

CASA MARIANELLA POSADA ESPERANZA

The background of the poster is a vibrant, abstract collage of colors including purple, blue, green, yellow, and red. A large, semi-transparent white silhouette of a house with a gabled roof is centered in the upper half. Below the house, a crowd of diverse people is depicted in a similar abstract, high-contrast style, appearing to walk towards the viewer. The overall effect is one of energy and community.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

2022

SHELTER AND SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANTS SINCE 1986

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Mission Statement

Casa Marianella welcomes displaced immigrants and promotes self-sufficiency by providing shelter and support services.

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Introduction



Casa Marianella

Jennifer Long

2021 has been a good year for Casa Marianella. Despite the pandemic, we have resettled more than 400 people from around the world. Casa's dedicated staff has managed the necessary precautions and gotten everyone vaccinated so that we can operate safely. The City of Austin has been a tremendous support during this time. We are particularly grateful to the foundations who made grants that enabled us to provide rent assistance to our former residents who lost their jobs due to COVID. Now, everyone is working again and our shelters are full. Thank you all for your support. We continue to hope that our government will provide a better safety net for asylum seekers. We also need more partners around the country to back us up. Still, we're really grateful to be able to do this work and we're incredibly proud of our residents who amaze us every day with their resilience and courage. It's an honor to be a part of this community.





Posada Esperanza

Patti McCabe

We continue to be impressed and humbled as we witness our Posada Esperanza clients find ways to thrive despite so many challenges, including the “Long COVID” world facing us all. We have always strived to provide services not only to those at our facilities today, but also to the hundreds of “Posada alumni” who have stayed with us over the years. The massive impact of COVID-19 in 2020 caused job loss, housing threats, and other hardships to many of our alumni, and we felt moved to provide help. Meanwhile, the pandemic reduced demand in our shelters, as inbound refugees and immigrants were prevented from entering the US. As a result of lower count of residents in shelter, and thanks to the community’s generosity, Posada was able to spend more of our time and resources assisting alumni in avoiding a return to homelessness.

In 2021 as the pandemic has shifted its impact on society (more accessible vaccines, higher vaccination rates, and a booming economy) the number of people in need of shelter and support has continued to increase. Families are arriving on our doorstep with nowhere to go. Others call with stories of being kicked out of abusive situations and spending their last dollar on a hotel night. For most of this year our houses have been filled to (and often beyond!) capacity.

Now all of the residents are working and spirits are high. As families gain income and get connected with healthcare and community resources, they are ready to move out of shelter into independence. However, the tight housing market in Austin has made it challenging for families to find available apartments to rent. Meanwhile, we continue to see high demand for our services from our alumni. Like all challenges, we work together and get creative and keep looking for solutions to getting people housed. Thank you for staying with us as the challenges and successes shift and change.





Candlelight Ranch

Monica Unzueta

Last June, we had the opportunity to invite twenty-nine Posada Esperanza community members to Candlelight Ranch in hill country. Families stayed overnight in tents under the stars and filled their days with laughter and outdoor activities.

At Candlelight Ranch, parents and children alike had an opportunity to develop or heal a relationship with camping and the outdoors. For kids, having early positive experiences in the outdoors is such an important part of growing up to be someone who will appreciate nature, the world around them, and all the greenspaces that Austin has to offer.

Because we were able to invite former and current Posada residents, this trip also served as a reunion for some of our families who shared space and community during their time at Posada. When we met on our cul-de-sac, kids who had lived at Posada years ago walked around the houses commenting on all that had changed and exchanging memories of their time living in shelter. Teenagers now, many of them look back at their time at Posada nostalgically, happy to be reunited with old friends and to have new connections with current residents.

Some highlights of the trip were kayaking, archery, and zip-lining. Younger children were able to enjoy craft time while their older siblings went fishing or learned to identify native Texas wildlife.

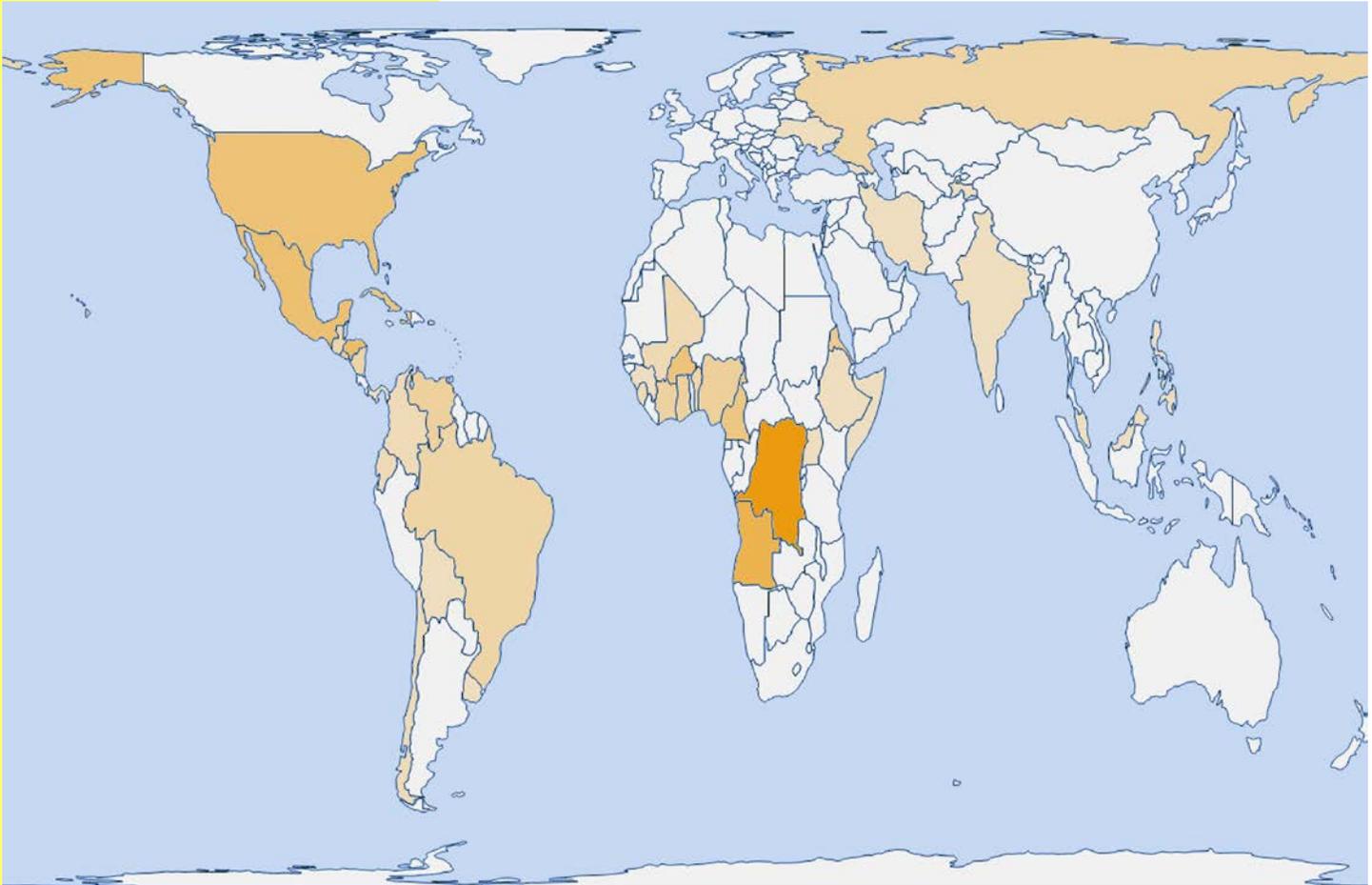
These enrichment activities align with Posada Esperanza's goals of going beyond providing a safe shelter space for families. We seek to create opportunities for mothers and their children to build authentic and positive relationships with their new surroundings, opening doors for youth to flourish.

"Kids Matter" Shopping Trip

Monica Unzueta

Kids Matter International is a Texas-based nonprofit with a focus on children's enrichment programming. This year, they invited us to an event at a local department store where moms were able to shop for free for their children. Our limited storage space makes it difficult to store enough clothes to give everyone exactly what they want or need, so this was an amazing opportunity for many of our families. Twenty-six Posada children received brand new clothes, shoes, and books that moms got to pick out themselves. Whenever possible, the dignity of being able to pick out clothes rather than relying solely on donations or even second-hand stores is something that we are so pleased to offer our residents and community members.

Year in Numbers



From 01.01.2021 - 12.31.2021 we served:

Total Residents served agency-wide: 351

Breakdown of residents served by shelter:

Casa: 204

Posada: 147

Agency-wide we served residents from 41 distinct countries.

Countries with highest representation:

Democratic Republic of Congo: 77

Angola: 39

Honduras: 23

Mexico: 21

Cuba: 19

Eritrea: 19

Exits:

Agency-wide Exits: 214 Successful/ 257 Total (83%)

Casa Exits: 134 Successful/158 Total (85%)

Posada Exits: 80 Successful/99 Total (87%)



Resident Spotlight



Daniela's Story

Daniela Santos

My name is Daniela Santos and I am a single mother to my 14 year old son, Cauaunde. We are from Salvador Bahia Brazil. We experienced grave violence and suffering in our home country.

On December 10, 2018 we left Brazil to travel through 9 countries to get to the United States. Over 3 months, we crossed through Paraguay, Colombia, Panamá, Costa Rica Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. We hitchhiked, slept in bus terminals, walked through forests, and traveled by bus and boat by the mercy of God.

The moment we turned ourselves in to US immigration on March 21, 2019, we cried of joy because we were saved. We also knew we were starting a new fight to survive in this new country without any friends, family, money, or home. We were carrying trauma, loneliness, and fear. We looked like free birds that didn't know how to fly. It was a gift from God that we got to Posada Esperanza which welcomed us with love, compassion, and solidarity. We are forever grateful to everyone who works at Posada.

Each person who contributes time to the shelter, in big and small ways, cannot possibly imagine how important they are and how much they help. Posada gave us the right to dream, to hope, and make us believe in love. It saved my and my son's lives. We are one of the many families who have overcome and been victorious with the help of Posada. I now have my own two bedroom apartment, have a full-time job, identification documents, and my son is happy and safe in his school. We know we have a long way to go, but are sure we are not alone. We trust in a better future and we owe it to the help of the Casa Marianella family.

Alta's Story

Jennifer Long

Alta Gracia was at Casa with her daughters Leti, Ashley, and Annette in 1998. Alta Gracia impressed me at the time with her calm and competent demeanor. She was squeezed into the women's room with her two young children and a newborn. Alta Gracia started her own business just 2 years later in 2000. She bought her first house in 2007. I ran into Alta Gracia some years later when her daughters were going to the same school as my son. She was very active in the parents' committee and cooked for school functions. Currently, Alta Gracia is a citizen of the US. Her children have all prospered. At 28, Leti works for CPL Labs in the accounting department. Ashley works for a radiology company. Annette works for a Bingo company. The youngest, Denny, attends Westwood High School and plays football. I was delighted to spend some time with this family as they re-lived their start at Casa Marianella. Look how far they have come!



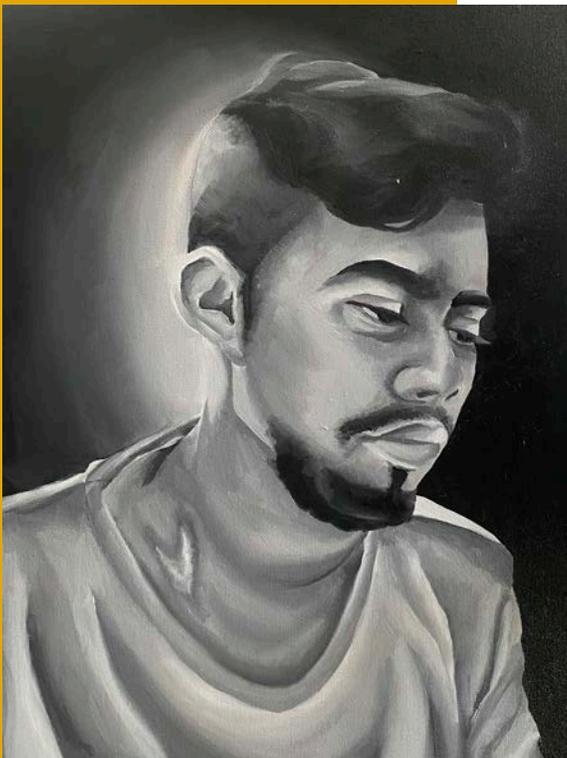


Democratic Republic of Congo

“Our journey to America took a year. My husband, son and I traveled through many countries, mostly on foot. We witnessed a lot of suffering along the way. The worst stretch was the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama. We walked for nine days with little food and water. It was not easy.

When we arrived at the border, we spent the night in detention. I remember my blood pressure being so high because I was so worried for our future.

Things have been good in America so far, but the language barrier is difficult. I work as a machine operator in a factory now, and I am not used to working for another person. I hope to one day start a business like Casa Marianella, to help people from my home country come to America.”



Nicaragua

“There are no gangs in Nicaragua, but the government is a gang. We thought we could get rid of the government if we protested. I attended a political protest and was badly beaten by police officers. I still can’t use my arm - they tore my nerves when beating me. They threatened to kill me, so I had to leave.

On the journey here, I paid someone to bring me here but was abandoned along the way. I was kidnapped by cartel members and they held me for ransom for 3 days. My family had to pay them for me to be released.

I turned myself in at the border. They put me in a terrible place. I couldn’t eat the food at first, but I got used to it. It was so cold, and there were so many people with not enough place to sleep.

I heard about Casa Marianella through other people in detention and am grateful to be safe here. The greatest luck is feeling safe. It is hard to find work without being able to use my arm, but I have faith in God I will recover.”

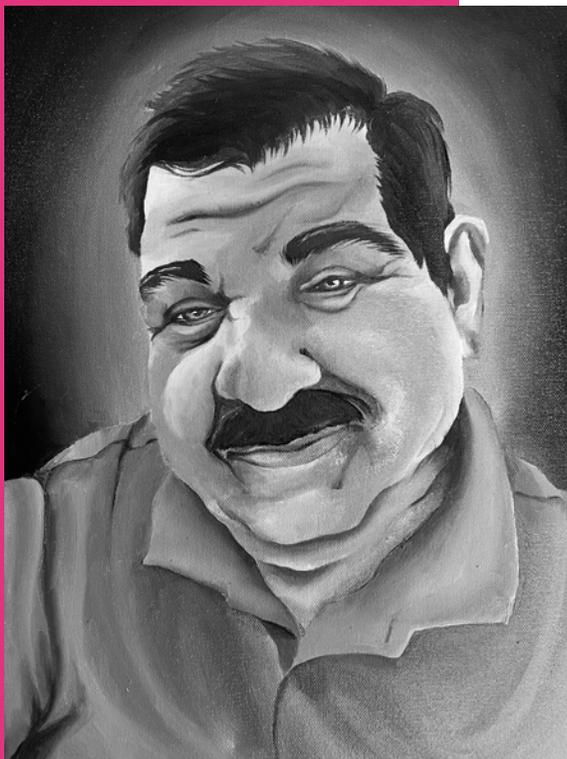


Honduras

“I left Honduras in 2018. The journey through Mexico was dangerous. I spent much of my journey on top of La Bestia, [the freight train running through Mexico.] We would often have to jump off and run for miles, because it was a frequent target of gang violence. Once I was captured and robbed of all of my money.

After arriving in America, I spent three years in detention centers. The worst one was the Etowah County Center in Alabama. I will never, ever go back to Alabama. The food was worse than dog food, and often there wasn't enough. There was one microwave and one TV for 140 people. It was a prison. They don't care if you live or die. My friend had COVID and wasn't treated for days. At that point I wanted him to cough on me and give me COVID because it was too hard to fight to live. We weren't even asking for freedom, we just wanted a better prison. My beard turned white. I'm 31 years old, my beard is not supposed to be white yet.

I am so happy to finally be free. I remember eating my first banana in three years - it was so sweet, so fresh. I want people to know most of us immigrants are good people.”



Iraq

“I lived at Casa Marianella five years ago. I came from Baghdad, Iraq. I had a good life there. I was an actor; I spent 25 years in television and loved it. I had to leave my country because of the wars.

I was able to get a visa because my daughter lives here, but it is still an ongoing process. I took English classes at ACC, but there is still a language barrier at work. I work as a security guard. I am so grateful for the company I work for because they gave me a trailer to sleep in.

I enjoy Austin and would like to stay here. My wife is still back home, and I would like her to one day join me here. I would have liked to return to Iraq before the war, but I do not think I can anymore. I believe it is God's plan that I am here.

I am happy to be here, Austin is my home.”

Helen Hulsey is a senior advertising major at the University of Texas at Austin exploring the intersection of art and humanity. She has done graphic design work for various nonprofits including Austin Music Foundation and One Good Turn, an organization that provides culturally sensitive education and medical care to underserved communities worldwide. Upon graduation she will be entering the advertising industry as an art director and plans to incorporate a socially conscious perspective in her work. To view more of her work, visit helenhulsey.com.

Program Reports

Support Letters

Makenna Brandt and Olivia Petipas

Our year began with the Winter Storm that brought Texas to a halt, yet Casa Marianella served during this time—as it always does—as a place of community and unrelenting optimism.

The Casa community quickly mobilized to support current and ex-residents in the Austin area in the aftermath of the storm. Yet with the double crises of the storm in February and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we were unfortunately forced to limit the amount of letters sent to people in detention. These events worsened the housing crisis in Austin that is yet to be resolved. We were struck with the harrowing reminder that release from detention is contingent upon having advocates on the outside as well as maintaining access to critical resources such as shelter, employment, and subsistence upon release. Our advocacy for detained immigrants was strained because we knew we could not promise to meet their basic needs upon their release.

However, in the last year we still managed to send over 300 letters to detention centers across the country. Even with the lingering effects of limited access to housing in the face of rapid gentrification, Casa has been able to resume detention support and advocacy. The demand for our services is at the highest it has been since the start of the

Casa Marianella & The Texas Winter Storm

Hannah Welsh

Imagine, you are a recently arrived immigrant who lived at Casa Marianella for a short three months while becoming accustomed to a moderate winter in Austin, Texas. You just recently moved into a new apartment where you don't know your neighbors or the staff. They gave you a maintenance phone number but nobody answers it, and the power has just gone out. What do you do?

Many of us remember the dark days of this year's winter storm as a fearful time when millions lost power, water, and even their homes. By a stroke of luck, Casa Marianella's main shelter maintained power, but many staff and hundreds of our former residents who live in low-income apartments lost power and water throughout the storm. In many cases pipes froze and burst, flooding apartments and displacing our people.

When this happened, the Casa Community sprung into action. Former residents with no place to go utilized our community room as temporary lodging, and when our space filled up we redirected many others to the Palmer Events Center. Donors began dropping off an abundance of food and everything from bottles to barrels of water, which we then distributed directly to those former residents in need. People expressed extreme gratitude when I delivered food and water to their doors, and it

pandemic. We are currently receiving nearly 200 calls daily, mainly from immigrants detained in Louisiana and California.

While we are addressing increased demand for support letters, we would like to acknowledge that Title 42, enacted by former President Donald Trump and continued by current President Joseph Biden, has expelled over 1 million asylum seekers. Simultaneously, President Biden has detained more asylum seekers than former Presidents Obama and Trump. The need for support and advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers is higher than ever.

Our priority is to accompany our clients and hopefully assist in their release from detention. We recognize that our role is small, yet we are grateful to often be the first step in welcoming people to Casa Marianella.



really impacted me to find out just how many former Posada Esperanza residents were living at apartments near my home on North Springdale Road.

Some of Casa's former residents and community members are still dealing with the aftermath of the storm. Rent prices in Austin are constantly increasing and apartment options have been limited due to these buildings' long-term repairs. In the Casa Marianella Benefits Clinic we help Austin community members with many tasks including connecting them with financial assistance programs like the Austin's Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) Program and Austin Plus 1. We also assist with applications for the Medical Access Program, Project Access, Texas State Benefits, and more. If you know someone who can benefit from our support, please refer them to the Casa Marianella Benefits Clinic at the following contact information:

Tel: 512-385-5575

Email: benefits@casamarianella.org

Walk-In Hours:

Mon-Thurs 12 PM-6 PM Fri 10 AM-4 PM





Housing After Shelter

Laura Smith

Casa residents are technically classified as homeless, but for the most part, they finally feel like they are at home. They quickly go from feeling tentative and in transition to feeling much more safe and settled.

But their journey of becoming “housed” is just beginning. Casa is a place to land and regroup, yet the turnaround to living independently and self-sufficiently begins for most almost as soon as they arrive here.

Housing in Austin continues to present challenges. The city is growing fast, with a population increase of over 21% in the past decade. By way of example, the monthly fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Austin area has increased by nearly 25% since 2017.

Finding suitable housing is a multifarious process. It involves meeting people where they are, with their skill-set, previous work history, linguistic abilities or barriers, and sometimes overblown preconceived notions about what life in the US would be like.

We have to manage expectations. We hear what people’s fears, needs and big dreams are, and help them create a plan to take what is usually just the first step in a longer journey. Casa’s residents are excellent self-advocates.

Besides the difficulty to find a safe place to live that they can pay for, qualifying for rentals by providing requisite documentation like US-issued identification and proof of income can be tricky.

A result of all of this is that much of the housing that new immigrants are able to obtain is often under-maintained and crowded, with unpredictable management.

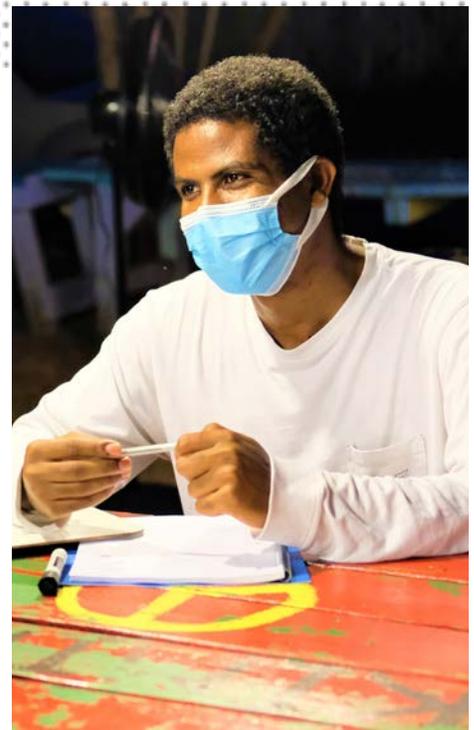
In recent years, Casa Marianella became one of the recipients of the City of Austin’s Rapid Rehousing rental assistance program.

The Rapid Rehousing grant helps people experiencing homelessness get into safe and sustainable housing, by covering the upfront costs of moving as well as occasionally paying rents during the vagaries of employment or emergencies in their first year of being housed.

Casa Marianella has a stellar record of 80% or more of our Rapid Rehousing recipients being consistently in stable housing for their first vulnerable year of transitioning out of Casa shelter.

Our informal support from donors, as always, helped us to provide quality furniture and home goods, food, and rental support as well.

We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of the crucial and tender step in people’s lives of getting and staying housed in Austin.



ESL Update

Kathleen P

In a crazy pandemic year, our beloved English as a Second Language teachers have been offering virtual classes via Zoom and WhatsApp, teaching in-person classes outdoors and indoors, and providing tutoring to former residents off-site. Our creative teachers meet the challenges of high student turnover and multilevel classes by creating engaging, practical, hands-on lessons. We love our students and teachers and are delighted that so many former residents return for classes!



Thanksgiving Day: A Resident's Perspective

Kalki Martinez

The sharp, hesitant voice from one of the bedrooms asked, “what was Thanksgiving Day?” One replied that it was turkey day, and a few more claimed that it was a holiday, almost sacred. Someone suggested that they should ask Google, and that was how the small group of men simply pieced together the information. The translation means “Day of gratitude or giving thanks” said the one who understood English the most, another voice interrupted him this time to read what the search had yielded: The ethnic groups that inhabited this land now called the United States, in the region now known as Massachusetts, and who had waged small confrontations against their invaders, the English settlers, for a long time, this time would be facing a common and more lethal enemy. It was 1621 and an inclement winter had turned the land of the English crops into dry land, their harvests had not been generous like other times or as they remembered them there in their lands on the other side of the Atlantic, the only thing they had to eat was the icy winds, and every soul and heart could not be comforted nor their stomachs filled with words and hugs; they shivered to the bone. On the other hand, the Wamponoag, who knew that their gods gave them those lashes from time to time, were prepared for those turns of fate. Taking pity on their equals, they decided during that winter and on this date, November 25, to leave behind any anger and hatred and join forces to share their crops and animals and survive together.

At the end of the reading the voices remained silent for a brief moment, then like rivers of words they shared the stories of their journeys to reach the USA in search of their dreams; all the stories were nightmares.

No life nor hunger—which kills many in different parts of the world—should be a problem, but those of us who have come to Casa Marianella carry in our memory and on our bodies painful memories

of each of our homes, of which being there we forget about death and hunger. All the stories border on fear and death, which are the same thing, because one can die slowly with that cancer of fear or die of oneself before the cruelty of the systems of some countries where we come from.

One walks the grounds of Casa Marianella, which is our home for a short time, and finds laughter and ephemeral happiness. Uncertainty engulfs; one wonders if they will return to the hell from which they escaped, or if a kind decision will be made by those directing migration laws. Despite that narrated pain and the torturous imagination of our future, we return to those moments of happiness and with a full belly (because here, we always have food) and thus we spend the days of our stay remembering how our trip was and what will become of us.

Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba—here neither the lines on the map traveled nor how matters, and although the distance in kilometers can be abysmal, the common denominator of most of us is reduced to this broad question: Who really wants to leave his home, his family, his country? The homelands that we have left behind, and where we all painfully confess to having always felt like foreigners, lands where we were denied security, peace, places where corruption, violence and dissent earned us a forced exile.

There are some of our fellow immigrants who came following in the footsteps of friends and relatives who are already here and are happy within the dignity with which any human being on earth deserves to live, and surely the nightmares suffered during the journey will germinate in dreams. Others come only with a handful of ideas, without any money in their pockets, they do not know the mother tongue of their new homeland, a homeland where now we are also foreigners, almost ghosts, but we also dream with open eyes of finding the key that leads to happiness.

November 25 is Thanksgiving Day for the multicultural American people, but since our arrival at Casa Marianella every day has been a day of thanks for us. We are wounded birds, we are passing through, and here we heal by the staff of Casa Marianella: A diverse group of men and women whose names we often confuse and perhaps only memorize the expressions of their blue, brown, or green eyes that play the role of those mouths hidden behind the mask when they smile at us, making us feel human again.

Here faith is returned to our hearts, and they make us believe that the world can be another.

Nothing is perfect, it is true, and sometimes, despite our different languages and cultures, we will not agree with our peers with whom we share the facilities, but here we go together, we are no longer wondering if we are the ethnic groups or the English settlers of the history of thanksgiving, because when we arrived here, also facing winter, a warm bed was already waiting for us, and a family provided everything that we needed when we arrived, our first homeland in the United States was not a prison or detention, it was Casa Marianella.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!





El Día de Acción de Gracias: una Perspectiva de Residente

Kalki Martinez

La voz aguda y dubitativa desde uno de los dormitorios preguntó ¿Qué era el Thanksgiving day? Uno contestó que era el día del pavo, y unos cuantos más afirmaron que era un día feriado, casi sagrado. Alguien sugirió que era mejor preguntar a Google, y así fue como aquel pequeño grupo de hombres corroboraron por partes y de manera sencilla la información. La traducción significa “Día de agradecimiento o de dar gracias” dijo el que más entendía inglés, otra voz lo interrumpió esta vez para dar lectura a lo que la búsqueda había arrojado: Los etnias que habitaban desde antes este terruño ahora llamado Estados Unidos, en la región ahora conocida como Massachussets, y quienes habían librado por un buen tiempo pequeñas enfrentamientos contra sus invasores, los colonos ingleses, esta vez ambos estarían enfrentados a un enemigo en común y más letal. Era 1621 y un invierno inclemente habían convertido en yertas las tierra de las siembras de los ingleses, sus cosechas no habían sido generosas como otros veces o como las recordaban allá en sus terruños del otro lado del atlántico, lo único que había para comer era vientos gélidos, y cada alma y corazón de viejos, mujeres y niños no podían ser consolados ni llenados sus estómagos con palabras y abrazos, tiritaban hasta los huesos. En cambio los Wamponoag, quienes sabían que los hados y sus dioses les daban esos azotes de vez en cuando, estaba preparados para esos designios, así que compadeciéndose de sus iguales, y ante el agonizante cuadro de aquellas famélicas familias decidieron durante ese invierno y en esta fecha 25 de noviembre dejar atrás cualquier ira y odio y se hermanaron para compartir sus cosechas y animales y sobrevivirlo juntos.

Al final de la lectura las voces quedaron por un breve momento en silencio, después como ríos de palabras compartieron las historias de sus travesías para llegar a USA en busca de sus sueños, todos los relatos eran pesadillas.

Ninguna vida es menos, ni el hambre, que mata en muchos en distintos lados del mundo, debería ser

un problema, pero quienes hemos llegado a Casa Marianella traemos en la memoria y sobre el cuerpo, recuerdos dolorosos de cada uno de nuestros lares, de los cuales estando ahí nos olvidamos de la muerte y del hambre. Todas las historias lindan entre el miedo y la muerte, que son una misma cosa, porque uno se puede morir lentamente con ese cáncer del miedo o morir de un solo ante la crueldad de los sistemas de algunos países de donde nosotros provenimos.

Uno se pasea por los recintos de Casa Marianella, que es por una breve temporada nuestro hogar, y encuentra risas, felicidad efímera que la incertidumbre se engulle preguntándonos si uno volverá del infierno del que escapa, o si será benévola con nosotros la decisión que tomen quienes dirigen las leyes de migración, y pese a todo ese dolor narrado y la tortuosa imaginación de nuestro futuro volvemos a esos instantes también de felicidad y con la barriga llena (porque comida jamás nos hace falta) y así pasamos los días de nuestra estancia rememorando cómo fue nuestro viaje y qué sera de nosotros.

Burkina Faso, Nigeria, México, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, aquí ni importa el mapa trazado desde el periplo para haber llegado ni cómo, y aunque la distancia kilométrica puede ser abismal, el denominador común de la mayoría de nosotros se reduce a esta pregunta amplia: ¿Quién desea realmente dejar su hogar, su familia, su patria? Las patrias que hemos dejado atrás, y donde todos penosamente confesamos habernos sentido siempre como extranjeros, terruños donde nos negaron la seguridad, la paz, lugares donde la corrupción, la violencia y el disenso nos valieron un exilio forzado.

Hay algunos de nuestros compañeros inmigrantes que vinieron siguiendo el rastro de los pasos de amigos y familiares que ya están aquí y son felices dentro de la dignidad con la que merece vivir cualquier ser humano sobre la tierra, y seguramente las pesadillas sufridas la travesía germinará en

sueños. Otros, vienen sólo con un puñado de ideas, sin nada de dinero en sus bolsas, desconocen la lengua materna de esta su nueva patria, una patria donde ahora también somos extranjeros, casi fantasmas, pero también soñamos con los ojos abiertos dar con la llave que conduce a la felicidad.

El 25 de noviembre es el Thanksgiving Day para el pueblo americano conformado multiculturalmente, pero desde nuestra llegada a Casa Marianella todos los días lo han sido para nosotros. Somos aves heridas, vamos de paso, y aquí sanamos, nos sanan: Un variopinto grupo de hombres y mujeres y de quienes muchas veces confundimos sus nombres y quizá sólo memorizamos las expresiones de sus ojos azules, oscuros, verdes que hacen el papel de esas bocas escondidas tras la mascarilla cuando nos sonríen haciéndonos sentir nuevamente humanos.

Aquí se le devuelve la fe a nuestros corazones, y nos hacen creer que el mundo puede ser otro.

Nada es perfecto, es cierto, y a veces pese a nuestros distintos idiomas y cultura, no nos pondremos de acuerdo en todo con nuestros congéneres con quienes compartimos las instalaciones, pero ahí vamos juntitos, ya no nos estamos preguntado si somos los etnias o los colonos ingleses de la historia del día de accion de gracias, porque cuando llegamos aquí, también de cara al invierno, ya nos esperaba una cama cálida, y una familia presta a todo lo que a nuestra llegada necesitábamos, nuestra primera patria en Estados Unidos non fue una prisión o detención, fue Casa Marianella.

¡Feliz día de acción de gracias!

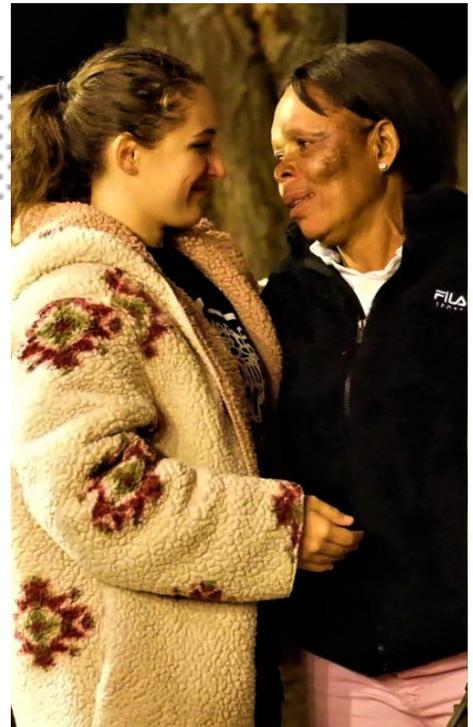


Bike Program

Julian Root

Thanks to the incredibly generous support of Austin's Yellow Bike Project, our bicycle program is running stronger than ever. In years past, we've loaned residents bicycles for the duration of their time at Casa. Sometimes, we'd help particularly bike-committed residents connect with free or discounted bikes they could keep once they'd moved out. In the past year, we've been able to get residents their own bikes while they are staying at Casa. Austin's Yellow Bike Project receives scores of donated bicycles every month, which they allow us to pick through, take back to Casa, and set up for our residents—all free of charge, in a magnificent synergy of local non-profit missions. Additionally, a recent financial contribution to the Casa Marianella bike program

has allowed us to purchase a large trailer to outfit as our new workshop. Thanks to these commitments, Casa Marianella and Austin's Yellow Bike Project have successfully connected over 100 current and former residents with their own bicycles. Learn more about AYBP at austinyellowbike.org!



Get Involved



Convivio

See you at Convivio! Every last Sunday, Casa-Marianella throws a party!

From 6-8PM, all are welcome to enjoy fantastic international cuisine, live music, and friendly conversation. It's a wonderful way to meet the many people who have helped make Casa what it is, in a unique setting. Bring your dancing shoes!

Volunteer

Volunteer with us!

Volunteers are essential to the survival of Casa. We have a lot of different opportunities for all interests. Although COVID-19 has eliminated most on-site volunteer opportunities, it has also created some new ones—particularly for drivers willing to shuttle food to off-site members of the Casa community!

Please contact our volunteer coordinator:
volunteer@casamarianella.org

Social Media

Follow us on social media!

We are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@CasaMarianella). We regularly post updates about what's going on, and how you can get involved. We also have a regularly updated blog, featuring writing about particular issues and events related to Casa. Give us a look!

www.casamarianella.org/blog-page





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