

www.maryspence.org

651-788-9869

Saint Paul, MN 55101-1651

275 4th Street East #642

Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

Mary's Pence





Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

Annual Report and Calendar of Women 2025

Staff and Board



ESPERA staff in Central America.

St. Paul, Minnesota staff

Katherine Wojtan ~ Executive Director

Anna Becker ~ Office Manager

Brianna Olson-Carr ~ Development Manager

Natalia Oróstegui-Burgos ~ Communications Manager

Nadine Sehnert ~ Bookkeeper

Erin Williams Rodriguez ~ Grants Program Manager

ESPERA Staff in Central America

Mabel Martínez Arriaga ~ ESPERA Program Lead
La Esperanza, Honduras

Clara Horrell ~ Program Assistant
Suchitoto, El Salvador

Eva Martínez ~ ESPERA Promoter
Suchitoto, El Salvador

Brenda Pérez ~ ESPERA Economic Initiatives Advisor
Suchitoto, El Salvador

Mary's Pence Board of Directors

Nancy Silva ~ Chair / Saint Paul, Minnesota
Healthcare Client Service Associate at Premier, Inc.

Mary Zerjav ~ Treasurer / Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Retired Banker

Sr. LaKeshia Church ~ Secretary / Redlands, California
Teacher at Aquinas High School

Nohely Álvarez ~ Hyattsville, Maryland
Doctoral candidate in Urban and Regional Planning at
the University of Maryland

Anne Betzner ~ Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vice President of Programs and Evaluation at
Children's HeartLink

Halima Hamud ~ Boise, Idaho
Community Organizer and Advocate

Amparo Martínez Ruiz ~ Mexico City, Mexico
Chief Legal Counsel at Jumex Group

Natasha N. Piñeiros ~ Newark, New Jersey
Dean of Scholar Support at Jack Cooke Foundation

Meg Olson ~ Washington, D.C.
Grassroots Mobilization Director at NETWORK

Emma Tacke ~ Washington, D.C.
Senior Manager of Advocacy and Policy at the D.C.
Charter School Alliance



Mary's Pence staff and board members at the October 2024 board meeting in Minnesota.

Letter from the Executive Director

In this coming year I want to dwell on the word 'grace.' I believe grace reflects virtue, love, goodness and dignity.

I believe that the divine is in each of us. Therefore, we all have access to grace, and the responsibility to use it to heal our world.

Grace comes to each of us - from the people we love, our community (whether we like them or not), from the earth that makes our life possible, and from the divine. My goal this year will be to listen deeply for grace at each of these levels.

And we each send grace out into the world in so many ways - through our personal interactions, but also our social, political, and economic actions, our use of resources, and the energy we emanate.

Grace is a gift. Grace gives us the ability to love unconditionally. And it fuels our power to reshape the world.

What does this discussion have to do with Mary's Pence?

I believe grace is deeply reflected in the work of our grantees across the U.S. and of the ESPERA partners in Central America and Mexico. They work side by side in their communities, using their love and power to transform lives, often with the courage required to address hard issues.

Together we can meet this moment, with courage and love, and with grace.

May this year be a grace fill year,



Katherine Wojtan, Executive Director

**We honor the women who
founded Mary's Pence.**

Maureen Gallagher, OP, Founding
Coordinator

Kaye Ashe, OP (1930-2014)

Carol Coston, OP

Edwina Gateley

Janemarie Luecke, OSB (1924-1987)

Amata Miller, IHM

Judge Sheila Murphy

R. Muschal-Reinhardt (1933-2013)

Rosemary Radford Ruether (1936-2022)

Mary Luke Tobin, SL (1908-2006)

Yolanda Tarango, CCVI

Margaret Traxler, SSND (1924-2002)

Teresita Weind, SNDdeN (1942-2024)

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

We invest in women across the Americas by funding community initiatives and fostering collaborations to create social change.

Mary's Pence invierte en iniciativas comunitarias de mujeres en Estados Unidos, Mexico y Central América y fomenta la colaboración para crear cambio social.

Vision

We envision a world where empowered women and their communities flourish in solidarity and justice.

Imaginamos un mundo en el cual las mujeres empoderadas y sus comunidades florecen en solidaridad y justicia.

Values

Our commitment to justice motivates our work. We are grateful to walk alongside people of all faiths and beliefs on this journey toward justice.

DIGNITY We recognize the inherent dignity of every person, especially women and others who are marginalized. Equity for all must include the right to health care, education, productive and meaningful work, food security, shelter, and freedom from violence.

JUSTICE Each person has the right and responsibility to participate economically, politically, and culturally in society and the home. Women's full participation is essential for strong communities and a just society.

SOLIDARITY Mary's Pence has privilege and influence. It is our responsibility to accompany women working for justice by listening deeply and providing funding and responsive support. We believe in collective power. Change happens when those most impacted by injustice are integrally creating solutions.

The Story Behind Our Name and Logo: A Reflection of Our Mission

Mary's Pence was named for all the women — the Marys — of the Bible, who practiced a ministry of daring accompaniment. For more than 37 years, Mary's Pence has been providing resourceful support for the Marys and Las Marías of the Americas — the poor, the imprisoned, and the oppressed. While we are proud of our Catholic roots, we are always open to women from all faiths and walks of life. The work for social justice is a collective and inclusive effort that can only be achieved if we all join hands and work together.

Three figures with their arms open represent women supporting and uplifting women.



Mary's Pence

Named for all the women — the Marys — of the Gospel who embody the example of ministry practiced by the women at the foot of the cross. They dared to remain when other disciples fled.

A play on Peter's Pence, the Pope's annual church collection for the poor. Mary's Pence collects funds specifically for women focused projects.

Mary's Pence's Impact Over Time

We are proud to highlight the tangible results of our 37 years of continuous support to women. From empowering women through our ESPERA Program's holistic support for women in Central America and Mexico, to supporting grassroots initiatives through Mary's Pence Grants in the United States, our work has grown steadily. Below are numbers that showcase the breadth of our efforts and our commitment to fostering long-term social change.

ESPERA Program

\$1,200.00 in loans

Mary's Pence and ESPERA partners created locally owned lending pools. Loan payments return to the pool for future use.

1,351 entrepreneurs

Women invest in their small businesses using loans from their local organizations.

2,726 loans given over time

14 ESPERA Partners

Local organizations committed to women's economic security and empowerment.

5 countries with ESPERA presence

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

Mary's Pence Grants

100% satisfaction rating

Based on feedback from our grantees on grantadvisor.org.

\$2,061,897 in grants

Amount given in grants since our founding in 1987, to community-based women's organizations, focused on justice and long-term change.

7 ways we support grantees

Financial support, coaching, capacity building funds, annual grantee gathering, workshops, grant writing support, internship program

Donors and Outreach

41% supporting > 20 years

We are grateful for our donors' long-term commitment to women and justice.

13% give monthly

Companeras make monthly donations. Join this group of committed individuals!

90% individual funding

Support from individuals across the country make our work sustainable.

17 outreach events in FY 2024

We exhibited at 15 conferences, led 1 conference workshop, hosted our first International Women's Day event at a local women-owned brewery, and hosted a gathering of donors to personally meet ESPERA staff.

What's ahead?

Looking ahead to 2025, Mary's Pence remains determined to support women on the margins, as it has for the past 37 years. We look forward to finding new and creative ways of supporting our grantees beyond the money, by connecting grantees to each other, to learning opportunities and new resources. And we will continue to stand in solidarity with the women of Mexico and Central America, with a focus on economic security, strong local organizations, organic family agriculture, and individual well-being.

Our work is made possible by the dedication of our donors, staff, and community partners, all working together to build a better world for women and their families.

Mary's Pence Grants

Our Funding and Support

Mary's Pence provides grants to small, women-led organizations across the U.S. that work within local communities to create long-term, systemic change. Our grantees, with budgets under \$250,000, tackle critical issues by collaborating with diverse populations, advocating for policy change, and building skills and capacity. Our grants offer seed funding for new groups and support for organizations with grassroots experience, empowering sustainable, community-centered social justice initiatives.

Beyond financial support, we connect our grantees with like-minded organizations and provide resources to amplify their impact. This includes capacity-building grants, networking opportunities at our Grantee Gathering, grant-writing webinars, and ongoing support.



Mural designed for Sacramento Poderosas, a current grantee, designed and painted by Ruby Chacon and Isabel Martinez.

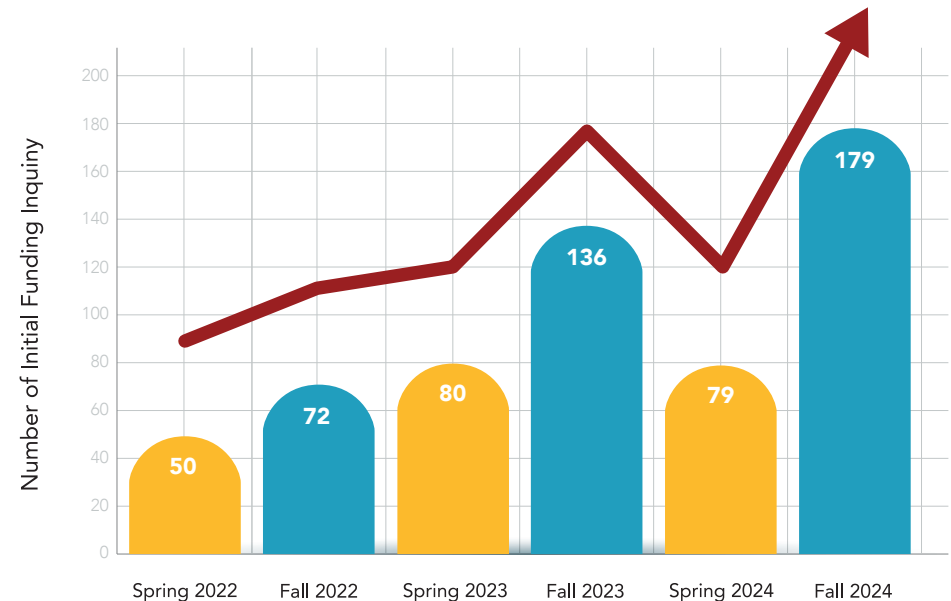
We fund a wide range of issues and are committed to responsive philanthropy, addressing emerging needs. Three examples of our grantees include:

- [Hattie B. BWIP](#) uplifts young girls from marginalized Black and Brown communities in Southern Arizona through its Girls Confidence Camp, which focuses on academic enrichment and emotional resilience.
- [Creating Freedom Movements](#) teaches participants, who are advocates and activists, through an intensive cohort experience, to incubate Justice & Joy projects to bring about a better world.
- [Rockland Prison Justice Project](#) advocates for restorative justice through its WellBeing Seminar, helping formerly incarcerated women reintegrate into society.

Increase in Funding Requests

We've seen an increase in requests for funding through our Initial Funding Inquiry process, reflecting the growing need to support women's organizations.

Rising Number of Funding Requests



“Mary's Pence has been incredibly supportive of our work as a small growing project. They've provided us with seed money to launch our first campaign to help women with chronic pain. We've benefited immensely from their support and mentorship!”

Noa from Tight Lipped

When you donate to Mary's Pence, you can be sure your funds support a diversity of issues that emerge from community needs from across the country.

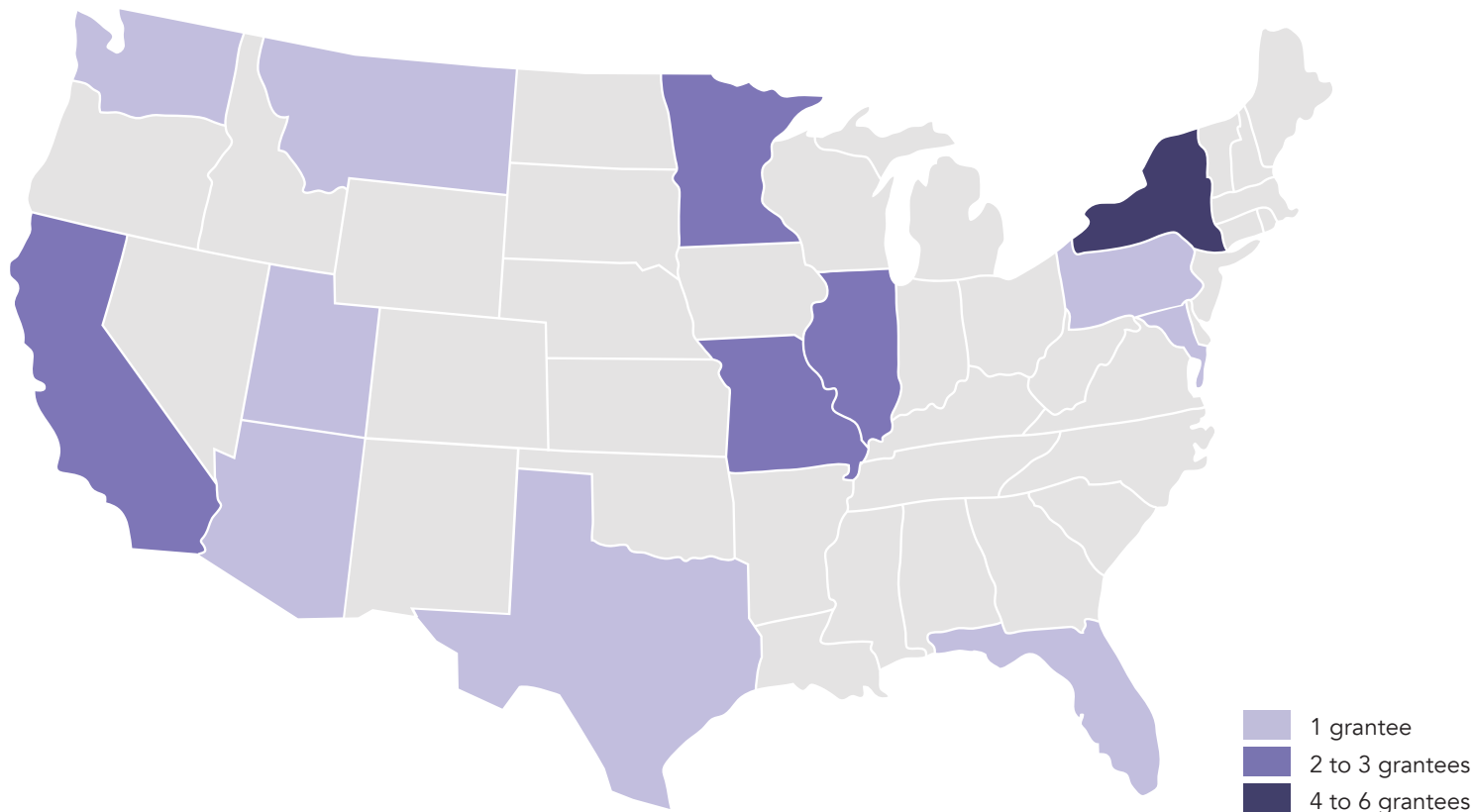
Mary's Pence Fiscal Year 2024 Grantees

Fall 2023

- 4Q6**
Billings, Montana | 1st Grant
- Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice**
Micanopy, Florida | 2nd Grant
- Fandom Forward**
Binghamton, New York | 1st Grant
- Housing Resource Network**
Minneapolis, Minnesota | 2nd Grant
- LitShop**
St. Louis, Missouri | 1st Grant
- POWER - Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights**
Olympia, Washington | 1st Grant
- Seeds Worth Sowing**
Minneapolis, Minnesota | 2nd Grant
- The Empowered Fe Fes**
Chicago, Illinois | 2nd Grant
- THISTL**
St. Louis, Missouri | 1st Grant
- Tight Lipped**
Evanston, Illinois | 2nd Grant
- Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual**
Silver Spring, Maryland | 1st Grant
- Working Group on Girls of Schenectady**
Schenectady, New York | 2nd Grant

Spring 2024

- Altagracia Faith and Justice Works**
New York, New York | 2nd Grant
- Creating Freedom Movements**
Richmond, California | 3rd Grant
- Germantown Residents for Economic Alternatives Together (GREAT)**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 2nd Grant
- Hattie B. BWIP (Hattie B. Black Women in Progress)**
Sierra Vista, Arizona | 1st Grant
- Heart of Courage**
Dallas, Texas | 1st Grant
- National Equal Justice Association (NEJA)**
San Francisco, California | 3rd Grant
- National Women's Defense League**
Germantown, New York | 1st Grant
- Project Rainbow Utah**
Salt Lake City, Utah | 1st Grant
- Ready to Launch**
Santa Monica, California | 3rd Grant
- Rockland Prison Justice Project**
Nyack, New York | 1st Grant
- South Asian Women Project (SAWP)**
East Elmhurst, New York | 1st Grant



ESPERA: Economic Systems Providing Equitable Resources for All

Our Work and Our Partners

The Mary's Pence ESPERA program invests in Latina and Indigenous women in rural communities across Mexico and Central America, focusing on four key strategies:

- Economic Autonomy
- Strong Women's Organizations
- Family Farming
- Emotional Wellness

Mary's Pence actively accompanies women by regularly visiting their businesses, supporting local coordinators, and fostering community through Encuentros, gatherings of ESPERA women. This hands-on approach strengthens relationships and helps sustain long-term change.

The women we serve, aged 20 to 70, face significant challenges, including poverty, lack of formal employment, and trauma from war, gang violence and domestic violence. About one-third of ESPERA participants are heads of single-parent households, and a similar proportion live in extreme poverty. The program's comprehensive approach considers all barriers women face, helping them navigate and overcome obstacles together.



Deysi in her salon. She belongs to Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto.

ESPERA Program Celebrates 15 Years

In 2024, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the ESPERA program, marking significant milestones along the way. We began in 2008 with three partners in El Salvador, Mexico, and Nicaragua. Today, we collaborate with 14 organizations across Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Over 1,300 women have benefitted from ESPERA loans, training, and emotional wellness support. More than 600 women are currently participating in the program, demonstrating its continued impact.



Encuentro held in 2022 in El Salvador, welcoming new ESPERA Team Lead, Mabel.

Through evaluations conducted in 2012 and 2019, we have evolved to meet the needs of the women. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ESPERA adapted to support women as they navigated unprecedented challenges. We have also expanded our staff and begun paying stipends to local coordinators, ensuring deeper community engagement. Our program's growth has enabled us to provide even more grants, increasing resources available to support women's economic and medical needs.

One participant reflected: "Recognizing ourselves as heroines of our own story has been empowering." Through ESPERA, women become leaders, entrepreneurs, artisans, and farmers. You can see the full list of our ESPERA partners on the right. Additionally, on the following pages, you will find more information about some of these groups.

ESPERA Partners

El Salvador

Asociación Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Pequeños Productores Organizados (CESPPO/CLAC)

Partner since 2019

Santa Tecla, El Salvador

Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros

Partner since 2017

San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador

Asociación de Mujeres Rurales "Olga Estela Moreno" (ASMUR)

Partner since 2012

Bajo Lempa, El Salvador

Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto

Partner since 2008

Suchitoto, El Salvador

Asociación de Mujeres de Tonacatepeque (ACOMEST)

Partner since 2017

Tonacatepeque, El Salvador

Parroquia San Nicolás Obispo

Partner since 2017

Tonacatepeque, El Salvador

Alianza de Mujeres Organizadas Salvadoreñas (AMOS)

Partner since 2012

Guatemala

Asociación de Desarrollo Red de Mujeres de Chichicastenango

Partner since 2023

Chichicastenango, Guatemala

Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad

Partner since 2023

Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala

IXOC MAYAJ

Partner since 2023

Coban, Guatemala

Honduras

Grupo Emprendedor La Epifanía

Partner since 2012

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Grupo de Mujeres Lencas de Chinacla

Partner since 2023

La Paz, Honduras

Mexico

Red de Mujeres Morelenses por una Economía Solidaria

Partner since 2009

Morelos, Mexico

Nicaragua

Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral (CEPROSI)

Partner since 2015

Nindirí, Nicaragua



Financial Report

Financials

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Income

Contributions.....	\$715,414
Estate Contributions.....	\$129,215
Investment Income, Net.....	\$29,459
Total Revenue and Support.....	\$874,088

Expenses

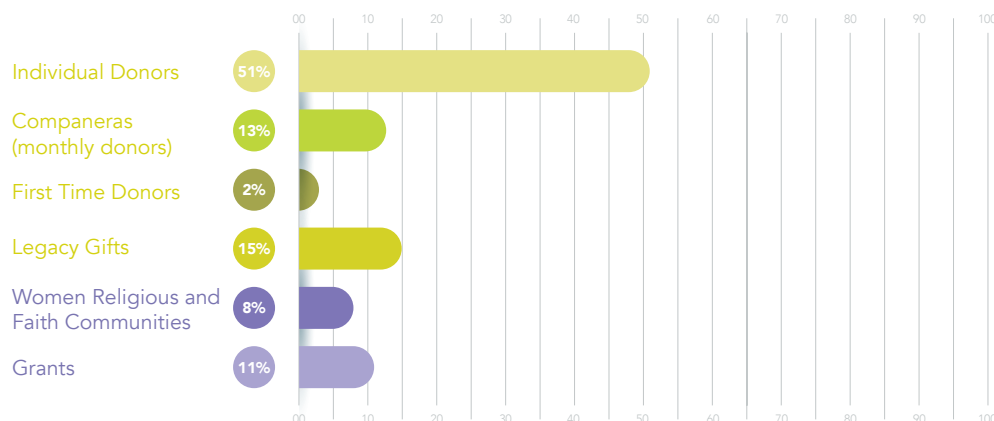
Program Expenses.....	\$750,676	(83%)
Management and General Expenses.....	\$49,129	(5%)
Fundraising Expenses.....	\$106,371	(12%)
Total Operating Expenses.....	\$906,176	
Change in Net assets.....	-\$32,088	
Total Net assets.....	\$666,271	

Our Donors

Organizations



Individual



Financial Transparency Statement

Mary's Pence is committed to serving as a faithful steward of all financial gifts. In addition to the Mary's Pence Finance Committee reviewing financial statements on a monthly basis, an audit of Mary's Pence is completed once a year by a CPA firm that specializes in nonprofit organizations. A copy of our 990 is available on our website. For more information, visit: maryspence.org/about/financials

Mary's Pence Recognitions

Charity Navigator

Our strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency have earned us a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. This rating designates Mary's Pence as an official "Give with Confidence" organization, indicating that we are using donations effectively based on Charity Navigator's criteria. Charity Navigator is America's largest and most utilized independent charity evaluator.

Charity Navigator analyzes nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, referred to as beacons. Currently, nonprofits can earn scores for the Impact & Results, Accountability & Finance, Culture & Community, and Leadership & Adaptability beacons.



"We are delighted to provide Mary's Pence with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence. The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Mary's Pence can accomplish in the years ahead."

Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator

Candid (Guidestar) Exchange Seal

Candid (formerly known as Guidestar) awarded Mary's Pence a Gold Transparency Seal for reporting fully on organizational data, including fundraising, budgeting, board and staff, and for meeting standard practices for nonprofits.



Mary's Pence is an Inclusive Space for All Voices

Words from Board Member Halima Hamud

I am incredibly honored to have joined Mary's Pence board this year. Mary's Pence's legacy of empowering women resonates deeply with me, as I have long been committed to supporting women's leadership, particularly in marginalized communities. Throughout my career and personal life, I have consistently advocated for women's rights and social justice, knowing that when women are empowered, entire communities thrive.



Halima Hamud

My faith plays a significant role in how I navigate the world, shaping my commitment to justice, resilience, and equity. As a practicing Muslim, I live these values every day, striving to create a more just and inclusive society. It's my responsibility to use my strength to help and create spaces of resilience for my community and those around me. I am particularly passionate about ensuring equitable opportunities for resettled refugees and immigrants, especially skilled workers who face significant barriers to employment. I believe that by addressing these challenges, we can unlock the vast potential of newcomers to contribute meaningfully to the economy and society at large.

I am drawn to Mary's Pence because it embodies these values in action, providing holistic support and crucial funding to women-driven initiatives for social justice. The organization's dedication to uplifting the voices and work of women striving for equity is inspiring, and I am excited to be part of this important mission.

As I step into this new role as a board member, I am inspired by the incredible staff, board, grantees, and community members at Mary's Pence. I look forward to collaborating with the passionate team and contributing to the ongoing work of supporting women, advancing social justice, and building a more equitable world for all.

The Mary's Pence Welcoming Statement

Founded on the core values of dignity, justice, and solidarity, we seek to be a space of belonging and purpose where community comes together to work for social justice.

The integrity of our work depends on Mary's Pence reflecting the diversity of the community, and the world, with regard to race, economic status, abilities, faith or beliefs, geography, age, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Our spiritual roots and feminist values bring us together to listen and learn from one another, and to determine the path forward. There is wisdom in the whole.

We invite you to join us in this work.



Mary's Pence Grants



Hattie B. BWIP Hattie B. Black Women in Progress

Sierra Vista, Arizona

Equipping Girls in Rural and Underserved Communities with Essential Life Skills

Hattie B. BWIP inspires young girls from Black and Brown communities in Southern Arizona, focusing on girls residing in rural and underserved areas. The Mary's Pence grant will support the Acacia B. Girls Confidence Camp, a day and overnight program that provides academic enrichment, fosters sisterhood and nurtures life skills, including emotional resilience and self-assurance for all girls.


This photo depicts the youngest group at the Girls Confidence Camp, hosted at Mount Lemmon, Arizona. Eight-year-olds and their group leader enjoyed swimming. Other activities include how to change a tire, women's health, suicide prevention and awareness, and many others.



Mary's Pence

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January/Enero 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 World Day of Peace Mary, Theotokos (God Bearer) New Year's Day	2 Sadie Alexander Civil Rights Activist	3 Bella Abzug Civil Rights Activist, US Representative (NY)	4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Educator
5 Sonia Sotomayor 1st Latina Justice of SCOTUS	6 Charlotte Ray 1st Black Woman Attorney in the US Epiphany	7 St. Bernadette Soubirous 19th c. Mystic, Visionary	8 Emily Greene Balch Economist, Pacifist, Nobel Peace Prize (1946)	9 Rigoberta Menchú Guatemalan Political Activist, Nobel Peace Prize (1992)	10 Gabriela Mistral 1st Latina recipient of Nobel Prize in Literature (1945)	11 Remember Women Brought out of Africa and Baptized Against Their Will
12 Diana Ortiz Torture Survivor, Founder: Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition	13 Anne Reynolds Advocate for LGBTQ+ Community	14 Sr. Theresa Maxis Duchemin Founder: Oblate Sisters of Providence	15 Etty Hillesum Holocaust Victim, Author: <i>An Interrupted Life</i>	16 Dian Fossey Primatologist, Author: <i>Gorillas in the Mist</i>	17 Martha Cotera, PhD Latina Activist, Author: <i>Life Along the Border</i>	18 Coretta Scott King Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>Coretta: My Life, My Love, My Legacy</i>
19 Mourning Dove Indigenous Rights Activist	20 Anne Clough British Suffragist & Reformer Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 Sophia Jex-Blake, MD Women's Rights Activist	22 Hildegard Goss-Mayr Peace Activist	23 Gertrude Elion Pharmacologist, Nobel Prize for Medicine (1988)	24 Maria Tallchief 1st Indigenous Prima Ballerina, American Ballet Theater	25 Ramabai Ranade Indian Social Worker and Activist
26 Angela Davis Political and Social Activist	27 St. Angela Merici Educator Laylat al-Mi'raj begins at sundown	28 Honor Women Theologians	29 Sr. Kaye Ashe Founding Board President of Mary's Pence 	30 Ritamary Bradley Women's Rights Activist	31 Ludmila Javorová Catholic Priest in Underground Church During WWII	

ESPERA Program



Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad (ADISA)

Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala

Strengthening Local Organizations by Providing Accompaniment and Skill Building

ADISA, *Asociación de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad de Santiago Atitlán*, was founded in 1998. They foster inclusion and independent living for individuals with disabilities and their families.

ADISA members meet regularly for workshops. This photo was taken during a May gathering, where women shared business ideas and advice on economic security and savings habits.

ADISA has deep experience with women's organizations, with a focus on economic security and emotional wellness. Because of this expertise, they help Mary's Pence support the two other ESPERA partners in Guatemala by visiting with them regularly and providing workshops.



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

February/Febrero 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 The Kuna People Matrilinear Indigenous People of Panama and Colombia
2 Civil Rights Sit-ins 40% of the Women of Bennet College Were Arrested (1960)	3 Sr. Mary Lange Founder: Oblate Sisters of Providence	4 Betty Friedan Feminist, Author: <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>	5 Judith Baca Contemporary Urban Artist	6 Tullia d'Aragona 16th c. Poet, Philosopher	7 Marian Anderson 1st Black Artist to Perform in the Metropolitan Opera	8 St. Josephine Bakhita Sudanese Woman Taken in Slavery, a Woman of Forgiveness
9 Alice Walker Pulitzer Prize (1982), Author: <i>The Color Purple</i>	10 St. Scholastica 5th c. Founder and Patron Saint: Benedictine Sisters	11 Morkarrameh Ghanbari Iranian Artist, Woman of the Year (2001) International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12 Sr. Margaret Traxler Mary's Pence Founding Board Member	13 Rana Hussieni Journalist, Equal Rights Activist	14 Ruchira Gupta Social Worker, Human Trafficking Abolitionist Valentine's Day	15 Susan B. Anthony Women's Rights Activist Buddah's Death
16 Mildred Fish Harnack German Resistance Leader, Executed by Hitler	17 Mary Breckinridge Founder: Frontier Nursing Service President's Day	18 Toni Morrison Pulitzer Prize (1988), Author: <i>Beloved</i>	19 Harper Lee Presidential Medal of Freedom (2007), Author: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	20 Angelina Grimke 19th c. Women's Rights Activist World Day of Social Justice	21 Barbara Jordan Civil Rights Activist, US Representative of TX (1973-1979)	22 Isabella Hooker Founder: New England Suffrage Association
23 Frances Watkins Harper Suffragist, Abolitionist, Poet	24 Pearl Witherington Agent for Britain's Special Operations, WWII	25 Alicia Montemayor 20th c. Feminist, Activist	26 Mabel Staupers Organized the Harlem Clinic for Black Physicians	27 Rosa Perea Advocate for Deaf and Blind Persons	28 Violeta Parra Chilean composer, folk singer, and social activist (1917-1967) Ramadan begins at sundown	

Mary's Pence Grants



National Women's Defense League

Germantown, New York

Protecting and Supporting Women in Political Spaces

National Women's Defense League (NWDL) is dedicated to preventing sexual harassment in political settings and protecting survivors. They advocate for policy change that prevents sexual harassment and holds elected officials accountable, ensuring everyone can work in a safe and respectful environment.


This photo features *NWDL* members at a press conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The conference was held to publicize their Abuse of Power Report and new legislation passed to combat sexual harassment at the capitol. This report was the first of its kind to examine sexual harassment in political settings and recognize the topic as a systematic issue. *NWDL* continues to produce ground-breaking research and generate new statistics to advocate for new legislation.



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March/Marzo 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Esther 5th. c. Persian Queen, Savior of the Jewish People
2 Kathy Kelly Peace Activist, Founder: Voices for Creative Nonviolence	3 St. Katharine Drexel 20th c. Educator Serving Indigenous and Black Children	4 Young Shin Founder: Asian Immigrant Women Activists (AIWA)	5 Catherine MacKinnon Radical Feminist	6 Valentina Tereshkova 1st Woman to travel in Space	7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity 3rd c. Martyrs for their Faith	8 International Women's Day Commemorating the Movement for Women's Rights <i>International Women's Day</i>
9 Zahra Rahnava Academic, Artist, and Politician Suppressed by the Iranian Government <i>Daylight Saving Begins First Sunday of Lent</i>	10 Harriet Tubman Leader of the Underground Railroad	11 Hallie Quinn Brown 19th c. Educator, Reformer, Social Activist <i>Mardi Gras</i>	12 Mechtild of Magdeburg 13th c. Mystic <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	13 Mary Bowser Abolitionist, Spy for the Union Army	14 Fannie Lou Hamer 20th c. Civil Rights Activist, Philanthropist <i>Purim begins at sundown</i>	15 Ruth Bader Ginsburg 2nd Woman Justice of SCOTUS, Advocate for Gender Equality
16 Sr. Anne Dengel Founder: Medical Missionary Sisters	17 Women Celtic Saints <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 María Luisa Bombal Chilean writer. Precursor of contemporary Latin American novel. (1910-1980)	19 Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez 19th c. Supporter of the Mexican War of Independence	20 Mary Mills 20th c. Nursing Ambassador to the World <i>Naw-Ruz begins at sundown First Day of Spring</i>	21 Belle Sherwin 19th c. Women's Rights Activist	22 Ada María Isasi-Díaz Mujerista Theologian, Past Board Member of Mary's Pence 
23 Marjorie Agosin Human Rights Activist	24 Dorothy Stratton 1st Woman Commissioned into the US Coast Guard	25 Margaret Chase Smith Worked to End McCarthyism, US Representative of MA	26 Emma Sepúlveda, PhD Director: Latina Research Center, Author: <i>Death to Silence</i>	27 Adrienne Rich Radical Feminist, Poet, Essayist	28 Asma Jahangir Pakistani Attorney, Human Rights Activist	29 Pearl Bailey US Goodwill Ambassador (1975), Presidential Medal of Freedom (1988)
30 Nawal El Saadawi Egyptian Feminist <i>Eid al-Fitr begins at sundown</i>	31 Margaret Randall Social Activist, Feminist			<i>Laylat al-Qadr begins at sundown</i>		

ESPERA Program



Alianza de Mujeres Organizadas Salvadoreñas (AMOS)

San Salvador, El Salvador

Growing From a Local Artisan to Airport Vendor

AMOS is a dynamic network of local women's organizations in the urban areas around San Salvador. It fosters participation among women in political, social, economic, and cultural arenas. AMOS aims to uplift women's voices and create lasting change that improves their quality of life.

The photo shows Vilma Barrera, who has been part of the ESPERA program for the past three years. Thanks to the loans she has received through the program, Vilma has successfully expanded her business and now showcases and sells her handmade products at the El Salvador airport. This has increased her economic autonomy, which is one of the main goals of the ESPERA program. This photo captures her at home, where she designs and crafts unique clothing and bags that reflect her entrepreneurial spirit.



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April/Abril 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Wangari Maathai Environmental Activist, Nobel Peace Prize (2004)	2 Barbara Caine Australian Feminist Historian	3 Sarah Brady Anti-gun Violence Activist	4 Maya Angelou Poet, Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	5 Pandita Ramabai 19th c. Indian Social Reformer
6 Gloria Macapagal Arroyo President of the Philippines (2001-2010)	7 Joyce Hilda Banda President of Malawi (2012-2014)	8 Betty Ford Activist for Equal Rights Amendment, Founder: Betty Ford Clinic	9 Irene Morgan Kirkaldy Civil Rights Activist	10 Dolores Huerta Labor Leader, Co-founder: National Farmworkers	11 Ethel Kennedy Philanthropist, Justice Activist	12 Clara Barton Founder: American Red Cross Passover Begins at sundown
13 Julian of Norwich 14th. c. Christian Mystic, Author: <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> Palm Sunday	14 Simone de Beauvoir 20th c. French Author: <i>The Second Sex</i>	15 Corrie ten Boom Helped Jews Escape the Holocaust, Author: <i>The Hiding Place</i>	16 Joan Sawyer Bahamian Chief Justice (1996-2001)	17 Jo Anne Robinson Civil Rights Activist, Educator Holy Thursday	18 Augusta Savage Sculptor, Harlem Renaissance Good Friday	19 Betty Green Pilot, Founder: Mission Aviation Fellowship Holy Saturday
20 Nina Simone Musician, Civil Rights Activist Passover Ends Easter	21 María Varela Photographer for Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee First day of Ridvan begins at sundown	22 Loretta C. Argrett Assistant Attorney General, Advocate for Underserved People Earth Day	23 Maria Teresa Tula Salvadoran Political Writer, Activist Yom HaShoah begins at sundown	24 Willa Cather Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (1923), Author: <i>O Pioneers</i> and <i>My Antonia</i>	25 Martha George Chair of Suquamish Tribe (1920s-1940s)	26 Amy Biehl American Anti-Apartheid Activist in South Africa, Assassinated 1993
27 Mary Wollstonecraft 18th c. Women's Rights Activist	28 Marie Stewart African-American Writer, Lecturer 9th Day of Ridvan begins at sundown	29 Feast of St. Catherine of Siena Mary's Pence Founded (1987) 	30 Aviva Chomsky Historian, Author: <i>How Immigration Became Illegal</i>			

Mary's Pence Grants



LitShop

St. Louis, Missouri

Building Girls' Skills and Confidence From Woodworking to Writing

LitShop provides afterschool and summer programming, including literacy training opportunities like book clubs, and writing workshops. They also have workshops on building and making, where girls and gender-expansive youth ages 10-17 can learn carpentry, printmaking, and metalworking, among other skills, in a supportive and safe space.

The photo above shows two girls, Reese and Dani, engaging in one of *LitShop's* build programs. In this workshop girls built garden benches. Dani and Reese are sanding wood in preparation for the assembly of their benches. Build projects emphasize the connections between building and other life skills, including literacy and community.



Mary's Pence

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May/Mayo 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Anne Marie Jarvis Founded Mother's Day <i>National Day of Prayer</i> <i>12th Day of Ridvan begins at sundown</i>	2 Nannie Burroughs 20th c. Educator, Feminist, Civil Rights Activist	3 Maryam Mirzakhani 1st Woman to Receive Field's Medal (2014), Highest Scientific Award for Mathematicians
4 Rosalyn Yalow Medical Physicist, Nobel Prize for Medicine (1977)	5 Sr. Barbara Ford Missionary Nurse Assassinated in Guatemala <i>Buddah's Birthday</i>	6 Mary McLeod Bethune Educator, Civil Rights Activist	7 Eva Perón First Lady of Argentina (1946-1952), Advocate for Labor Rights	8 Phillis Wheatley Enslaved, 18th c. Poet	9 Septima Poinsette Clark Educator, Civil Rights Activist	10 Maggie Kuhn Founder: Gray Panthers
11 Mercedes López Mexican Artist <i>Mothers' Day</i>	12 Remember the Women who Nurture Us	13 Florence Nightingale 19th c. Nurse, Founder of Modern Nursing	14 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Environmentalist, Author: <i>Everglades: A River of Grass</i>	15 Digna Ochoa y Plácido Mexican Human Rights Attorney, International Human Rights Award (2002) <i>International Day of Families</i>	16 Sr. Margaret Anna Cusack 19th c. Founder: Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace	17 Satya Rani Chadha Anti-dowery Movement Activist
18 Gertrude Käsebier photographer	19 Lorraine Hansberry Black Playwright: <i>Raisin in the Sun</i>	20 Sr. Rose Hawthorne Founder: Hawthorne Dominicans and Home for Poor Cancer Patients	21 Mitsuye Endo Plaintiff in SCOTUS Lawsuit to End Japanese Internment	22 Judy Chicago Feminist Artist <i>Declaration of the Bab begins at sundown</i>	23 Concha Ortiz y Pino State Representative, NM (1936-1941)	24 YWCA Working for Women's Empowerment Since 1855
25 Forugh Farrokhzad Poet, Film Director	26 Sr. Mary Ellen Butcher, OP Advocate for Economic Justice <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 Rachel Carson Environmentalist, Author: <i>Silent Spring</i> <i>Ascension of the Bah'u'llah at sundown</i>	28 Julia Ward Howe Abolitionist, Author of <i>Lyrics to the Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	29 Jehan Sadat Egyptian Human Rights Activist <i>Ascension of Jesus</i>	30 St. Joan of Arc French Hero of the 100 Year War	31 Elizabeth Blackwell, MD 1st Woman to Earn an M.D. in the US

ESPERA Program



Red de Mujeres Morelenses por una Economía Solidaria

Morelos, México

Creating Spaces for Community Building and Growing Women's Businesses

The *Red de Mujeres Morelenses* promotes a culture of savings among women and provides workshops for personal and group growth. They firmly believe that promoting women's economic empowerment is essential to eradicating poverty.

This photo was taken during one of their monthly meetings, during which they plan commercial activities like local markets and set goals for themselves and the organization. These gatherings are about more than just organizing; they offer a space for women to connect, share, and support each other emotionally, one of the ESPERA Program's main focuses.



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

June/Junio 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Helen Keller Advocate of the Blind and the Deaf, Author: <i>Story of My Life</i></p> <p>Shavuot begins at sundown</p>	<p>2 Hanan Daoud Khalil Ashrawi Palestinian Legislator, Educator</p>	<p>3 Josephine Baker Dancer, French Resistance Agent</p>	<p>4 Marian Wright Edelman Activist for Disadvantaged Children</p> <p>Hajj begins at sundown</p>	<p>5 Sappho 5th c. BC Greek Poet</p> <p>Day of Arafat begins at sundown</p>	<p>6 Sr. Ann Manganaro Catholic Worker, Physician in El Salvador</p> <p>Eid al-Adha begins at sundown</p>	<p>7 Elizabeth Gurley Flynn 20th c. Labor Leader, Activist</p>
<p>8 Sr. Frances Margaret Taylor 19th c. British Nurse, Writer, Editor</p> <p>Pentecost</p>	<p>9 Ann O'Hara Graff Theologian, Author: <i>In the Embrace of God</i></p>	<p>10 Equal Pay Act (1963) Requires that Men and Women Be Given Equal Pay for Equal Work</p>	<p>11 Jeanette Rankin 1st Woman in Congress, Women's Rights Activist</p>	<p>12 Anne Frank Victim of the Holocaust, Author: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i></p>	<p>13 Gloria Rolando Cuban Filmmaker</p>	<p>14 Alicia Partnoy Argentinian Human Rights Activist, Poet</p>
<p>15 Evelyn Underhill 20th c. Mystic, Author: <i>Practical Mysticism</i></p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p>16 Margaret Bondfield British Politician, Trade Union Advocate</p>	<p>17 Marita Bonner Author: <i>Frye Street and Environs</i></p>	<p>18 Fay Bennett Advocate for the Rural Poor</p>	<p>19 Patria Jiménez 1st Openly Gay Elected Official in Mexico</p> <p>Juneteenth Abolition of Slavery</p>	<p>20 Nedā Āghā Soltān Iranian Martyr for Freedom</p> <p>First Day of Summer World Refugee Day</p>	<p>21 Miriam Jewish Prophet, Sister of Moses</p>
<p>22 Hidden Figures NASA Scientists Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan</p>	<p>23 Title IX Federally Funded Education Programs are Gender-Neutral</p>	<p>24 Zora Neale Hurston 20th c. Writer, Author: <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i></p>	<p>25 Women in Black Worldwide Network of Protestors of War and Violence</p>	<p>26 Pearl S. Buck Advocate of Women's Rights, Author: <i>The Good Earth</i></p> <p>Muharram begins at sundown</p>	<p>27 Jovita Idár 20th c. Latina Journalist, Civil Rights Activist</p>	<p>28 Sr. Marjorie Tuite, OP Catholic Activist</p>
<p>29 Shamita Das Dasgupta Indian Scholar, Social Activist</p>	<p>30 Lena Horne Civil Right Activist, Singer, Actor</p>					



POWER - Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights Olympia, Washington

Working for Economic Justice for Low-Income Families

Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a solid social safety net. They consider poverty a systemic problem and not an individual failing. They work to fight poverty and honor caregiving, which is still typically unpaid and primarily done by women.

This photo was taken at the Arts Walk in Olympia, Washington, which POWER participates in twice a year. POWER sells sock monkey kits, sock monkeys, and art created by members to raise funds for their organization. POWER has collaborated with Integrate, a non-profit that advocates for unhoused neighbors locally, at the Arts Walk for the past two years.



Mary's Pence
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July/Julio 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Harriet Beecher Stowe Abolitionist, Author: <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	2 Herlina Hakim Indonesian Actor, Activist	3 Angela Eunjin Oh Civil Rights Attorney	4 Women Heroes of the American Revolution Independence Day	5 Anna Hedgman Civil Rights Activist, Author: <i>The Gift of Chaos</i> Ashura begins at sundown
6 St. Maria Goretti Martyr and Woman of Forgiveness	7 Luisa Moreno Guatemalan Labor Activist in the US	8 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Founder: Special Olympics	9 Alice Paul Women's Rights Activist, Original Author of the Equal Rights Amendment Martyrdom of the Bab	10 First Meeting of the Women's Political Caucus (1971) Non-partisan Group Supporting Women Candidates	11 Lady Bird Johnson First Lady (1963-1969), Advocated for Beautification of Highways	12 Mary Eliza Mahoney 1st Black Nurse in the US
13 Frida Kahlo 20th c. Mexican Painter	14 St. Kateri Tekakwitha 1st North American Indigenous Saint	15 Violette Neatley Anderson 1st Black Woman Attorney to Argue Before SCOTUS	16 Ida B. Wells 19th c. Journalist, Founder: NAACP	17 Hannah Szenes Hungarian Poet, Worked to Save Hungarian Jews	18 Remember the Arizona Copper Mine Strike of 1983	19 Mary Ann Bickerdyke Union Nurse, Advocate for Veterans
20 Eulalia Arrila de Pérez 19th c. Keeper of the Keys at Mission San Gabriel, Healer, Midwife	21 Hortense Sparks Ward Early 20th c. Civil Rights Activist	22 St. Mary of Magdala Disciple of Jesus of Nazareth	23 Nancy Mairs Author: <i>Waist High in the World</i>	24 Amelia Earhart Aviator, Adventurer	25 Mev Puleo Photo Journalist, Author: <i>The Struggle Is One</i>	26 St. Anne Mother of Mary of Nazareth
27 Linda Richards 1st Professionally Trained Nurse in US	28 Mary Luke Tobin Advocate for Peace and Justice, Mary's Pence Founding Board Member	29 St. Mary of Bethany Devoted Friend of Jesus of Nazareth	30 Antonia Hernández Social Activist, Philanthropist	31 Azar Nafisi Author: <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i>		

ESPERA Program



Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael de Cedros (CEDROS)

San Rafael Cedros, El Salvador

Building Economic Autonomy Through Family Farming

Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros has seven members, all working on their economic initiatives, thanks to Mary's Pence training and financial support. *Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras por la Justicia de San Rafael Cedros* shares Mary Pence's vision of a more equal world, where women have the same opportunities and rights as men.


In the photo you can see Juana. She is one of the leaders of *Asociación*. She started in 2017 and has since worked on family farming, cultivating hibiscus, squash, corn, beans and raising chickens. This photo was taken in her hibiscus garden. Family Farming is one of the main interests of women in El Salvador and one of the four ESPERA programs focuses.



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

August/Agosto 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Henrietta Lacks Cancer Patient, Subject of Book: <i>The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks</i>	2 Jewell Jackson McCabe Feminist, Social Activist <i>Tisha B'Av begins at sundown</i>
3 Flannery O'Connor 20th c. Author: <i>Wise Blood</i>	4 Isabel Allende Chilean American Author: <i>The House of Spirits</i>	5 St. Mary Ellen McKillop, RSJ 19th c. Australian Educator of the Poor	6 Susie King Taylor 1st Black Army Nurse	7 Lydia Villa-Komaroff Biologist, Advocate for Women in STEM Careers	8 Sr. Maureen Gallagher, OP Mary's Pence Founder 	9 St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein) Theologian, Martyred at Auschwitz <i>International Day of Indigenous People</i>
10 Geraldine Ferraro 1st Woman Nominated for the Vice Presidency	11 St. Clare of Assisi Founder: Poor Clares in the Franciscan Tradition	12 Alexa Canady, MD 1st Black Neurosurgeon	13 Sr. Maude Petre British Theologian, Author: <i>Modernism, Its Failure and Fruits</i>	14 Sr. Irene Fitzgibbon 19th c. Founder: New York City Foundling Hospital	15 Edna Ferber Pulitzer Prize Winning Author: <i>So Big</i> <i>Assumption of Mary</i>	16 Marilyn Joy Waring Feminist Economist, Author: <i>If Women Counted</i>
17 Raïssa Maritain Early 20th c. Philosopher and Poet	18 Sojourner Truth Abolitionist, Feminist, Famous Speech: <i>Ain't I a Woman?</i>	19 Simone Weil 20th c. Mystic, Philosopher, Author: <i>Waiting on God</i>	20 Carolee Schneemann Contemporary Visual Artist	21 Alice Garg Advocate for Abolishing the Caste System in India	22 Willa Beatrice Player 20th c. Educator, Civil Rights Activist	23 St. Rose of Lima 16th c. Peruvian Sister who Ministered to the Poor
24 Clara Maass 19th c. Nurse who Sacrificed her Health to Study Yellow Fever	25 Sumi Haru Actress, Advocate for Equal Rights for Asian Actors	26 US Women Get the Right to Vote (1920) <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	27 St. Monica of Hippo Patron of Mothers <i>Ganesh Chaturthi</i>	28 Lydia of Philippi Early Christian Leader and Benefactor	29 Dr. Maria Zavala Valladares Activist for Latina Access to Medical Careers	30 Sr. Jeanne Jugan 19th c. Founder: Little Sisters of the Poor
31 Tz'u-his 19th c. Regent of China						

Mary's Pence Grants



Project Rainbow Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah

Supporting and Empowering the LGBTQIA+ Community

Project Rainbow Utah envisions a Utah where every LGBTQIA+ individual feels they belong and are safe. *Project Rainbow Utah* fosters visibility for the LGBTQIA+ community through flag campaigns, promotes inclusivity through civic dialogue and training, and provides crucial funds and other development support through a Community Fund.

The large banner in this photo was created in response to a board member living in a rural Utah town whose pride flags were getting stolen. A friend gifted it to this individual and placed it on her roof to avoid theft. In this photo, the banner is being carried in the 2023 Utah Pride Parade in Salt Lake City. *Project Rainbow Utah* uses the flag as a symbol of resilience and tenacity among the LGBTQIA+ community in Utah.



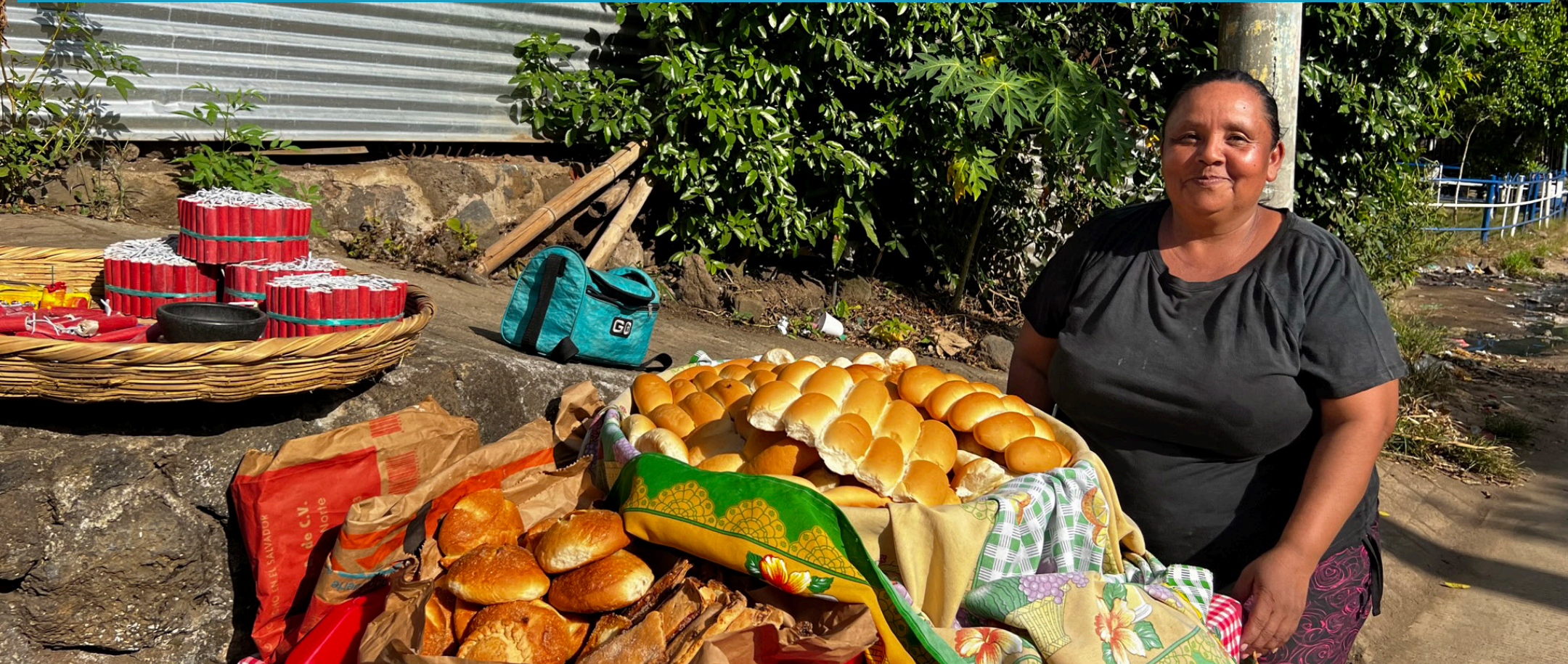
Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

September/Septiembre 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Ela Ramesh Bhatt Indian Advocate for Women's Rights Labor Day	2 Annie and Sarah Delaney Civil Rights Pioneers, Authors: <i>Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First Hundred Years</i>	3 St. Teresa of Calcutta Nobel Prize Winner, Cared for the Sick and Poor of India	4 Gertrud Heinzelmann 20th c. Swiss Feminist Birth of Muhammad begins at sundown	5 Give Us Bread and Roses Textile Strike (1912)	6 Jane Adams 19th c. Women's Rights and Peace Leader
7 Kiran Bedi 1st Woman to Join the Indian Police Service Grandparents' Day	8 Nativity of Mary of Nazareth	9 Louise Patterson 20th c. Political Activist	10 Lillian Wald Early 20th c. Nurse, Human Rights Activist World Suicide Prevention Day	11 Remember Worldwide Victims of Terrorism	12 Ngoan Le Founder: Asian American Institute	13 Antonia Pantoja, MD 1st Latina Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom
14 St. Catherine of Genoa 15th c. Mystic, Author: <i>Life and Doctrine</i>	15 Shirley Graham Du Bois Civil Rights Activist	16 Mary Beth Edelson Activist, Feminist	17 St. Hildegard of Bingen 12th c. Doctor of the Church Mystic, Artist, Healer	18 Helen Zia Activist for Asian LGBTQ+ Rights	19 LaDonna Harris Founder: Americans for Indian Opportunity	20 Billie Jean King Professional Tennis Player, Feminist
21 Ethel Percy Andrus Educator, Elder Rights Activist, Founder of AARP International Day of Peace	22 Liu Sola Chinese Musician Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown Navratri begins First Day of Autumn	23 Mary Church Terrell Founding Member of NAACP	24 Dorothy Stang, SND Martyred Advocate for Environmental Justice in Brazil	25 Remember the 16th Street Church Bombing by the KKK Victims: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol McNair	26 Mary Brave Bird Lakota Activist for Indigenous Rights	27 Phua Xiong, MD Founder: Quick Urgent Care, First Hmong-Owned Medical Clinic
28 Ada Deer Asst. Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs (1993-1997)	29 Gabriela Silang 18th c. Leader in Filipino Movement for Freedom from Spain	30 Ruth Cheney Streeter Advocate for Women's Rights				

ESPERA Program



Asociación Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Pequeños Productores Organizados (CESPPO)

Santa Tecla, El Salvador

Cultivating Fair Trade and Gender Equality

The *Asociación Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Pequeños Productores Organizados (CESPPO)* is a network of small farmers and business owners in El Salvador focused on fair trade, land rights, and environmental issues. Founded in 2012, *CESPPO* equips its members through learning opportunities and community organizing, with a particular emphasis on gender equality. Through the *ESPERA* partnership, women are supported in developing their economic initiative through funding, education and networking.

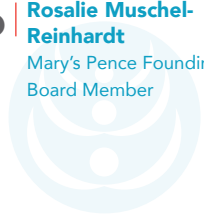
In the photo is Maira Ramos, a hard working member of the Zunsa cooperative within *CESPPO*. She lives in Zunsa Canton and sells sweet bread, French bread, and fireworks in the local market and on the main street of her community.



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

October/Octubre 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 St. Thérèse of Lisieux Doctor of the Church, Mystic Yom Kippur begins at sundown	2 Käthe Kollwitz German Artist Whose Works Depict the Impact of Poverty and War Dussehra	3 Penny Lernoux Champion of Latin American Poor	4 Kek Galabru, MD Cambodian Defender of Human Rights
5 Maya Lin Designer of Vietnam Veterans Memorial	6 Rosalie Muschel-Reinhardt Mary's Pence Founding Board Member 	7 Our Lady of the Rosary Sukkot begins at sundown	8 Vilma Martínez Civil Rights Activist	9 St. Mary Joseph Rogers Founder: Maryknoll Sisters	10 Aparna Basnyat Humanitarian and Reformer	11 Eleanor Roosevelt First Lady (1933-1945), Humanitarian International Day of the Girl Child
12 Ann Petry Author: <i>The Street</i>	13 Mary Williams Equal Rights Activist, Author: <i>The Lost Daughter, A Memoir</i> Shemini Atzeret begins at sundown Indigenous Peoples' Day	14 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz 17th c. Mystic, Poet Simchat Torah begins at sundown	15 St. Teresa of Ávila Doctor of the Church, Mystic, Author: <i>The Interior Castle</i> International Day of Rural Women	16 Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins Indigenous Tribal Leader, Author: <i>Life Among the Paiutes: Their Wrongs and Their Claims</i>	17 Mae Carol Jenison 1st Black Woman to Travel in Space	18 Violeta Barrio de Chamorro Leader of Nicaragua (1991-1997), Brought Contra War to a Close
19 Ellen Malcolm Advocate for Equality, Founder: EMILY'S Lis	20 Sisters Martyred in Liberia: Mary Kolmer, Shirley Kolmer, Kathleen McGuire, Agnes Mueller, Barbara Muttrat Diwali	21 St. Ursula 4th c. Martyr	22 Barbara C. Harris 1st Woman to Become an Anglican Bishop Birth of the Bab begins at sundown	23 Shahla Sherkat Iranian Publisher Birth of Baha'u'llah	24 Barbara Rouse Chief Justice of the Superior Court of MA (2004-2009)	25 Irene Sendler Nurse who Served in Polish Underground in WWII
26 Juliette Gordon Low Founder: Girl Scouts	27 Carrie Chapman Catt Early 20th c. Suffragist	28 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Suffragist, Abolitionist	29 Maxine Hong Kingston Chinese American Author: <i>The Woman Warrior</i>	30 Abigail Adams Founding Mother of the US	31 Catherine Hoffman Founder: Youth Peace and Justice Corps Halloween	

Mary's Pence Grants



League of Women Voters Minneapolis

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Advocating to Protect and Expand Voting Rights

The *League of Women Voters Minneapolis (LWVM)* is a women-run, non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government. *LWVM* works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through voter engagement, civic education of the general community, and advocacy for women. Their 3rd Mary's Pence grant helped increase voter registration and public policy education in wards 4, 5, and 9 of Minneapolis.

This photo was taken at a voter registration event at Mayflower Church in Minneapolis. *LWV Minneapolis* held this event last year to educate and register voters.



Mary's Pence
Funding Women. Changing Lives.

November/Noviembre 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Olympe de Gouges 18th c. French Feminist, Abolitionist All Saints' Day Día de los Muertos
2 Rosemary Radford Ruether Feminist Theologian, Mary's Pence Founding Board Member Daylight Saving Ends All Souls' Day	3 Anne Knight 19th c. Feminist, Abolitionist	4 Sr. Janemarie Luecke Mary's Pence Founding Board Member Election Day	5 Margaret Cavendish 17th c. British Philosopher, Writer	6 Sr. Jeanne Chézard de Matel 17th c. Mystic	7 Marie Curie Nobel Prize in Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911)	8 Fanny Kemble Author: Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1938-1939
9 Diana L. Hayes Theologian Specializing in Womanist and Black Theology	10 Lynda Van Devanter National Women's Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America	11 Sr. Catherine McAuley 19th c. Founder: Sisters of Mercy Veteran's Day	12 Mary Astell Feminist, Author: <i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i>	13 Juliana Dogbadzi Advocated to Abolish Religious Slavery in Ghana	14 Julia and Celina Ramos Martyred in El Salvador	15 Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace (2003) Organized by Crystal Roh Gawding, Leymah Gbowee, Comfort Freeman
16 Margaret Hassan Aid Worker in Iraq International Day of Tolerance	17 Winson Hudson Civil Rights Activist	18 Wilma Mankiller Chief of Cherokee Nation (1985-1995)	19 Emma Lazarus 19th c. Author: <i>The New Colossus</i>	20 Nora Kizer Bell Proposed a Feminist Perspective to Medical Ethics Transgender Day of Remembrance	21 Presentation of Mary	22 St. Cecelia 4th c. Musician, Martyr
23 Our Lady of Peace Mary of Nazareth, Bringer of Peace	24 Las Mariposas The Maribal Sisters, Martyred Opposing Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic	25 International Elimination of Violence Against Women Day International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26 Emma Goldman 20th c. Speaker and Writer on Women's Rights	27 Dorothy Day Pacifist, Advocate for the Poor, Author: <i>The Long Loneliness</i>	28 Elizabeth Kenny 20th c. Pioneer of Physical Therapy	29 Shirley Chisholm 1st Black Woman in Congress
30 Mary Walker, MD Civil War Surgeon First Sunday of Advent				Thanksgiving		

ESPERA Program



Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto

Suchitoto, El Salvador

Committing to Women's Rights and Emotional Wellness for the Long Term

Concertación is the largest of our ESPERA partners, with over 300 members from the Suchitoto area. *Concertación* works in the community through the lenses of reproductive and sexual health, economic solidarity, organizational development, and the right to a life free from violence. *Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto* was founded in 1991, following the country's armed conflict, to guarantee women's rights and make them visible in the municipality.

Carolina and Lidia, in the photo, are enjoying a day of rest and fun during an emotional wellness retreat. Emotional Wellness is a focus of our ESPERA work, and these activities provide women with a relaxing day where they can converse and share their concerns and experiences with others.



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

December/Diciembre 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Rosa Parks Civil Rights Activist	2 Jean Donovan, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford Maryknoll Sisters Martyred in El Salvador	3 Patty Mink Advocate for Women and the Poor	4 Edith Cavell Nurse in WWI, Executed as a POW	5 Remember the Alabama Bus Boycott (1955)	6 Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ Feminist Theologian
7 Cynthia Maung Physician, Humanitarian	8 Sr. Mary Aloysia Hardey Catholic Educator Buddha's Enlightenment Immaculate Conception	9 Ruby Dee Entertainer, Civil Rights Activist	10 Emily Dickinson 19th c. Poet International Human Rights Day	11 Marie-Marguerite d'Youville Founder: Sisters of Charity, Montreal	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Patron of the Americas Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 Ella Baker Civil Rights Activist
14 Catherine de Hueck Doherty Social Worker, Founder: Madonna House First Day of Hanukkah begins at sundown	15 Senai Sarihan Malaysian Human Rights Attorney	16 Margaret Mead Anthropologist Las Posadas begins	17 Amy Carmichael 20th Century Missionary to India	18 Clara Hale Humanitarian, Cared for Orphans	19 Sacagawea Indigenous Guide for Lewis and Clark	20 Madam C.J. Walker Entrepreneur, Philanthropist
21 Emma Tenayuca Latina Labor Leader First Day of Winter	22 St. Frances Cabrini Founder: Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart	23 Sr. Mary Antoinette, DW Missionary, Martyr in Africa	24 Hortense Powdermaker Anthropologist Christmas Eve	25 Mary Gives Birth to Jesus Christmas	26 Our Lady of Chiquinquirá Patron of the Andean Region of South America First Day of Kwanzaa	27 Eve Ensler Feminist Activist, Playwright: <i>The Vagina Monologues</i>
28 Arundhati Roy Author: <i>The God of Small Things</i>	29 Sr. Thea Bowman Educator, Scholar, Evangelist	30 Remember Families Living in Poverty	31 Sr. Marie Neal, SND Sociologist New Year's Eve			