

Invitation to Join the Youth Service Trip to Mexicali on MLK Weekend

December 13, 2024

Dear Youth Group Families,

I am excited to share an opportunity for Trinity's Youth Group to continue the tradition of participating in a meaningful weekend service trip to the La Cobina Posada del Migrante Border Shelter in Mexicali, Mexico. This trip is planned for **MLK Weekend, January 17-19, 2025**, and will be led by the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara in collaboration with Sister Suzanne and Border Compassion International, the nonprofit organization that operates the shelter.

Last year, Ruby and Oliver Bargiel attended this trip and found it to be a fun and powerful experience. Abby and Clare have also participated in past years. This year, I plan to join the group, which will include about four other adults and six students from the Unitarian Society, along with potential participants from the Catholic Church of the Beatitudes. Parents are also welcome to join us! I know Shawn has participated in this trip before and can attest to how impactful it can be.

If your student is interested in joining, we will hold a **planning meeting for students and parents on Sunday, January 5, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM** at the Unitarian Society. Please be sure that your student has a passport with an expiration date no sooner than 2026 if they would like to participate on this trip.

Trip Details:

- **Dates:** January 17-19, 2025
- **Itinerary:**
 - Departing Santa Barbara around 1:00 PM on Friday (students will need to leave school early).
 - Traveling by carpool to Calexico, CA, and staying overnight each night in a hotel on the U.S. side.
 - Making day trips across the border to the La Cobina shelter in Mexicali to engage in activities with the families there.
 - Returning to Santa Barbara by 6:00 PM on Sunday.
- **Cost:**

- Youth are asked to cover lodging and food expenses, which are estimated to be \$300-\$500 per person.
- Scholarship funds are available through the Elizabeth Hess Memorial Justice Fund to assist with costs.
- Additionally, all participants are asked to contribute to a \$2,000 combined donation to the shelter, which will be raised through bake sales at both the Unitarian Society and Trinity before and after the trip.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to engage in meaningful service and build connections across communities. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional details. I look forward to sharing this impactful experience together!

Warm regards,

Theo