



# The Heart In Hand el corazon en la mano junio 2022

## Mission Statement:

Provide financial assistance to bona fide community organizations benefiting the physical and mental health needs of the underserved in Puerto Rico through community fundraising and educational awareness.

## Items Sent for Women's Shelter and Emergency Readiness

Since our last newsletter in November, Hermandad has sent personal items including women's deodorant, drawstring backpack bags, fleece blankets, rain ponchos, and solar powered lights.

All items were distributed to an agency that serves the homeless in Caguas, Puerto Rico. The solar powered lights were especially needed in preparing for hurricane season.



Deodorant



Fleece Blankets and Rain Ponchos



Solar Powered Lights

## First Annual Jack and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund Scholarship Award

In January 2022, we awarded our first scholarships for leadership and service to three high school students. While Hermandad president John Knight and secretary Jean Knight had planned to attend the award ceremony and make the presentation in person a December and January spike in COVID numbers led to altered plans. The three awardees and their families attended a socially distant awards presentation at the First Baptist Church in Caguas, Puerto Rico (Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas) while Jean and John Knight participated via Zoom. Another selection committee member, Liszt Gomez attended the presentation via Zoom while visiting family in Virginia. Hermandad thanks Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas for hosting the event.



*Jack and Eunice Knight*



Our award recipients were Alejandro Morales Cabrera, First Place Award (Center); Keishly Pagán Espinosa, Second Place Award (Right); and Robert Feliciano Rosario, Third Place Award (Left).

Alejandro Morales Cabrera's leadership and service activities included: protecting sea turtles, working with weed reduction and composting, participating in a breast cancer march and providing water to participants, church activities including children's ministry, choir and the AV team, the food bank, and community service as a member of Boy Scouts (Eagle Scout). He acknowledged how community service has taught him critical thinking, teamwork and confidence in preparing for future challenges. Hermandad congratulates Alejandro as our inaugural first place winner!

Our second place award recipient, Keishly Pagán Espinosa, engaged in an after school program working with kindergarten through third grade students four days per week assisting them with their homework including basic skills, math and English. Keishly also helped gathering supplies for Haiti and took an active role of assistance as she put concern for dogs and cats in action. Sharing her insight of the mutual benefits of acts of kindness for others, Keishly demonstrated leadership and service to her community. Congratulations!

Robert Feliciano Rosario's took extraordinary efforts in leadership and service during the pandemic. He worked with a blood company and organized a blood drive in the midst of the pandemic, insuring safety protocols were followed, encouraging participation and communicating the importance of blood donation using multi-media to inform the community of the need. Robert has also continued working toward the goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. Congratulations!

Each participant seeking the scholarship awards completed an application, submitted two reference letters, submitted an essay in English, provided copies of certificates, photographs and other materials to demonstrate their engagement in leadership and service. Committee members reviewed all materials individually and then met via Zoom for the final decisions. We thank committee members Liszt Gomez, Gladys Rodriguez, Jean Knight and Warren Knight for their work on the committee.

This grant comes from a fund donated in the memory of John G. (Jack) and Eunice K. Knight. Jack and Eunice were long time residents of Northern Virginia and noted for their active role in the life of their community. He was also known for his support of employees despite their ethnic background or country of origin. Both took roles in various boards and helping organizations. Jack's work included board member of many of the community organizations including the library board, little league, regional industry advisory liaison as well as a member of the local Rotary.

Eunice served as an English and Art teacher having started art programs on high school and college levels over the years. She also assumed an official and non-official title as liaison for International students. Most students connected to Eunice no matter where their country of origin was located. One international student invited her to attend her college graduation recognizing her as one of her most influential teachers.

## **First Benefit Concert With an In-person Audience Option Held in April 2022**

World class pianist Lura Johnson again performed for a Hermandad fundraising concert. Performing before a masked and fully vaccinated in-person audience and a live-stream audience, Lura presented a Recital/Lecture featuring Beethoven's *Appassionata*. Hermandad thanks Lura and all of our audience members for making this concert the most successful ever.



We also wish to thank our sponsors and generous individual donors including JP Website Solutions, Marshall Financial Group, Desmond's Auto Service in Parkville, Clarity Center in Towson, Maryland, Yendell Insurance, Paraklete Consulting in Parkton, Maryland, American Sentry Solar and a generous donation by Robert Cohen and his wife Xiao-Hong Sunny Zhong. We also extend a special thanks to Matt Bachman for providing use of the performance space at the Steinway Gallery and Auditorium in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

## **Plans to Hold a Benefit Concert for the Jack and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund in December**

Our next Hermandad fundraising event will be in December 2022 with a holiday concert featuring Puerto Rican music. We have discussed our vision with area pianist Tito Padilla who will join other musicians to be announced later. Hermandad is working on locating a venue. Watch for more announcements to come on our website and Facebook page.

Partner with us as we help others. Go to [www.jkhermandadpr.org](http://www.jkhermandadpr.org) and click the blue **DONATE** button. You can also donate the old fashioned way by sending your check to: Hermandad, INC, 1808 Briarcliff Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-3810. You can also give to Hermandad, INC through using Amazon Smile.