

Mission Fair – November 19, 2023 (Alternative Gift Fair)

The Mission Fair is our opportunity to support organizations that share our mission and values; and who serve the people who need it most. This year we have three well-deserving charities from which to choose. November 19th, we invite you to bring your gifts for one, two or all three deserving mission organizations. These missions do extraordinary things for those who are the least, last, over-looked, left-behind, and underserved in our world.

*To support our staff, we ask that you write a separate check made out to The Good Shepherd for each charity you wish to support. Please put the name of the charity in the memo line at the bottom left of your check. If you write your checks online, please do the same, one, two or three separate checks, with the recipient named in the memo space. **November 26 is the final day to offer your gift.** You can send your offering anytime between now and then or bring it to church and place it in the offering plate.*

Amado Youth Center, Amado Arizona <https://facebook.com/amadoyouthcenter>

The Amado Youth Center strives to provide positive, fun, skill-building opportunities for youth ages 8-18, promoting academic and career success.

The Center began to provide fun activities and now offers varied opportunities for all ages from gardening to earning a red belt in martial arts. The Center continues to grow and learn how best to meet the needs of Amado's youth.

A sample of programs includes: "Too Good for Drugs," helping youth learn about consequences of alcohol and drugs. Goal setting and working toward achieving goals is another. They provide a safe place to do homework, with caring adults present.

The Center also provides a food bank and clothing drop for those needing assistance of all kinds.

The Photos below are from recent event at the Youth Center:



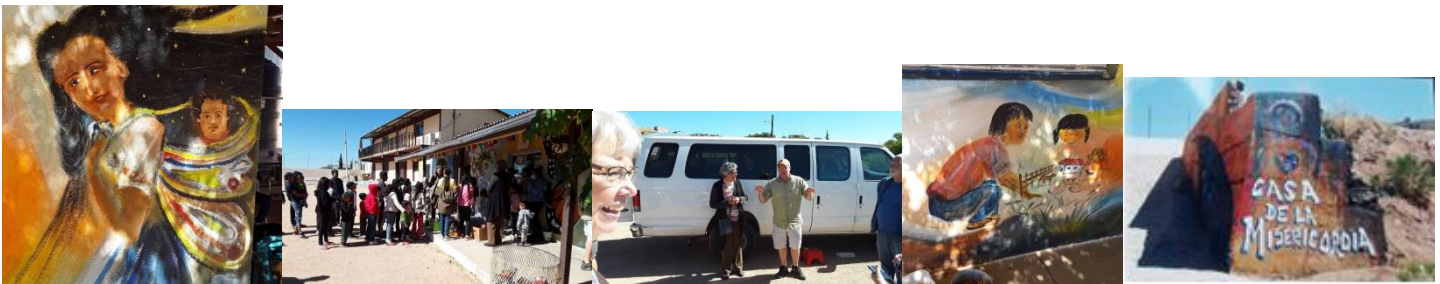
Casa De La Misericordia y de Todas las Naciones, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico
<https://facebook.com/Casa-De-La-Misericordia-y-de-Todas-las-Naciones-1045724705512316/>

The House of Mercy is a place of refuge for people migrating from all over Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Migrants are waiting for their asylum cases to be called for entry to the United States. At this oasis in the desert adults and children find respite from their journeys, away from homes, which are no longer safe. They would rather remain in their homelands but no longer find it safe there because of physical and economic terrorism.

Casa de la Misericordia is a place where children who have known fear find peace. Sister Lika and her amazing helpers have served at the House of Mercy for forty years. Randy Mayer has known her and the House of Mercy for twenty years. The Good Shepherd has been a faithful supporter of this center. The mission needs our support more than ever as migrant's numbers have increased. With a capacity of 150 persons sometimes La Casa is full; families are turned away. Their two-acre mission offers a dorm, garden, school, kitchen and area to do needlework and weaving. Families, women and men are welcomed at La Casa.

When no beds are available at La Casa families, and single women and men sleep on the streets, in cemeteries, parks, or ditches to wait. This is dangerous, as is crossing the desert on their own or with Cartel Coyotes. But inside the walls of the House of Mercy, is mercy, hope, grace, and peace incarnate.

Photos below are art made by the migrants and pictures of the children receiving gifts from The Good Shepherd folks.



The Dee and Pres Johnson Memorial Probigua Scholarship Fund

<http://www.probigua.com/about.htm>

Probigua is a school in Antigua, Guatemala providing education beyond the sixth grade. Other programs include taking libraries to rural communities. Young Indigenous students are encouraged to learn to read and write in Spanish and learn English, improving their ability to find better employment. (Guatemala has many Indigenous groups which often speak their own oral language.) The late Dee and Pres Johnson, among others, began a relationship with Probigua more than 20 years ago. Over the years The Good Shepherd has assisted the Probigua children and their families. In addition to the school, an outreach program to mountain villages provides clothing, food, and money to the impoverished Indigenous communities. These trips also encourage children to attend classes at Probigua. Our donations help provide scholarships so impoverished children and youth may study, learn and better their lives.

At the Good Shepherd we developed Spanish classes (in winter) with the help of Probigua's leaders. These adult learners may also choose travel to Guatemala for Spanish Immersion experiences, which are related to Probigua.

The photo below is of the school bus that literally brings the school and library to the children and a class of children together.

