

2016

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.**

Welcome to Our Annual Report We hope you enjoy reading it.

This has been a tumultuous year. All around the world, the resurgence of the hard-line right has destabilized countries and put the progress of the last fifty years in question. In the United States, we have come to a moment when everything from Civil Rights to the Bill of Rights is in play.

As questers for social justice, our 40th year was filled with ups and downs. In Haiti, as we began making tremendous strides with our Haiti Reborn program, Hurricane Matthew stormed through, destroying an already impoverished Southern Haiti.

In Nicaragua, our partnerships allowed us to complete our first housing community; then came the threat of the NICA Act which would hinder financial opportunities throughout Nicaragua.

In the world of faith, Pope Francis continues first to amaze us with his pastoral approach and then to distress us, by taking a hard line on some church teachings. Finally, in the United States, Donald Trump, a billionaire with a history of six business bankruptcies, numerous failed businesses, and an astonishing 3,500 lawsuits involving him as either defendant or plaintiff, will be the next President of the United States — a disaster too mammoth to grasp.

Nonetheless, our batteries have been jumpstarted this year, causing us to push ourselves even further. We pledge to resist apathy, cynicism, racism, misogyny, deportations, a wall, a ban on Muslim immigration, and a requirement that Muslims “register.” We rededicate ourselves to the arduous task of building a world more justly loving.

Nicaragua

Homes of Hope

In the last fiscal year, we began our first concentrated construction project with the housing cooperative Manos Amigos (Helping Hands) in August 2016. By November, they celebrated the occupancy of twenty new homes on their jointly held land.

Now the individuals within this cooperative have land to call their own, a home for future generations, and a strong, self-sufficient community. Future projects will include the development of schools, medical clinics, community centers, and small business initiatives.

The Homes of Hope program aims to:

- Effect structural and societal change alleviating the appalling homelessness of Nicaraguans;
- Increase personal and civic pride among the families who participate in the process;
- Build strong communities through cooperation and a consciousness of ecological responsibility.

You, our intrepid supporters, have brought us past the half way mark of our \$2 million goal for the trust fund to make Homes of Hope sustainable.

We thank you.

Daniel Ortega, the NICA Act

Daniel Ortega was elected to his third consecutive term as President of Nicaragua, and Rosario Murillo, his wife, will be Vice President.

Heavy social spending and the lingering sentiments of the revolutionary era have made Ortega popular, and all sides agree that he won the popular vote. However, earlier this year the Supreme Electoral Council disqualified the most prominent opposition candidate, casting a shadow over the election. Ortega has a pattern, dating back to the 1980s, of squelching promising, young leadership.

Concern in the U.S. Congress about the conduct of the election and Daniel Ortega's actions over the year led to the introduction of a bill called the Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act. If enacted, the NICA Act will stop international banks from giving loans to



Nicaragua — FEDICAMP

This year the Quixote Center contributed \$7,000 to continue our support of the Federation of Campesinos —FEDICAMP— thus funding four agronomy technicians as they criss-cross the rural region that gave birth to Sandino. They bring a simple message: Join together in the Oasis Project to produce your food organically, preserve the land, and thrive with us in the age of climate change. By organizing and training, they are changing the relationship between food production and environmental health.

Nicaragua unless the Nicaraguan government works to curb corruption and human rights violations. The bill has been passed in the House (H.R. 5708) but is still being reviewed in the Senate (S. 270).

The NICA Act is another page out of the Cuban embargo handbook. Just as the nearly 55-year-old Cuban embargo only intensified animosity between the United States and Cuba and impoverished the Cuban people, the NICA Act, if enacted, will harm future relations with Nicaragua and restrict financial resources for Nicaraguans.

The Quixote Center opposes this bill because of the additional suffering it will cause to people in a country that is already the second poorest in the western hemisphere.

Haiti

Reforestation

Gros-Morne is the epicenter of a national movement for reforestation. It is one of the few regions which boasts a mature indigenous forest and a sustained effort to bring trees to the center of Haitian life. In 2016, the technicians at the Jean Marie Vincent Formation Center continued their dedicated work.

This year, Haiti Reborn planted 100,000 trees in Gros-Morne and the surrounding countryside. These trees made their way from nurseries to the land in the hands of subsistence farmers seeking low-cost ways to improve their yields and preserve the land that they work.

The Peasant Movement of Gros-Morne continued to change the consciousness of the nation through outreach and training for its 10,000 members. Workshops included instruction on animal husbandry, organic planting methods, and ecosystem function and maintenance.

The Green School Network, boosted by their tree nursery at Gran Plenn, continued delivering young trees to students as a complement to classroom instruction. “To achieve the future we seek, we must train the next generation, not only to continue our work, but to improve on it. That is our mission,” said Audalbert Norvilus, lead organizer for the



Mango tree nursery / Photo by Cheryl Nichols

Hurricane Matthew

Once again, Haiti was the victim of a natural disaster in the form of the deadly Hurricane Matthew. Although our partners in Gros-Morne suffered minimal damage and no loss of life, the country's southern and far northwestern regions were hit hard. In vast swaths, the devastation was total.

The Quixote Center network responded instantly and with incredible generosity. In the wake of the storm, our director contacted our partners via phone and Skype to determine the most effective response. They identified an immediate need for a structure to store relief aid and an ongoing need for assistance to increase food production in affected areas. The Quixote Center has taken these actions to meet the needs identified by our Haitian partners:

Relief and recovery effort in Baraderes, Haiti.

This small town was almost completely destroyed, leaving children without a school building and relief organizations without a safe distribution point for aid. In October we sent over \$5,000 in aid to re-build the schoolhouse structure to bring students back to class and provide a secure location to store relief aid.

Internal Relief Aid through our partners at Gros-Morne. Our partners escaped the storm relatively unscathed, and they were eager to contribute to the relief and recovery effort of the south and northwest.

Together, we developed a holistic approach to disaster relief. Rather than shipping supplies from another country to Haiti (and displacing local producers in the process), our funds are bolstering local production of beans and rice. The excess seeds will go to the affected areas.

This new project began two weeks after the storm with the first of several *Seed Buys*. Farmers throughout the region brought their excess bean harvest to town where it was purchased for a fair price and shipped to the disaster zones. These beans will serve as seed for a flash crop, providing nutrition during the lean months to come — when international agencies will have turned their attention elsewhere.

“Director’s Chair: Quixote in Standing Rock”

Since April, a remote location on federal land in North Dakota has been the site of an historic effort to protect native lands and natural resources. The Standing Rock Sioux Nation began this protest of peace and prayer with the goal of halting the Dakota Access Pipeline, a \$3.5 billion project with the backing of the business class, state and local governments, and the President Elect, from passing through Lake Oahe, a sacred burial site and also the source of the community’s drinking water. Quixotic indeed! By autumn, some 300 tribal nations had joined the chorus of resistance.

In October the organizers asked allies to stand with them. Quixote Center donors generously answered our call for funding, allowing us to join the resistance. The Center was able to sponsor a partner trip to Standing Rock and sent our Executive Director Andrew Hochhalter and Abby Holtzman, a journalist from Interfaith Voices (a radio program dedicated to inter-religious dialogue).

They found a vigorous movement in Standing Rock. An estimated 2,000 people were encamped and protesting. The spirit was one of hope in resistance, and the camp was filled with the sounds of prayer, drum circles, and the invocation of the sacred.

The governor of North Dakota requested additional police forces to quell the peaceful protest. Four states

responded, swelling the ranks of public and private security forces near the Standing Rock Reservation. The authorities have adopted harsh measures to end the protest. Arrests are common, as are roughneck tactics on the part of the police.

But the resistance has been emboldened. In the middle of November, the Army Corps of Engineers stated that construction of the pipeline would pause while discussions continued. In early December, the Army Corps of Engineers finally decided that it will not grant permits for the pipeline to be built underneath Lake Oahe. Construction of the pipeline is now halted until an environmental impact statement is prepared and alternate routes are considered.

Lesson re-learned: Never cede ground when the cause is just.



Catholics Speak Out

CSO is a bright star in the galaxy of Catholic Organizations for Renewal through its advocacy of inclusive language and publications to promote it. The Inclusive Lectionary series received a major upgrade this fall and is now available for the liturgical year which just began.

The recent U.S. presidential election is living proof of the profound impact words have on our hearts and minds. Through “Bibles to Bishops” we are shipping the *Inclusive Bible* to each active bishop in the United States. We hope to demonstrate to them the impact of language in regard to gender, race, class and sexual preference. This is an on-going project, which will grow as funds become available.

CSO also:

- Joined the Global Network of Rainbow coalition in the wake of the Orlando shootings in support of our LGBTQ family.
- Supported the religious communities that were summoned to Rome to clarify their constitutions and some of their practices.
- Participated in a “Church for Our Daughters,” calling on church leaders to work with us to build a church of full equality.
- Co-sponsored New Ways Ministry’s “Bridge Building Award Ceremony” conferred on James Martin, SJ for his efforts on behalf of the LGBTQ community.

At the Center: What's Next

We dread what policies may emerge from Pennsylvania Avenue. All indications point to a period of relative chaos. We must dedicate ourselves to resisting any rolling back of civil and human rights, any racist or misogynist policies, and any attempt to divide us up along racial or ethnic or religious lines. At the same time, we must re-dedicate ourselves to proactive work for peace and justice and for relieving the poverty and suffering of our neighbors.

As such, we plan to be in the streets and in Congress next year, demonstrating for those values we cherish. We hope that you will commit to joining us by participating in local actions and doing the difficult work of community organizing as the need arises.

We are resolved to continue and expand our existing program work:

- The Quest for Peace will be dedicated to the issues of violence and unrest driving the mass migration from Central America to the United States. In Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, families face a wrenching choice: stay in their homes and become pawns of street gangs and drug smugglers, or make the arduous and dangerous trip north to an increasingly unwelcoming United States.
- The Center, in partnership with the organized poor, will continue to build pockets of resilience with smallholder farmers in Haiti, Nicaragua, and Honduras by expanding our Oasis Project that works to protect and improve the environment as we move more deeply into the era of climate change.
- We will continue our work of social enterprise through the Homes of Hope program. Already 60 houses have been built. As our funding swells, we are looking to the future by partnering with grassroots groups throughout Nicaragua to build more houses for people with fewer means. In 2017, we will expand home-building capacity and spread the message that if it can be done in Nicaragua, it can be done in other countries suffering severe housing shortages, such as Haiti.

- The Center will once again participate in FEDICAMP's work of bridge-building and farmer training. We have begun outreach to similar groups in Central America in the hopes of stitching together a locally-led movement for deep sustainability and food sovereignty. We will also bring the message to the United States through workshops and cultural exchanges. If your church or community group would like to get involved, please get in touch.
- We will monitor our own government and organize to oppose legislation or decrees that deny human, political, and religious rights. We promise to keep you informed, and we hope that you will commit to joining us by participating in local actions.
- The bitter U.S. election process has deepened our conviction that language does, indeed, matter. We are committed to the promotion of inclusive language in political and religious contexts.



Does a particular program speak to your heart? If so, please visit our website to make a donation online. If you would prefer to make a donation over the phone and chat with a staff member, please feel free to call our office to give a gift. We welcome your feedback. We delight in hearing from you and having you in our Quixote community.

Quixote Center Financial Report FY 2016* (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

Revenue

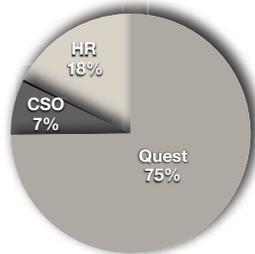
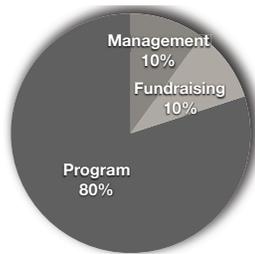
Donations / Grants	\$506,110
Publication / Product Sales	6,398
Other Revenue	27,052
Total Revenue	\$539,560

EXPENSES

Program	349,774
Management	41,518
Fundraising	45,502
Total Expenses	\$436,794
Income / Expenses*	102,764

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Quest for Peace	261,699
Catholics Speak Out	25,427
Haiti Reborn	61,493
Bill Callahan Memorial Fund	1,157
Total Program Expenses	\$349,776



BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash / Equivalents	\$304,548
Receivables	12,000
Other Current Assets	21,906
Equipment	0
Total Assets	\$337,954

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	10,386
Other Current Liabilities	27,003
Restricted Funds	277,390
Unrestricted Funds	23,175
Net Income	\$102,765

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$337,954**

*Our audited report and IRS Form 990 will be posted on our website: quixote.org. The 990 will also be available at: guidestar.org.

Other ways to make a financial impact:

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

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