

## How Can You Help?

We welcome your **prayers** and **financial contributions**.

**Be a Prayer Partner:** opportunities are available for U.S. people or families to be matched with a Salvadoran prayer child, ages Kindergarten through University.

**Tell your friends:** do you know of a church that would like to add a global mission project to their ministry? We're always open to talking with congregations who want to join our mission.

**Join a delegation:** Are you ready to share the excitement, adventure and love experienced on our trips? Contact us for details on upcoming delegations.



*Joining a delegation  
to El Salvador is a  
life-changing  
experience!*

## Information

Fund-raising and informational events are scheduled throughout the year. For details, please check our web site:

**[www.santacruzalsalvador.org](http://www.santacruzalsalvador.org)**

**Email: [info@santacruzalsalvador.org](mailto:info@santacruzalsalvador.org)**

### 2012 Board of Directors

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*Craft Project*

*Santa Cruz al Salvador is registered as a non-profit  
501(c)(3) organization (EIN 52-2289975).*



*Building Relationships for  
Better Lives*



Santa Cruz al Salvador is a charitable non-profit California corporation formed in 2001 to connect Santa Cruz area churches with the communities of El Salvador. The bylaws state that "the primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be the solicitation, collection, and possession of charitable donations from Santa Cruz

County and any other location, for distribution in, or for the benefit of, the country of El Salvador, to those organizations and individuals needing charitable assistance." This has been simplified to the phrase "Building Relationships for Better Lives".

## A Brief History

This organization grew out of the sister community effort begun at Light of Life Lutheran Church in Scotts Valley, led by members Rev. Larry and Kathleen Morkert.

The Morkerts had traveled to El Salvador during the civil war, accompanying refugee groups. In November 1992, some 10 months after the Peace Accords were signed, Rev. Larry Morkert met with the Lutheran Bishop of El Salvador, Medardo Gomez. Bishop Gomez suggested that Guillermo Ungo, a newly settled community in the foothills of the Guazapa volcano, would make an excellent "sister



Rev. Morkert, Ruth and Friends



Guazapa Volcano

community". One November afternoon, Larry and his fellow travelers celebrated a lively outdoor Mass with the Bishop, beginning our journey with the people there. The first delegation from Light of Life visited Guillermo Ungo in 1994.

Santa Cruz al Salvador has continued to build and strengthen relationships with (1) Bishop Gomez and the Salvadoran Lutheran Church; (2) the Salvadoran Presbyterian mission network; and (3) the communities of the Ciudadela Dr. Guillermo Manuel Ungo. Ciudadela (roughly translated as fortress or citadel) refers to a group of 18 villages including Guillermo Ungo and nearby Sitio Nuevo, Monsignor Romero, Los Enriques, Montepeque, Alegria, Santa Anita and Huerta Enana. Recently our focus has been on scholarships for the school and support for the health clinic, both of which are located in Ungo but serve all communities.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Santa Cruz) joined the project in 1998, Lutheran

Church of the Good Shepherd (Salinas) started participating in delegations in 2002 and Trinity Presbyterian Church (Santa Cruz) joined in 2008. Advent Lutheran Church (Morgan Hill) joined in 2009. Lutheran Community Church (Watsonville) joined in 2011 and Christ Lutheran Church (Aptos) joined in 2013.

## Our Projects

**Scholarships and School Supplies:** for students in the Guillermo Ungo school (kindergarten through high school); awards are made



The Lapps & Prayer Child Carlos

by a local scholarship committee. We started with 30 scholarships, growing to the current 120.

**Health Care:** supplies to the health clinic as well as partial funding for personnel (health promoters and on-site doctor).

**University Scholarships:** funds for university and vocational school scholarships for community students.

**Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches in El Salvador:** support for the Pastors' Salary Endowment Fund managed by the ELCA Foundation, and Joining Hands Network, Presbyterian Church (USA).