



The Heart In Hand el corazon en la mano

is Hermandad's November 2022 e-newsletter.

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.

Gifts and Stories of Fiona

September brought great challenges to Puerto Rico. Five years after Hurricane Maria's strong winds ripped up much of the infrastructure, vegetation, and broke down trees stripping them of their branches, homes and businesses near the water had vanished. Some noted an eerie silence. Chirps of the tiny native frog, the Coqui, had disappeared. It would be five months before others heard their return. Our August 2022 visit marked a time when we could observe progress and much regrowth. Yet, a great need still lingered from Maria's wrath. Hope has sprouted up in the past five years.

All watched in mid-September with growing concern as Hurricane Fiona formed. The elder's lore of "abundant mango trees as a sign of an impending strong hurricane" lingered. We saw the storm track. Knowing what Fiona's power was becoming, we put our first check in the mail to an agency serving the underserved before the category 3 storm actually made landfall. As we saw pictures of the devastation of mudslides, flooding and loss of power throughout the island once the storm hit, we sent another check to a partner agency in Puerto Rico. I also sent an email appeal to our past donors. Thanks to their generosity, we sent checks totaling \$5,100 over a two week period. Another \$500 was sent as our Hurricane Fiona appeal brought support from around the continent.

Thank you for your support, faith, and partnership as we continue to assist the underserved in Puerto Rico together.

John Knight, President
Hermandad, INC

August Visit to Puerto Rico

In August, Hermandad president, John Knight, and Hermandad secretary, Jean Knight visited Puerto Rico. This was their first visit since 2019. Though two earlier visits had been planned, rising COVID-19 numbers and spikes in infection rates further postponed their planned return.

During their visit to Corporacion Milagros Del Amor (CorMA), they sorted clothes at the bazaar, joined staff and distributed food to recipients in a CorMA program and attended celebrations of CorMA's 25 years of work. Hermandad has identified CorMA as an agency dedicated to the underserved and has partnered with them through gifts of money and materials since Hermandad's founding in 2019. The leadership of Gladys Rodriguez and her staff serves as an exemplary model for compassion and service to the underserved. At CorMA, we finally met Lizst Gomez, in-person, who has worked with us virtually on the memorial fund's scholarship committee and when Hermandad donated funds to a boy scout troupe during the height of the pandemic in 2021.

Additionally, we visited Colegio Bautista de Caguas. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 attend this school learning from a group of dedicated and creative teachers. Touring the school included a visit to the library. Cynthia Román Rivera, school librarian, told us of her work to help their students obtain more opportunities for fulfilling goals and learning with the best resources available. One of her many challenges involved Hurricane Maria in 2017. In the aftermath of this deadly storm, the library lost 40% of their materials. Hermandad's memorial fund has sent a monetary gift for the library and is working to obtain additional monies through a grant process.

During one of the 25 year celebration events for Corporacion Milagros Del Amor, Jean and John Knight met Mayor William Miranda Torres, of Caguas, Puerto Rico. Subsequently, he invited them to visit him at his office. While they were not sure whether a mayor's busy schedule would allow for this, his office contacted one of Hermandad's Puerto Rican board members, Reverend Adlin Quiles Ferrer. She accompanied Jean and John as they visited the mayor. Mayor Torres asked many questions as they shared the history of Hermandad from its inception to the present. The mayor noted that he would like to be kept informed of our future concerts and would gladly share the information with others in Puerto Rico. We sent him a letter announcing our Herencia Musical event on December 11, 2022 which begins streaming on December 17, 2022.

John and Jean appreciated the graciousness, hospitality, and the opportunity to renew friendships and make new acquaintances. They felt humbled given the many trials experienced on the island.

We pray that the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona will be addressed with greater deliberateness of purpose as the many needs surface to everyone's attention.

April 2022 Lura Johnson Lecture/Recital Most Successful Hermandad Fundraiser Yet



On April 19, 2022 Lura Johnson performed her third benefit concert for Hermandad at the Steinway Auditorium in Hunt Valley, Maryland. This was the first event which allowed for a socially distant masked in-person audience as well as a streaming audience. Hermandad extended a special thanks to Matt Bachman, of the Steinway Gallery for

providing such a wonderful space. During the performance, Lura gave a lecture and recital performing Beethoven's Appassionata. All who attended this event responded positively and expressed a desire to return to a performance next year.

Lura is scheduled to provide a lecture/recital on Brahms 1st Sonata with a performance following her lecture on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at Divinity Lutheran Church in Towson, Maryland.

Improved Technical Quality of Performance Streaming

As the pandemic lingers, Hermandad has taken action to improve the quality of our online streaming. Our December 11, 2022 Herencia Musical will perform Puerto Rican Christmas music. We'll record the concert using three cameras and enhanced audio equipment for this event. Hermandad will start streaming this performance on December 17, 2022. A donation of any amount will grant supporters access to the streaming event.

(Audio Quality Improvements continued)

Hermandad has acquired the services of Andrew Bohman for the sound and video services for our Lura Johnson event on Sunday, June 11, 2023. He is known in the Baltimore area for his high quality work and will provide a livestream of the concert which will also be available to donors for a period of two weeks after the event. Look for more details on Hermandad's website and Facebook page.

**Jack and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund Scholarship
Awards to be Presented in Puerto Rico on January 13, 2023**



Hermandad's second annual scholarship awards will be presented at a ceremony at Corporacion Milagros Del Amor on January 13, 2023. Students receiving the award will have provided evidence of leadership and service activities in their communities. Evidence of their participation in organizations focused on community, non-profit, student, civic and religious work is accepted as part of the consideration process. The deadline for applications is 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The scholarship committee will meet during December to select the scholarship recipients.

Jean and John Knight are scheduled to make the awards presentations in person.



From left to right) Reverend Doctor César Mauráus founder of Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA) and board member; Reverend John Knight, Hermandad President; Jean Knight, Hermandad Secretary; Gladys Rodriguez, Executive Director of CorMA; The Honorable William Edgardo Miranda Torres, Mayor of Caguas, Puerto Rico; Reverend Alberto J. Díaz Rivera, Senior Pastor Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas; Reverend Adlin Quiles Ferrer, Associate Pastor Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas and Hermandad Board Member; and Aida Ivette González Santiago, Secretary from the Human

Development Office, Caguas, Puerto Rico. CorMA recently celebrated 25 years of service.



Jean Knight, Hermandad Secretary sorting clothes at the CorMA bazaar.



Reverend John Knight, Hermandad President sorting clothes at the CorMA bazaar.



(Left to Right) Reverend Adlin Quiles Ferrer, Associate Pastor Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas and Hermandad Board Member; The Honorable William Edgardo Miranda Torres, Mayor of Caguas, Puerto Rico; Reverend John Knight, Hermandad President; and Jean Knight, Hermandad Secretary; and Jean Knight, Hermandad Secretary.

(Below) Mayor William Edgardo Miranda Torres pins a City of Caguas pin on Hermandad President John Knight after giving flags of the city to the Knights.



(Above) Cynthia Román Rivera, Librarian at Colegio Bautista de Caguas and Jean Knight, Hermandad Board Secretary.





11 Dec

AT 7:30 P.M.

Herencia Musical

A Puerto Rican Christmas Concert

COME JOIN US LIVE!

Join Hermandad for their next concert to benefit the Jack and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund for Puerto Rican youth.

Musical performances by Catherine Fries-Sierra, Orlando Cotto, Luis Rivera, and Santiago (Tito) Padilla who will be sure to get you in the holiday spirit with the kind of musical flair that can only come from the Isla de Encanto!

December 11, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Divinity Lutheran Church

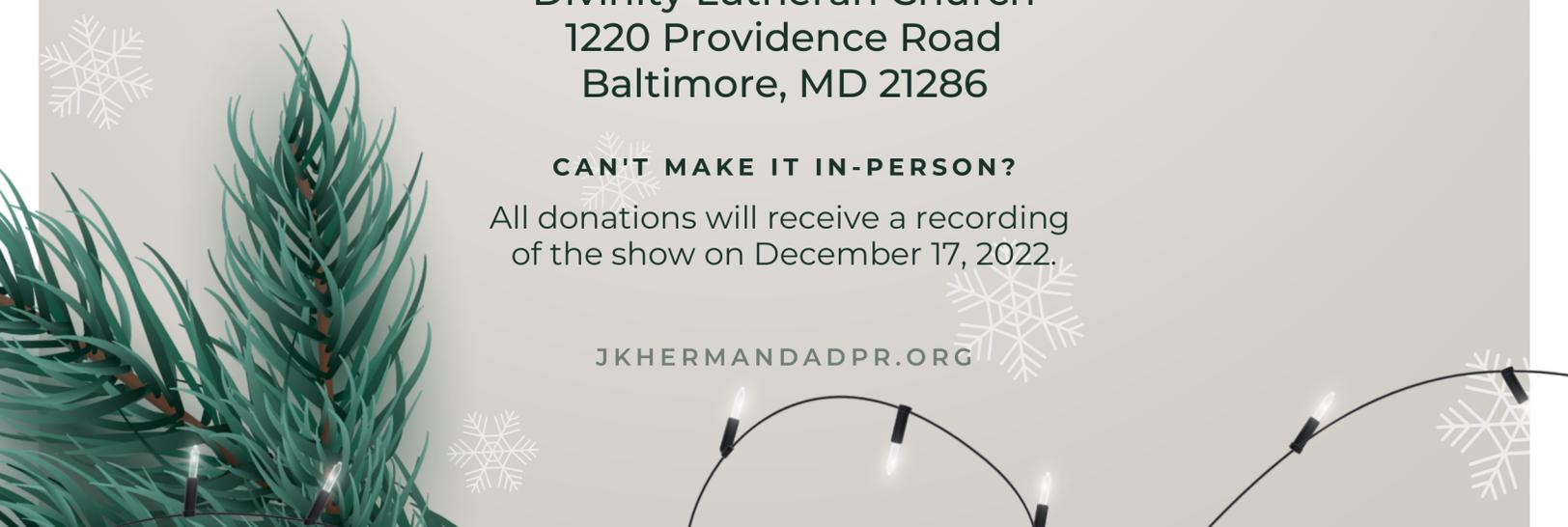
1220 Providence Road

Baltimore, MD 21286

CAN'T MAKE IT IN-PERSON?

All donations will receive a recording of the show on December 17, 2022.

JKHERMANDADPR.ORG





11 Dec

AT 7:30 P.M.

GIVING LEVELS

Sponsor - a donation of \$100 or more.

Your name will appear on our website events page, in the concert program, mentioned during the live-stream performance and one ticket to view the recording.

Associate - a donation of \$75-\$99.

Your name listed in our concert program which will be available online and one ticket to view the recording.

Supporter - a donation of \$50-\$74.

Your name listed in our concert program which will be available online and one ticket to view the recording.

Partner - a donation of \$1-\$49.

As a partner, you support our efforts on behalf of the Puerto Rican youth and one ticket to view the recording.

Attend the concert in-person.

A minimum donation of \$20 or more per ticket to the in-person event.

A donation of any amount or a purchase of an in-person performance ticket will receive a recording of the event through December.

Many thanks to Divinity Lutheran Church for providing a wonderful location to celebrate **A Puerto Rican Christmas Concert**.

A special thanks to our musicians supporting **Hermandad** and sharing this holiday music. ¡Gracias!

JKHERMANDADPR.ORG

