

SOUTH PASADENA-SAN MARINO ROTARY

CORAZON 2018

This report is prepared for members of the South Pasadena and San Marino Rotary Clubs, their friends and families, and others interested in changing the lives of a family in Tecate, MX. This will provide information on the joint international project that will take place on April 28, 2018. Working with Corazon, Inc, a non-profit organization in Santa Ana, we will be building a house in Tecate, MX in one day for a deserving family that has donated hundreds of hours to qualify for a new home.

For those that have participated in a Corazon project in past years, this will contain information you already know. It has information for everyone interested in going, veteran or new member of the team.

For the second consecutive year, the South Pasadena and San Marino Rotary Clubs have agreed to join forces. Each club is contributing half the \$7800 cost of the house and both clubs will be recruiting the 30 to 50 volunteers needed to complete the project. Dan Watson from South Pasadena is the team leader and Jean-Pierre Mainguy is the liaison with the San Marino club.

The project is on Saturday, April 28. We will travel to Chula Vista on Friday and check-in to a local, reasonably priced hotel to be identified later. While it's not mandatory to travel on Friday and stay at the same hotel, it's strongly encouraged.

On Saturday morning we will meet at 6 am sharp in a shopping center parking lot near the hotel. After a briefing from lead builders, who are long term Corazon leaders, we will caravan to the Tecate border crossing, cross into Mexico and drive about 15 miles south of the border to a village where we will be met by the family receiving the house. We will find a 16 by 20 foot concrete slab and all the materials to build a house. After another safety briefing from the lead builders, the work will begin.

Everyone works at their own skill level and own pace. We will have more than enough help and even if you have no experience, you can still help by picking up a paint roller and painting anything that doesn't move. The lead builders provide good supervision and direction, so you'll know what to do.

The family will provide lunch and the house will be finished by 5 pm. After a short ceremony where the keys to the house are turned over to the new owners, we will caravan as a group back to the hotel.

I strongly encourage everyone to stay Saturday night and return home on Sunday. One reason is you'll be tired and the other reason is you don't want to miss the fun fiesta at a local Mexican restaurant where we'll celebrate that we changed the lives of our new friends and no doubt a few of us will be changed as well.

The clubs are picking up the cost of the materials. The only cost to participants is 2 nights in a moderately priced hotel and transportation to and from Chula Vista.

You must have a passport or passport ID to travel to Mexico except those under age 16. Anyone under 16 who doesn't possess a passport may present a copy of their birth certificate, school ID, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, a Naturalization Certificate, or a Canadian Citizenship Card.

You must be at least 12 years old to go. There is no maximum age limit. We've had volunteers in their 80's participate! This is a great opportunity to introduce family and friends to Rotary, and it's especially valuable for teenage children, grandchildren, and students. We hope to include several Interact Club members this year.

If you are interested and think you might want to participate, here's what you need to do. At this point, you are not making a firm commitment, just that you think you will go. I understand that schedules change and every year some people have to back out. All I ask is that if that happens you let me know beforehand.

Email me at danielbwatson@aol.com. I need to know the following information:

Name of everyone in the family that will be participating

Email addresses for everyone

If you are willing to drive from Chula Vista to the build site and how many total passengers can go in our car. (The roads are in good condition. Once we get to the village the roads are dirt, but in good condition. It's recommended that you get 1-day Mexican insurance, about \$30.)

You will also need to register with Corazon. If this will be your first project, it's a two part process. First you have to register as a volunteer with Corazon. Once you are notified by email that you are approved, you then sign up for our project.

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 2018 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!

If this sounds complicated, all I can tell you is that it’s easier than it used to be!

YOU MUST REGISTER WITH BOTH ME AND CORAZON. Please do not register with Corazon without letting me know you are volunteering.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS ADDED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2018

ACCOMMODATIONS

We have reserved a block of rooms at the La Quinta Inn and Suites at 150 Bonita Road, Chula Vista. This is the same hotel we used last year and it’s one off-ramp away from where we will meet on Saturday morning. I have reserved a block of 25 rooms, 5 with king beds and 20 with two double beds. Unfortunately, there is a tournament of some type that weekend and the rates went up at all the local hotels. Room rates are \$99 plus tax.

I strongly encourage reserving a room for both Friday and Saturday night. To make a reservation, call the Group Desk at (866) 527-1498 and ask for the special rate for the South Pasadena-San Marino Rotary. Our group confirmation number is: 0647-759. The block of rooms will be held until April 6 so make your reservations before then. You will pay the hotel directly.

I will make arrangements for them to have breakfast ready at 5 am.

WHAT TO BRING

BRING YOUR PASSPORT OR PASSPORT ID CARD! If you forget to bring it, you will not be doomed to living in Mexico for the rest of your life, but you may be delayed crossing back into America. Trust me, I know!

Lunch will be provided by the family that will be receiving the house. But it’s a good idea to bring some snacks like fruit and granola bars. If you bring fruit, leave it in Mexico otherwise you will be on the ‘fruit fly watch list’ if you bring it across the border. Trust me, I know!

It’s a good idea to bring some bottled water and toilet paper. Toilet facilities may be pretty spartan. Sanitized hand wipes are also good to bring along.

Bring any old paint brushes, rollers or paint pans that you no longer need. Bring a hammer and nail pouch if you plan on pounding nails. Do not bring any power tools! We will be under the supervision of experienced lead builder volunteers from Corazon and they will arrange for the cutting.

Bring a folding chair and if you have a pop up, bring that. The weather could be anything from cool and cloudy to hot and sunny. There are plenty of volunteers, so there's no reason to push yourself. Take plenty of breaks.

Wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty and paint on them. You will experience paint regardless of what you do.

DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL OR FIREARMS. The alcohol won't get you in legal trouble, but alcohol is not allowed on build sites. Firearms will create a major legal problem for you.

Most of all, bring a positive attitude and be ready to have a fun filled and rewarding day.

There is a Mexican restaurant across the street from the hotel. I'll make reservations for dinner so that we can enjoy our own fiesta.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me either by email or by phone.

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