

Dear friends,

On this first 2012 Newsletter, I want to thank all of you for your participation in our events throughout the past year.

OPPG's Board of Directors work on a volunteer basis to organize these events for all of you, taking time from their own busy lives for this, but the events wouldn't have been successful without your enthusiasm and participation in all of them.....Thank you to all the Pedro Pan community for your continued support!!

A list of 2011 Highlights is included in this Newsletter as we continue on our path to fulfill the three parts of our Mission Statement: helping children in need, documenting our history for future generations and locating and reuniting with all Pedro Pan.

We start the new year 2012 with renewed enthusiasm and hope.....as we prepare for the Florida City Historical Marker unveiling that will mark an important milestone for Operation Pedro Pan history.....and will serve as a continued reminder for future generations about our Exodus....

Also, please have a look at the Calendar of Events at the end of every Newsletter, as we continue with our monthly breakfasts, picnic, etc.....Our next breakfast will be on Saturday, January 28th, when we will celebrate Desayuno Martiano at Felix Varela Hall, with Alberto Muller as our main speaker. Don't miss it! It is usually one of the best breakfasts of the year!!! We have some surprises for you....

On a personal note, I want to add that last year, out of my own time and expense, I visited the Pedro Pan of California and Wichita to celebrate their 50th Anniversaries with them..... I always believed that we, as a group, are all ONE and UNIQUE at the same time, and my trips confirmed my belief that it was so....The experience was so wonderful and I had so much fun that this year I plan to attend the Albuquerque Pedro Pan 50th Reunion in May..... What a wonderful experience it is to discover the United States through the eyes and guidance of my Pedro Pan brothers/sisters!!! Thank you to all of you!!

Love,
Carmencita Romanach

OPERATION PEDRO PAN GROUP, INC. (OPPG)
A National Charitable Organization

www.pedropan.org

<http://www.facebook.com/OPPGI>

January 6, 2012

Pedro Pan News



January 5th, 2012

Nothing better than this to start the year 2012!

*Many happy faces during
OPPG's Annual Toy Distribution at
Centro Hispano Catolico-Day Care
Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh*

*A group of Pedro Pan brothers/sisters had the privilege to represent all of you at
our
annual toy distribution at Centro Hispano.
This is always done very close to
"Los Reyes Magos" day,
a tradition from our roots that we must never forget.*

I can guarantee you that it is a lot of fun for all involved!!

*Also, the children at Children's Village also had
a wonderful Christmas Day,
thanks to all of you!! Unfortunately, pictures are not allowed
at Children's Village, but the Director and Staff
confirmed the kids had a very joyful and wonderful Christmas day!!
Thank you all for your generosity.....*

Announcement



OPP Collection, Barry University

We are pleased to announce that the State of Florida has designated the site of the former Catholic Welfare Bureau's Florida City Camp for Operation Pedro Pan's unaccompanied Cuban refugee children a State of Florida Heritage Landmark. "The Florida Historical Marker Program recognizes historic resources, persons and events that are significant in the areas of architecture, archaeology, Florida history and traditional culture by promoting the placing of historic markers and plaques at sites of historical and visual interest to visitors. The purpose of the program is to increase public awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the state and to enhance the enjoyment of historic sites in Florida by its citizens and tourists" (Florida Department of State / Division of Historical Resources).

The two-year application process, sponsored by Operation Pedro Pan Group (OPPGI), was carried out through the research and writing efforts of María del Carmen Valdivia Martínez (Carmen), Susana Garrandés González (Susy), and José Antonio Amaro Reyes. A Florida State historical marker, written in both English and Spanish, will be placed on the camp's site in recognition of its contribution to the history and cultural heritage of the state and the nation. A ceremony is

planned for the unveiling of the marker in the spring of 2012. The exact date will be made public well in advance to ensure maximum attendance. We look forward to seeing you in the City of Florida City in the spring!

For more information about Historical Markers go to:

<http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/markers/>
www.flheritage.com

2011 Highlights

The following are some of the events and activities that OPPG has been involved in the past year 2011.

To help children in need:

- Toy Distribution at Centro Hispano Catolico- January 2011
- Christmas presents for children at Children's Village- December 2011
- Sponsored outing for children at Children's Village: bowling and pizza, movie tickets- August 2011
- Barbecue for children at Children's Village- May 2011
- Career Day at Children's Village- August 2011
- Donation of air conditioned unit for kids with disabilities at Matecumbe Camp.
- Scholarship to Barry University student- Fall 2011

To document and disseminate the history of our Exodus:

- Recording of our parents, foster parents or persons related to the OPP Program for future use in a Documentary.
- Compiling material for a book to be published by OPPG.
- Updating our OPPG website with historical documents for future reference.
- OPPG Exhibit of Operation Pedro Pan memorabilia at Florida International University- August to September 2011.
- Submitted application for Florida City Historical Marker- The two year process was approved October 2011
- Implementation of Pedro Pan Curriculum for Miami-Dade Schools- October 2011
- OPPG Presentations about the history of OPP at different Colleges and Universities: Florida International University, University of Miami, Miami-Dade College campuses (North Campus, Kendall Campus, Homestead Campus)- October 2011
- OPPG Presentations about the history of OPP at: Holocaust Museum of SW Florida in Naples, and Office of Medicare Hearing and Appeals in Miami, Fl.
- OPPG Conference. "Operation Pedro Pan: A 50 Year Perspective" with Invited Speakers: Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Jose Azel, Chris

Baker, Juan Clark, Carlos Eire, Emilio Izquierdo, Victor A. Triay,
Ambassador Armando Valladares and Maria Argelia Vizcaino-
November 2011

To locate and reunite former Pedro Pan children:

- Reaching out to other Pedro Pan in different states.
 - Desayuno Martiano Breakfast- Felix Varela Hall- January 2011
 - Annual Picnic at Indian Hammocks Kendall Park- March 2011
 - Election of new OPPG Board Members- April 2011
 - Swearing In of OPPG Board and Mother's Day Tribute- May 2011
 - Bishop Estevez Installation- May 2011
 - Breakfast and Father's Day Tribute- June 2011
 - Pedro Pan Way Unveiling at Miami Lakes- September 2011
 - Our Lady of Charity 50th Anniversary Mass- September 2011
 - Hosted Cocktail party for Tony and Phyl Walsh at Barry University Archives- September 2011
 - Hosted Miami Conversacion at Miami Beach jointly with Dade Heritage Trust- November 2011
 - Thanksgiving Mass and Msgr. Bryan O Walsh Humanities Pavilion Dedication(former Immaculata-LaSalle Building)- November 2011
 - Tenth Anniversary Memorial Mass for Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh- December 2011
-

To all researchers interested in OPP history, Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Papers, a collection that documents the private and public life of Monsignor Walsh, from 1948 to 2001, prepared by archivist Ximena Valdivia, from Barry University Archives and Special Collections, and recently made public. Appointment recommended. Parking available upon request.

Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Papers



Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Papers, Barry University

Title: Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Papers

<http://eguides.barry.edu/content.php?pid=285451&sid=2349363>

Dates: 1948-2001

Extent: ca.52 linear feet total.

Creator: Bryan O. Walsh (1930-2001)

Abstract: This collection documents the private and public life of Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh between 1948 through 2001. Materials include personal & family papers, subject files, works, photographs, scrapbooks and audiovisual materials.

Language of Material: English with some articles in Spanish and some correspondence in Irish

<http://eguides.barry.edu/content.php?pid=285451&sid=2349363>

Ximena Valdivia

Contact Info:

Barry University Archives & Special Collections
Lehman Hall 201
11300 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami Shores, Florida 33161-6695

Phone: 305-899-3027

Atlanta Pedro Pan

Next Reunion will be held on Sunday,

March 11, 2012

at:

Mojito's Cuban American Bistro

35 S. Peachtree St.

Norcross, Ga 30071

Lunch at 1 p.m.

Please RSVP to:

Emy Botet at ebotet@yahoo.com 404 775 0440

Looking for Pedro Pan

ATTENTION:

If you have any other information or pictures you wish to share, please contact us at: members@pedropan.org

FUTURE EVENTS:

Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 10 AM - Toy Distribution

Place: Centro Hispano Catolico Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh Day

Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 10 AM - Desayuno Martiano

Place: Felix Varela Hall, 3609 South Miami Ave., Miami, FI

Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, March 2012 at 10 AM - Picnic

Place: TBA

Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 10 AM - Election Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, May 2012 - Swearing In

Place: TBA

Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, July 21, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Saturday, November 2012 - Thanksgiving Dinner

Place: TBA

Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 10 AM - Breakfast

Place: La Casona Restaurant, 9608 SW 72nd St., Miami, FI

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc

A National Charitable Organization of the former Children of Pedro Pan

161 Madeira Avenue, Suite 61 Coral Gables, FL. 33134 - (305) 554-7196

members@pedropan.org

www.pedropan.org

<http://www.facebook.com/OPPGI>