

NEW
DEPARTMENT!

Modesto Gotay Mines Potential



BY ELIZABETH TORRES RODRÍGUEZ

supporting mission

Welcome to a new department in *Horizons!*

“Supporting Mission” will offer follow-up stories about projects funded by the Birthday or Thank Offering (including Health Ministries). Follow this department to see all the exciting ways that mission projects put PW’s offerings to work.

Fundación Modesto Gotay, a non-profit institution in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, provides services to children and adults who are mentally handicapped. In 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Modesto Gotay established this home near San Juan when they realized that children and adults with mental disabilities, like their son, could not receive the care they needed through existing schools and programs. Presently there are 63 permanent residents—26 women and 37 men—living, working, learning and playing in the institution.

Believing that everyone should have access to the appropriate treatment, education and training to help them reach their full potential, Modesto Gotay provides housing, nutrition, medication, education, training, health care and laundry services. Those who are able participate in outings to parks, beaches and shopping centers. Residents at Modesto Gotay participate daily in playground activities, including swimming in the onsite pool.



Susan Jackson Dowd

Members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women recently visited the Fundación Modesto Gotay in Puerto Rico. Director Aida Nevarez, left, led the tour through one of the activity rooms where residents and staff spend quiet time together.

In the recreation room, children and adults enjoy music, watch television or videos and play games. Fundación Modesto Gotay added the recreation room in 1997 with a grant from the Thank Offering (including Health Ministries). Modesto Gotay received \$25,000 of the \$1,071,813 that Presbyterian Women collected in 1996. This room is vital to the residents’ social development and provides a space for residents to enjoy community.

A staff of registered and practical nurses and therapists provide health care; occupational, speech and physical therapy; and psychological intervention. For health needs that the staff cannot address, they coordinate care with local diagnostic centers and hospitals.

Recently Fundación Modesto Gotay initiated a training program for the development of independent living skills. Of the 40 participants in the program, three people have started job training; with the help of their teacher, they bake pastries and cakes to fill small orders for churches and other community groups.

Modesto Gotay operates under the direction of Aida Nevarez, a lifelong teacher and advocate for education. With her help, the program organizes fund raising campaigns and applies for and receives funds from the government and private sponsors.

Elizabeth Torres Rodríguez is PW Moderator for Synod Boriquen.

Important projects, like Fundación Modesto Gotay, benefit enormously from the Thank Offering (including Health Ministries) and the Birthday Offering. PW collects the Birthday Offering in the spring and sends the funds to the treasurer of PW in the presbytery by June 10. The Thank Offering (including Health Ministries) is a fall collection and should be sent to the treasurer of PW in the presbytery by December 10. Plan now for your PW’s Thank Offering (including Health Ministries)!