

SOUTH PASADENA-SAN MARINO ROTARY PROJECT

CORAZON HOUSE BUILD

APRIL 8, 2017

February 3, 2017

TO: Rotarians, Family Members, and Friends  
FROM: Dan Watson (South Pasadena) & Jean Pierre Mainguy (San Marino)  
SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE APRIL 8 PROJECT IN TECATE, MEXICO

Thank you for volunteering to participate in a life changing event scheduled for April 8, 2017. We will be traveling to Chula Vista (not El Cajon) on Friday, April 7. After spending the night, we'll meet at 6 am SHARP for a safety briefing from volunteers from Corazon, Inc, the group that will be supervising the project. After the briefing, we'll head for Tecate to meet the family that will receive the house that we are going to build. We'll finish construction in the afternoon and return to Chula Vista where I recommend you stay for the night.

The information contained in this memo has been provided before, but I will repeat the instructions and provide more. NOTE THAT THERE ARE CHANGES. PLEASE PRINT THIS OUT AND SAVE IT.

As of February 3, we have 41 people that have registered with Jean Pierre and me to participate. They include members from both clubs and their friends and families. We need a total of 30-50 volunteers. We will be working to fill the extra positions, but we do not need 50 people.

You are receiving this because you have expressed interest in attending. IF YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE, PLEASE LET JP OR ME KNOW. There are always a handful that back out and that's not a problem unless we don't know. We will be counting heads before leaving and if someone doesn't show up on Saturday morning, it creates a problem for everyone.

#### REGISTRATION WITH CORAZON

You must also register as a volunteer with Corazon before going. As of Feb 3, only 11 people have registered. The final page of this memo is a list of volunteers that have not yet registered with Corazon as of Feb 3. If your name is on the list, please do so soon.

Registering and volunteering is a two-part process. You must first register as a volunteer with them and once accepted, sign up for our project. If you have registered as a volunteer in the past, you don't need to do it again. Just sign up for our project.

Here is what you need to do to register and sign up.

To register with Corazon as a new volunteer, go to:

Corazon.org

Click on "Get Involved"

Click on "Volunteer"

Click on "Sign up for Construction Project:"

Click on "New Volunteer Profile" and answer the questions. Once approved you'll be notified. This usually only takes a day or two.

To sign up for our project, follow the above instructions, but click on "Volunteer Login"

Fill in the "Month-Year" boxes for April 2017 and click on "filter."

Note that there are several projects scheduled for that day. We are the "South Pasadena Rotary" sponsored project. Click on "sign up" and you're done!

Then, send JP or me an email that you have registered. We have access to the sign-up sheet and will confirm that you signed up for the correct project.

#### PASSPORT

Find your passport and make sure to bring it. Everyone age 16 and older is required to have a passport or passport ID card (only issued in the last few years) to return to the United States from Mexico. Global Entry and Sentri cards are also accepted. Every year at least one person forgets their passport. If that is you this time, you are not sentenced to spend the rest of your life in Mexico! When you get to the border coming home, humbly and apologetically let them know you don't have it and provide a driver's license. You may be delayed a bit, but you will be let in. But save yourself the trouble and embarrassment, and BRING YOUR PASSPORT.

Juveniles under the age of 16 may present a copy of their birth certificate, school ID, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

We strongly encourage you to travel to Chula Vista on Friday. We have reserved a block of thirty rooms at the La Quinta Inn in Chula Vista. We have them blocked out for us until March 17. After that they will be released to others. So make sure to make your reservation before then. We also strongly encourage you to stay Saturday night since you will be tired and it's a long drive home. We've been offered a discount rate of \$79 + 10% tax for a standard room with a king bed or \$89 + tax for a standard room with two beds.

To make a reservation, contact La Quinta Group Sales at (800) 642-4239, Option 1 and ask for the South Pasadena-San Marino Rotary group rate. Do not call the hotel directly.

The address of the hotel is:

150 Bonita Rd, Chula Vista.

#### MEETING LOCATION

We will be meeting at the Terra Nova Plaza Shopping Center at 6 am SHARP. There is plenty of parking if you will not be driving across the border. The hotel has agreed have breakfast available at 5:30 a.m. The drive to the meeting location is less than 5 minutes. The La Quinta Hotel is adjacent to the 805 Freeway on Bonita. The meeting location is literally one off-ramp south of our location on H St. Turn right as you exit the hotel and go south on the freeway. When you get off at H Street, turn right and cross under the freeway. The meeting location is on the right, just past the freeway. Directions to the meeting location will be provided that morning.

#### TRAVELING TO TECATE

We need volunteers to drive from the meeting location to the job site. It's about a 45-60 minute drive. So far there are two drivers with space for 8 people. WE NEED DRIVERS! The roads in Mexico are good and the cars will be safe when parked at the site. Please let Dan know at [danielbwatson@aol.com](mailto:danielbwatson@aol.com) if you are able to drive and how many total people will fit in your vehicle. Although not required, it is recommended you get one-day Mexican auto insurance. AAA can provide it for about \$35.

We won't be assigning vehicles. We are all mature enough to work it out on Saturday morning. Please feel free to make plans to ride with someone you know is driving. What's most important is that there are enough seats available, so please volunteer to drive!

Depending on where we cross the border, Tecate or Otay Mesa, there may be a \$8 toll to pay so make sure to bring cash.

#### THE PROJECT

We will arrive at the jobsite between 8 and 9 am. We will meet the family that will be receiving the fruits of our labor. We will likely have information about them beforehand. They will remain with us during the day and prepare lunch for us. When we arrive we will also find a 16 by 20 foot concrete slab and all the building materials stacked on top. We will receive another briefing from the Corazon Lead Builders and then go to work. The Lead Builder will direct the construction. If you are experienced and think there's a better way of doing things, keep it to yourself! They've led the construction on hundreds of homes and have their way of doing it.

It doesn't matter your skill level. There will no doubt be some semi-skilled workers among our group. If you don't qualify, there will be plenty of painting to do.

Work at a comfortable pace. There are more than enough volunteers. Take breaks. If needed, take a nap!

Dress appropriately. Plan on getting paint on your clothes, no matter what you work on. So wear old clothes, closed toed shoes. It's hard to predict the weather. It could be cool, or in the 90's. So bring layered clothes.

#### WHAT TO BRING

While lunch is provided by the family, it may not be to your liking. So bring snacks and plenty of water. If you bring fruit, leave it in Mexico. Dan knows from experience that you can't bring fruit back across the border! Bring sunscreen, a hat and work gloves. Bring a folding chair and if you have a pop-up canopy, it's nice to have a couple of those. Bring toilet paper, handy wipes, hand sanitizer and a trash bag. The bathroom conditions may be pretty basic.

If you're so inclined, bring a hammer, nail pouch, tape measure and gloves. Do not bring power tools. The only power tool used is a saw and it's provided by and operated by Corazon volunteers.

DO NOT give cash or any items to the family. Corazon believes in the philosophy of, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

#### A FEW WORDS ON SAFETY IN MEXICO

There has been understandable concern expressed in the past about the safety of traveling in Mexico. While Mexico has seen a lot of drug related violence, it is directed at the drug cartels and law enforcement. Corazon reports that no members of a volunteer organization, including Corazon, have been the victim of a crime while participating in a volunteer project. Reports of Americans being victims of crime have occurred when they've been in the wrong place at the wrong time. We travel as a group both directions. In the ten previous trips Dan has been involved with, no volunteer has reported feeling unsafe at any time while in Mexico. In fact, the only crime that occurred was in the hotel parking lot in El Cajon when volunteers left their personal items locked in their car. They returned from Mexico to find their car had been broken into and property taken!

You can find more information on security on the Corazon website. Go to the [Get Involved](#) link and then the "Prepare for your Trip" link and scroll down to the Security information.

#### ONE FINAL REMINDER

**BRING YOUR PASSPORT!! (Unless you're under 16)**

The following people have not registered with Corazon as of Feb 3. Please follow the instructions on Page two and let one of us know when you have done so.

Carrie Adrian

Maribel Arambala

John Blanton

Kathie Blanton

Mireya Chaffee

Ann Ettinger

Chris Ettinger

Georg Ettinger Jr.

Ashlyn Gambon

Aaron Gil

Doris Gueerrero

Isaac Hung

Joseph Hung

Myron Hung

John Incontro

Fishin' Rick Levy

Alexa Moe

Scott Moe

Teja Moe

David Morales

Gilda Mosher

Lilian Myers

Cali Selders

Kathy Selders

Graham Sellers

Patsy Simmons

Walt Simmons

Kasey Watson

Tom Watson