able to provide information on resources available to the inmates or their families. Ericka has also begun research to update our Re-Entry database, an invaluable asset to the thousands of inmates released from prison each year with very little support.

Catholics Speak Out

Catholics Speak Out’s challenging commitment to expanding sensitivity to and the use of inclusive language was our guiding principle during 2015. We offered workshops on inclusivity at the June Intentional Eucharistic Communities Conference and at the September Women’s Ordination Conference gathering. We also developed a workshop on “A Societal Examination of Conscience.”

In the fall, CSO initiated a campaign to send “An Inclusive Bible to Every Bishop.” There are roughly 250 bishops in the United States. We will be continuing this effort in 2016. Additionally, CSO is a constant participant in the umbrella group, Catholic Organizations for Renewal. Of course, CSO commented on the Pope’s visit on our Quixote blog.

Administration

The Quixote Center’s technical infrastructure got a significant upgrade thanks to a generous donation from Art Milholland and Luann Mostello. Our office now includes updated computers and networks. In addition, our website and online databases have been upgraded, helping us to do a better job of communicating with our partners and supporters, as well as tracking project progress, leaving staff more time to engage directly with our projects.

Conclusion

We have done all of this with the support of our grassroots network. Over the last 40 years, you have stood in solidarity with the Quixote Center to create significant and sustainable change in communities in Nicaragua, Haiti, and the United States.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.



Quixote Center Financial Report FY 2015* (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

Revenue

Donations / Grants	
Unrestricted	\$147,525
Temporarily Restricted*	242,844
Publication / Product Sales	4,535
Other Revenue	9,454
Space Rental to Interfaith Voices	1,933
Profit / Loss on Investments	-2,657
Assets Released from Restrictions	145,929
Total Revenue	\$403,644

*Restricted funds for Nicaragua & Haiti

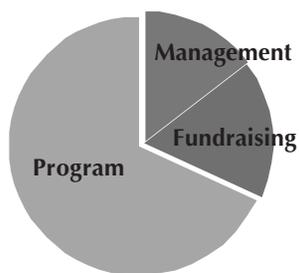
EXPENSES

Program	183,066
Management	39,881
Fundraising	47,126
Total Expenses	\$270,073
Income / Expenses*	133,571

*Restricted funds for Nicaragua & Haiti

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Quest for Peace	78,269
Catholics Speak Out	29,351
Haiti Reborn	75,446
Criminal Justice	0
Total Program Expenses	\$270,073



BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash / Equivalents	\$205,735
Receivables	12,000
Other Current Assets	21,906
Equipment	0
Total Assets	\$239,641

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	12,754
Other Current Liabilities	29,086
Restricted Funds	155,829
Unrestricted Funds	41,972

Net Income **\$133,591**

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$239,641**

*An audited report will be available on our website: quixote.org or we will mail it to you upon request.

Bequests

When you include the Center in your will, your work for justice lives on.

You can designate a specific sum of money, or an asset, such as stock, or a percentage of your estate to the Quixote Center.

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of stock augment the generous donations the Center receives.

You may deduct the total current value of the stock as a charitable donation, and you avoid the capital gains tax.

RMD

You may donate a portion or all of your **Required Minimum Distribution** directly from your IRA to the Quixote Center if you are 71 or older.

Monthly Giving

We invite you to become a monthly giver! This growing group of supporters helps ensure that the Quixote Center has the steady source of funding needed to keep tilting at windmills.

You may designate your gift to one or more programs of the Center, or it may be unrestricted to benefit the entire Center. If you or your attorney have any questions, please contact Andrew Hochhalter at 301-699-0042.

The People of the Quixote Center

Quixote Center Staff

Andrew Hochhalter
 Roz Fischer
 Ericka Holland
 Tee Kendall
 Vincenza Kamwendo
 Dolly Pomerleau
 Claudia Whitman

Board of Directors

Kathleen Bither Blank
 Frank D'Bernardo
 Noelle Hanrahan
 Andrew Hochhalter
 Frank O'Donnell
 Dolly Pomerleau
 Nancy Sulfridge

Volunteers / Interns

Bob Coogan
 Mercy Coogan
 Ken Bryso
 Marie Keefe
 Cheryl Nichols
 John Mooney
 Nancy Sulfridge