

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear COC Friend,

For us Californians, it has been quite the winter! It seems the window has opened for storms to move in, and they have done just that! Having lived in Oceanside for 20 years, I don't think I have ever seen it rain as hard and fast as it has done these past few weeks. The mountains are gorgeous, everything is green, the air is so clean, and those of us who love California remember why and just how beautiful it is!

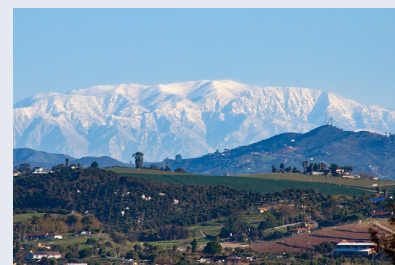
Baja also experienced lots of rain, so much that we had to cancel our February trip since planting trees and repairing the roof for a school classroom just wouldn't have worked! We have, however, rescheduled our outreach dates to May 17-20 and hope that will allow more team members to come. Our Ventura County Coordinator Reyna and her husband Ruben are pioneering a work in Padre Kino camp in San Quintín. Here, parents work in the fields for long hours and live in extreme poverty, making less than \$5 a day. We will bring God's love to this camp, provide a vision clinic, family photos, light construction projects, and a kids outreach alongside local Pastor Luis Hernandez. This is a great, easy trip for anyone, and you can bring your children to allow them to see how many other children in the world live. (Passports are required for all)

2018 was a great year for COC, with teams going to Tijuana, Baja, Sayulita and a brand new area for us, León, Guanajuato, Mexico. We are excited for 2019 and the opportunities we have to make a difference.

We couldn't do this without the support of our friends! Thank you!



Carol DeGraff, Executive Director



2/19 Our Local So Cal mountains

ZONA NORTE, TIJUNA - Leading the way, Keith and Maya Durkin



With the Caravan Crisis at the border, our Tijuana Ministry leaders, Keith and Maya, have responded with God's love. They opened their community center doors and their hearts to these people who have so little. When the Hondurans first came to Tijuana, they freely fed about 300 a day with a hot meal and a cup of coffee. Their small school was able to help with educating the children living in a local shelter. Today, most of the Hondurans have moved to a different area of TJ and received a 1-year work permit from the Mexican government, or returned home. Zona Norte is home to displaced or transient people, many without the proper identification to receive traditional services. Every person has a story, most are tragic, and as Pastor Keith told us one day, "I don't think I even knew the Gospel until I came to Zona Norte." Keith and Maya are laying down their lives to love those who are "passed over" and rejected from society. If you want to help us with this important work, consider coming with our team on March 23rd. You can also learn more about their work and financially contribute online at mxred.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY MISSION TRIP

May 17 - 20 • Vicente Guerrero, Baja.

\$250 Double Occupancy / \$350 Single Occupancy.

Kids staying in hotel room with parents - \$150.

A \$50 deposit secures your spot. Sign up today at

circleoc.com/baja

ZONA NORTE, TIJUANA

Saturday, March 23, 2019

One-day outreach trip. Space is limited.

Sign up today at

circleoc.com/tijuana

2018 CHRISTMAS HOPE PROJECT (CHP) RECAP

"You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress." Isaiah 25:4

What a blessing this project was for so many families and people in need! Over \$12,000 was raised and here's who it helped:

CHP HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PHILIPPINES



- **200 families** received groceries during the CHP event. The Gospel was shared and 166 people said "Yes" to Jesus.
- **100 children** from poor families received backpacks with school supplies during a special Christmas party with food, games and prizes. Including family members, over 120 received Christ.
- **150 grocery bags** were given to detainees in 2 prison facilities. Each cell block was given a number of bags to cook their group's Christmas meal. 398 detainees, including some of the prison guards and a jail warden, received Christ.
- **200 patients** in a public hospital ICU, wards, dialysis and oncology sections and their families received groceries; 376 received Christ.

CHP IN MEXICO AND CUBA



The COC Christmas Hope Project Team

We sent a team of 8 to Leon, Guanajuato (in Central Mexico) and worked with a local Pastor and their church. We held a morning prayer walk, shared the gospel, led individuals to Christ, and the next morning, gave away over 30 lunch bags with sandwiches, drinks, snacks, and bible to refugees on the streets.

100 families in Leon were given groceries Saturday night along with a family photo; over 80 individuals received the gift of salvation.

In Zona Norte, Tijuana the Durkins hosted two nights where they fed the community a Christmas dinner, shared the gospel and gave blankets to those in need.

30 families in Mexicali received turkeys for Christmas

100 families in Cuba received bags of groceries; 42 people received Christ.

We plan to do this again next Christmas and hope to impact even more! Emil and G Reyes who run the CHP have a heart not only to meet physical needs, but even more importantly reach them with the Good News of Jesus!

WAYS TO DONATE

DONATE ONLINE

Donations can be made securely online at circleoc.com/donate

THRIFT STORE

New and used goods can be donated to the Circle of Concern Thrift Store. Call 1-800-499-5121.

USED CARS

Used cars can be donated to Circle of Concern. Call 1-855-500-RIDE.