

Your Peacemaking Offering: Proyecto Faro, One Story of Local Hope

Last spring the Peacemaking Team of HRP made a \$2,500 grant to a new initiative around growing concerns in welcoming immigrants to the United States. Begun in response to the surprisingly large attendance (150) at the Sanctuary Forum at Naurashaun Presbyterian on February 6th, members of the Community of Living Traditions, members of the Rockland Immigration Coalition, and some Rockland County Presbyterians gathered at Stony Point with Rick Ufford-Chase. Rick had identified a woman, Rosario Urena (Charo), who had been instrumental in organizing the Braemar community after Sandy Hook devastated homes there, and he suggested that she might be engaged as an organizer to reach out to the several immigrant enclaves in the county. After several meetings this initiative was named the Lighthouse Project, or Proyecto Faro. and a mission statement and a position description were developed. The Support Team applied for a peacemaking grant of \$2,500, with which matching funds from local churches would be sought. HRP Peacemaking did make that grant, and Proyecto Faro raised another \$2,700. Those monies have been put to good use through September, 2017.

The good news is that the momentum of Proyecto Faro, and Charo's devoted efforts, have already produced strong results:

- a Leadership Team of 10 has developed from within the immigrant communities;
- an event was held in June at Stony Point which 60 persons attended, in equal parts of documented and undocumented residents.
- and increasingly, Charo is trusted as an ally to be called for assistance.

And more good news: the New York Immigration Coalition has just awarded Proyecto Faro the promise of a grant of \$17,500! (We hope to see the monies in December.)

Your peacemaking monies have seeded a project that is growing and bearing fruit in relationships of justice. Thank you!!