



Capital News-- January 29, 2023

Caring for God's House - Together



Guardians of the Children

During the holidays, Pastor Kathy introduced RRPC to the **Guardians of the Children**. While some of us “old folks” may have an automatic and negative reaction to folks who ride motorcycles, that is not a thoughtful and not a Christian response. Our decades-old memories of wild biker groups needs to be rethought.

Below is Pastor Kathy’s note from *From the Pastor's Heart* article in an earlier Witness.

From the Pastor’s Heart...Dec 2022

Last Saturday, if you stopped by you would have seen all these bikes parked in front of the church. The Guardians of the Children used our fellowship hall to have a Christmas Party. This group are individual “bikers providing assistance and protection for abused children”. This group

in their leather jackets and vests, with their biker names on them, were having a Christmas Party for the children under their protection and care.

The fellowship hall was filled with laughter and joy. Both Santa and the Grinch made an appearance. Gifts were given, food was served, games were played. Much like any other Christmas party. But this party was different. It was an opportunity in a safe space to be happy and celebrate. It was a time to look around and they weren't alone and they belonged.

And all we did was unlock the door and let them in, and lock it when they left. What we provided was a space for the magic to happen. Sunday, one of our long time members said to me, upon hearing about this that this is exactly what we wanted to have happen here.

The joy of having space to offer to others! A place that has open doors and a warm welcome! A place where people can gather to make and enjoy music, or hold each other up, to provide support, to give respite to weary caregivers, to teach drama to young people.

Yes, having a building can be a challenge- when things need to be replaced or repaired. It is what created the necessity of the capital campaign. But it is our contribution to the mission of all those who use this space for their important work. There is a cost to having such a space to offer, but if you could have seen the faces of those children, or the elders who are here each day, you would know, it is holy work. *It is the ministry of Jesus Christ.*

Pastor Kathy's Update, Jan 2023

This week two representative from **Guardians of the Children** stopped by to see me. Thinking they might want to schedule another event with us, I welcomed them with calendar at the ready.

But what they wanted was to present us a check for almost \$1,200 for our capital campaign! A way to say thank you for letting them use our space (or God's House) when all others turned them away. Knowing the important work they do, I was humbled by their gratitude. They simply wanted to support our efforts to keep our building in good shape!

Side note: Doc, the president of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Guardians of the Children, will be speaking **this Saturday at the February 4 Men's Breakfast at 8 am.**

Thank you for your support!

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