



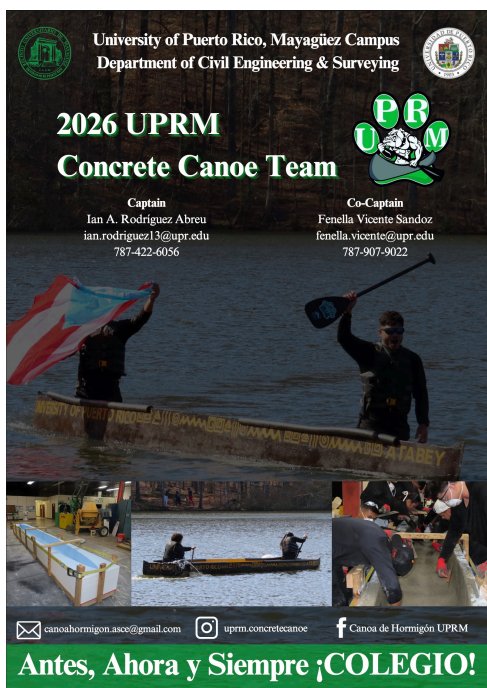
# The Heart in Hand

el corazon en la mano

Noviembre de 2025

## Hermadad Awards Funds for University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez Engineering Students

Hermadad welcomes new chances to help. In the last month, we welcomed two opportunities. I opened an email a few weeks ago from one of the past International Science Fair students we supported. Through our memorial fund dedicated to Puerto Rican youth, we had helped with expenses for two students' Los Angeles trip. Martín A. I. Stella Nieves, currently an undergraduate civil engineering student at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, works on the Concrete Canoe Team 2026. Their goal seeks to "secure first place" in a March 2026 regional competition at Florida Atlantic University. Hermadad sent a donation.



## Hermadad Provides 7 Scholarships to C3Tec Students

Last month, Hermadad helped seven young students participate in a Coding Maker Club Program. Their ages span from 10-years-old to their upper teens. Each student wrote a compelling essay identifying their desire to attend and offered their learning goals, application of learning the technology and how this experience could be used for their future educational and professional ambitions and plans. A majority of these students attend public school in Puerto Rico and do not have access to learning coding, video games, and robotics. This program will promote team work and sharing of ideas.

The students will assemble and program a robot, create and program a video game, and compete with their robots and video games. Jean and John plan to meet with the students during a future visit and learn about their robots, games, and overall experience from the program.

# Así Suena Puerto Rico

A celebration of Puerto Rican music featuring Christmas favorites  
as well as timeless classics by Puerto Rican composers.

**December 6, 2025**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Divinity Lutheran Church**

visit [jkhermandadpr.org](http://jkhermandadpr.org) for ticket information



**Join us on December 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. as Hermandad hosts:**

*“Así Suena Puerto Rico.”*

Divinity Lutheran Church  
1220 Providence Road  
Towson, Maryland 21286.

Musicians include:

Catherine Fries-Sierra (Vocals and Narration), Orlando Cotto (Percussion and Vocals), Luis Rivera (Vocals), Ernesto Rivera (Percussion), and Santiago (Tito) Padilla (Keyboard and Vocals).

Our December event stands as the primary fundraiser for Hermandad’s memorial fund. Your continued support helps us to expand our ability to help the youth of Puerto Rico and expand their learning opportunities for a brighter future.

Donate here! Get your tickets now! Live-stream our event with a donation of any amount.



Gladys Rodriguez, Executive Director of Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA) speaks at their “Cine Con Corazón 2”

## Hermanidad Supported Corporación Milagros del Amor Fundraiser

Hermanidad provided a gift of \$500 for Corporación Milagros del Amor’s second film shorts fundraiser on November 1, 2025. With our donation some CorMA recipients were able to attend. Gladys reported they had a successful well-attended event.

John and Jean were able to attend their first film fundraiser two years ago and look forward to attending others in the future.

## Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico Gift

Hermanidad again made a \$1,000 fall donation to Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico.

In their most recent report in Caguas, Habitat has completed all 10 units. Five families are moving in now. Other families will move in next year. Two apartments are designated for handicapped accessibility.

Jean and John look forward to seeing the latest good work Habitat is doing during their upcoming January - March Puerto Rican trip.

You can make regular donations to further Hermanidad’s work throughout the year at:

[www.jkhermandadpr.org](http://www.jkhermandadpr.org)

Or send your checks to:  
**Hermanidad, INC, P.O. Box 20066,  
Baltimore, MD 21284**

## Hermanidad’s Next Trip to Puerto Rico Will Be in December

Jean and John Knight have been invited and will attend the National Federation of the Blind of Puerto Rico Annual Convention from December 12-14, 2025 in Caguas, Puerto Rico. Hermanidad has taken an active role in supporting their work and President John and Secretary Jean look forward to attending this event.



## Hernandad Held Second Annual Celebration of Spring Recital in May

Hernandad held their second annual “Celebration of Spring Recital” fundraiser on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Steinway Gallery in Cockeysville, Maryland.

Our featured artists were David Garcia, pianist and Kathleen Hackett, vocalist. Kathleen’s accompanist was Dr. Xin Wu.

David Garcia performed works by Domienico Scarlatti, Robert Schumann, Frederic Chopin and Claude Debussy. After our a short intermission, vocalist Kathleen Hackett, now a third year student at Peabody Conservatory presented a program that included pieces by Ned Rorem, Claude Debussy, Joseph Marx, Rosephayne Powell, Benjamin Britten, Leonard Bernstein, Albert Roussel, César Frank, G.F. Handel, Alfredo Casella, and John Duke.

Kathleen’s accompanist, Dr. Xin Wu, is a pianist specializing in opera, vocal coaching, and collaborative performance. She serves as an accompanist and vocal coach at Morgan State University and a staff pianist at the Peabody Conservatory and Preparatory, where she works closely with singers to prepare for recitals, competitions, and professional engagements. In addition to Dr. Wu’s album with The Celia Collective - “The Forgotten Genius of Josephine Lang,” you can find two recent recordings online. Rachmaninoff “Daisies,” Op. 38 No. 3 at: <https://youtu.be/WhiWVIBtx0M?feature=shared> and Liszt “Ständchen” at: [https://youtu.be/FWGZiar7Wks?si=X-NgPMUJr2pyNH\\_D](https://youtu.be/FWGZiar7Wks?si=X-NgPMUJr2pyNH_D) . She also performs programs with her husband in the greater DC area.

We look forward to our third annual “Celebration of Spring Recital” in May 2026. Watch for further details on Hernandad’s website and email announcements.



Above L-R: David Garcia and Kathleen Hackett

Right: Dr. Xin Wu

