

Shepherds of the Meek Mission Annual Report 2014




Shepherds of the Meek Mission, Inc. 2014

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Dear Friends,

God is great! For over three years SotM has followed our mission statement helping young girls in Colombia who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. With the Holy Spirt guiding us SotM realized many accomplishments in 2014. Our year began with discussion, finalizing, and federally registering our logo as a service mark symbol  with the state of Georgia. The service mark depicts our mission with Christ at the center holding the hand of a precious girl leading her on her journey. We are very proud of this service mark because it clearly sends a message of our love for these girls and also our journey with them and Christ.

The pinnacle moment of the year was the approval of our 501(c)(3) tax status. The fruit of our labor of love was finally accomplished allowing for contributions to be tax deductible. Other numerous documents and filings were done with accuracy and speed in order to be transparent to our supporters and government agencies.

An outdoor pavilion is being constructed at the writing of this report for the 20 girls living in Cartago, Colombia. The girls lacked any secure outdoor recreational space but with the completion of this project the girls will have a beautiful area to enjoy sports and other activities. Pictures are available in this report. We are so grateful for our supporters to make this project a reality. Our project in Girardot, Colombia is complete. The chapel is completely refurbished and can be seen for miles thanks to the freshly painted steeple.

Among other things accomplished in 2014 were a new web site with a PayPal online donation button, successful first year audit of books, article published by Kedron Living magazine, and approval as a "guide star" charity. Guide Star provides information on legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, etc., on non-profits. With Guide Star's approval SotM can participate in fundraising programs such as Amazon Smile. If you shop on amazon.com please register on Amazon Smile and choose SotM as the charity you wish to support. SotM will receive a portion of your purchase as a donation!

Over 234 hours were spent by our members in General meetings and volunteers spent hundreds of hours planning and executing fundraising

activities. The Board of Directors meet quarterly and pilgrims make their annual visit to Colombia in October.

I invite you to read the following pages of this report to learn more about the SotM mission, the good works being done and the lives being touched by your support.

God Bless

Susan Ford
President

PILGRIMAGE TO COLOMBIA

In October, 2014, Fr. Dario Rico, founder of Shepherds of the Meek Mission, led a small group from Holy Trinity Catholic Church to Colombia, SA to visit the nuns of the Servants of Christ Priests. Our visit started at the Mother House Convent and Orphanage in Bogota where we visited the Mother Superior, the financial director and several of the nuns that work at the orphanage. The next morning we traveled to LeCoya to visit the elderly, retired and infirmed nuns. One of the elderly nuns, a former Mother Superior of the Order, explained how the retirement home came into existence. While serving as Mother Superior she visited the Bishop (who was also her brother) and expressed concern that her order didn't have a facility to care for the elderly nuns. The Bishop told her to build a facility. When she explained the Order didn't have the money, "the Bishop became very stern and asked if I didn't believe in the Providence of God?" She said she built the facility without financial support from the Bishop, but from other benefactors who generously paid for construction. This is a beautiful home with a huge garden where they grow several types of fruits and vegetables.

Next, we traveled to Medellin, Fr. Rico's hometown, and stayed at the orphanage, located in the heart of downtown, with unbelievable traffic noise, the worst beds, and the coldest showers you ever wanted to experience. That night we visited with several girls we met in 2013 when they visited Bogota while we were there. Three of the girls are going to college next year but will continue to live at the orphanage at night. These girls have lived with the nuns for a minimum of six years. The next day we visited a home for young girls that are pregnant or have recently given birth. Some of these young Mothers were as young as 14. One Nun described it as children having children. A total of 40 Mothers and 42 babies (two sets of twins), infants to four year olds, live in two big dormitory rooms in the house. The expectant Mothers live in another room. The new Mothers can stay for several years while they take turns watching each other children and attending school. WOW! The patience and love of the Nuns for these children is clearly evident. After a wild, noisy visit we were happy to return to our rooms with just traffic noise and uncomfortable beds.

Next we visited Cartago, where 20 girls, aged 8 to 18 live in the newest house, opened by the Nuns last year. This is very nice home, but it is in the heart of the busy city and doesn't have a covered play area within their compound for the girls to be able to enjoy the outdoors.

On our way back to Bogota, we stopped in Girardot to see the newly refurbished Chapel at the orphanage. Last year the nuns used our financial support to renovate the Chapel, repair mold and mildew damage, complete stucco repairs, tile repair and replacement, and intricate statue and crucifix restoration and painting. The nuns said the dazzling white Chapel is the pride of the community.

The night before we left Bogota, Sister Rachel expressed her sincere appreciation for Fr. Rico and his "friends from Atlanta" that have provided financial assistance for their work with the young girls in Colombia.

SHEPHERDS OF THE MEEK MISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Calendar Year 2014

Cash Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 9,216
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>222</u> *
Cash Balance at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 9,438</u></u> *

Receipts:

Personal Contributions	\$ 12,006
Business/Corporate Contributions	
Fundraising Activities:	
Dinner Event	
Gross receipts	\$ 40,729
Expenses	<u>21,555</u>
Net receipts	19,173
Auction	
Gross receipts	
Expenses	<u> </u>
Net receipts	
Other	
Gross receipts	
Expenses	<u> </u>
Net receipts	
Total Revenue	<u><u>31,180</u></u>

Expenses:

Professional and Technical Fees	
Postage, Printing and Mailing	
Promotion and Publicity	
Office Supplies and Expenses	
All Other	<u> </u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>958</u></u>

Gross Surplus or (Deficit)	30,222
Direct Grants	<u>30,000</u> *
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ 222</u></u>

Grants as Percent of Revenue	<u>96%</u> %
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* Note: The 2014 Grant to Siervas de Cristo Sacerdote was disbursed on January 27, 2015.