



*"Dedicated to improving the lives of the rural poor in Latin America"*

*Mission Statement.* The Latin America Community Assistance (LACA) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity dedicated to improving the lives of the rural poor in Latin America.



E-mail us at: [Info@LACAFoundation.Org](mailto:Info@LACAFoundation.Org) • Visit us online at: [MyLACA.Org](http://MyLACA.Org)

## Remembering our Founder

By Jesse A. Canchola, President

Dear LACA Community,

October 16, 2024, marked a day of profound reflection and gratitude as we honored the birthday of our beloved founder, Lillian Trillo. Lillian's vision and tireless dedication laid the foundation for everything we continue to achieve through the LACA Foundation. Her commitment to serving the poorest of the poor in Latin America is a legacy that we are privileged to carry forward.



In her own words, Lillian's mission for LACA was clear: to provide hope and opportunity where it was most needed. Under her leadership, we brought clean water, housing, education, and medical aid to countless communities across seven countries, forever transforming lives. Her dream was for LACA to remain steadfast in our dedication to the most vulnerable, ensuring that our work continues to uplift and empower.

As we reflect on her legacy, let us rededicate ourselves to the mission she held so dear. Lillian's spirit continues to guide us, and we are proud to honor her by carrying forward the work she began with so much love and passion.

Let us keep her in our thoughts as we push forward to make an even greater impact for those in need.

**To continue growing the LACA community please share your email to [Info@LACAfoundation.org](mailto:Info@LACAfoundation.org) to keep in touch. □**



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### Newsletter Editors

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Assistant Editor: Dotty Gonsalves  
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The LACA newsletter is written and designed by Board members and LACA volunteers for FREE!

A special thanks to Jesse Canchola for contributing his newsletter and graphic design talents free of charge.

The LACA Foundation  
P.O. Box 21000  
Castro Valley, California 94546

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Our Founder: Lillian Trillo**

**Thank you to our Donors!** - Contributions received from 2020 through November 3, 2024

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<http://www.LACAFoundation.Org>

**0.5% Contribution through Amazon Giving (free):**  
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**Welcome to our newest Board Members Karleen Pendleton Jiménez and Rosalinda Tovar**



**Karleen Pendleton Jiménez** is a writer, filmmaker, and professor of education, gender and social justice at Trent University in Canada. She writes on Chicana/Latina experience, and her latest book is a children's novel called *The Street Belongs to Us*. She has been involved in the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies since 1992, having served on the executive board and as Chair. Raised in Los Angeles, California, she currently lives in Toronto with her partner and daughter. Karleen also happens to be our founder's niece.

**Rosalinda Tovar** is a successful businesswoman, with 3 restaurants, Rosalinda's Mexican Restaurant, in the Central Valley of California. She was also a nurse in the Bay Area for many years, which is where she met our founder, Lillian. They were both nurses at Hayward Health Center, Alameda Public Health, California, USA. Rosalinda was a dear friend of Lillian's for over 45 years and traveled to many countries with Lillian, including being part of some of the LACA's medical clinics in Central America. Rosalinda has been a volunteer and supporter of LACA for many years. She lives in Selma, California.



**Welcome back to our past board member and past president Elvia Villalobos**



**Elvia Villalobos** returns to the LACA Board after being gone for a minute. Elvia is a collaborative, innovative leader in Learning & Development (L&D), Talent Acquisition, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). She has led teams in technology, national non-profits, and academic environments and managed global L&D teams in highly matrixed organizations. Elvia has expertise in designing and managing enterprise onboarding & talent development programs. She is also an experienced recruiter with deep knowledge in executive talent acquisition, university relations, and building diverse talent pipelines. Welcome back, Elvia!



# Tarahumara Scholar Graduates! by Elvia Villalobos

**Sebastian Ramirez Rehogochi**, one of LACA's Scholarship recipients in the Sierra Tarahumara, Chihuahua, Mexico, completed his Master's Degree in ecology in October. LACA has been supporting his education for many years and he is a testament to the incredible difference LACA and its donors can make in the lives of the rural poor. Martha Duarte, a former LACA Board member, started supporting him when he was just in middle school; at that time, he only spoke his native Raramuri language and he didn't know Spanish, but he had dreams of being the first in his family to get an education. He applied for a LACA Scholarship and LACA sponsors supported him throughout his undergraduate and graduate education. After many years of hard work, fully learning Spanish and English, and even studying abroad, Sebastian is now an ecologist and will continue to make impactful contributions to his community in the Sierra Tarahumara. Congratulations to Sebastian and many thanks to all the LACA donors who have supported him! Our president, Jesse Canchola, was able to attend both his undergrad-

uate and graduate commencements. The dean of his school invited Sebastian to be a speaker at his graduate ceremony as he graduated magna cum laude.



## Scholarship News

LACA this year has sent \$21,700 to Sr. Deisy in Panama to administer tuition and housing scholarships for 17 students from rural areas. In addition, LACA has sent \$26,278 to Sr. Marlene for 15 high school and university scholarships in El Salvador. Sr. Deisy and Sr. Marlene send detailed spreadsheets to LACA of how they allocate the funds to the universities attended by the students as well as ensuring that students retain their eligibility with at least a "B" grade average and doing volunteer work in their communities. With these scholarships, students

are learning skills in medicine, teaching, canal and agricultural engineering, law, psychology, aviation, architecture, political science, and computer science. Education breaks the cycle of poverty in their families and enables these students to find good employment in their countries instead of emigrating.

## Niña Carolina Day Care Center Continues to Thrive

**San Salvador, El Salvador**  
by Dotty Gonsalves

Because of your generous donations, LACA continues to send a yearly donation of \$10,000 towards the loving care and education of preschool children in El Salvador. Without this care center, their mothers would have no other recourse than their children following them, as they make a living selling things on the street. These children are instead getting a good start in life. If you would like to donate to the Niña Carolina Center to support the sisters in providing a happy Christmas for these children with new clothes and a cherished toy, please mark your donation "Niña Carolina Christmas gifts." Thank you for your generosity!

**LACA does not sell or trade its mailing list.**

**The LACA Foundation**  
P.O. BOX 21000  
Castro Valley, CA 94546



**We welcome your comments!**

E-MAIL:  
[info@LACAFoundation.Org](mailto:info@LACAFoundation.Org)



**Niña Carolina  
Day Care Center**  
San Salvador  
El Salvador

**“Your gift may travel far, but its impact on a child’s life lasts forever.”**

Niña Carolina Day Care Center students eating a healthy meal, sitting with Sister participating in a learning activity, and having fun outside at recess. Thank YOU, our donors, for making this possible!

Alexandra de Leon, canal engineer student, tutoring students in math. “I went to the San Vicente boarding school, where I used to live, and tutored students that were having trouble with math.”



Elian Velasquez, a dentistry student, picking up plastic on the beach to be recycled. “Your help has been so crucial in overcoming the challenges I am currently facing. I cannot put into words how much it means to me. I hope to be able to reciprocate in the same way in the future.”



“Through each act of service, I am not just building my future—I’m uplifting my entire community.”

## Scholarship students in Latin America

“Scholarships empower students to realize their dreams, sparking a ripple effect that strengthens communities and builds a brighter future for the nation.”

Elizabeth Sanjur, canal administration student, volunteering at a park. “Thanks to your generosity, I can focus on my academics without worrying about money for tuition. I feel very lucky to count on your support, and I promise to take advantage of this opportunity.”

## In Honor Of

**2022 Jubilarians of IHM of Monroe, Michigan**  
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**Adrian Alejandro Reyes**  
Elvia Villalobos

**Lillian Trillo**  
2022 Jubilarians of IHM of Monroe, Michigan  
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**Thank you so much for your past contributions and continuing support!**

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