



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

# Annual Report and Calendar of Women 2026

# Letter from the Executive Director

*This is my last letter as Executive Director of Mary's Pence, I will be retiring by the end of January.* I'm so proud to have been part of this work for 17 years. We are excited to welcome a new Executive Director in January, more to come.

In this annual report we have made an effort to make a connection between the work of our two programs, which on the surface look very different. As we reflected on this we spent time comparing how we support our grantees and ESPERA partners, and what needs their work is filling in women's lives. The comparison is quite striking. I hope you take the time to read about it in the following pages.

*We know there continues to be a strong need for this work.*

We have increasing demand in both the Grants program and ESPERA.

- We've seen a 500% increase in demand for grants in the US, with over 500 requests for 20 grants in the past year.
- There is ongoing interest from new groups in Central America and Mexico to join ESPERA. We grew from 12 partner organizations three years ago to a total of 19.

Our current culture and politics are challenging. Many of our US grantees are feeling vulnerable financially and targeted for their identity or their work. Some of our partners in Central America are facing oppressive governments, increased administrative burdens placed on them by authorities, and repression of work that relates to human rights and women's rights.

When I joined Mary's Pence ESPERA was just beginning and now it is thriving, supporting over 700 women in creating economic security, establishing women's leadership in the communities, planting family farms, and fostering health and emotional wellness. Staff accompany women through visits and *encuentros*, or gatherings.

The Grants program has gone beyond the dollars to provide virtual networking opportunities for grantees, and hosting an annual grantee gathering. In both programs, we have always chosen to go into deeper relationship with those we support.

*These times call for persistence and love.*

Our work is based on the values of dignity, justice and solidarity. The longer I've done this work, the more strongly I know that love and respect for all, no matter their background, color, faith or views, is key. And the more strongly I feel that community building is essential. When people feel part of a community, both a strong cultural community, and a part of a bigger, inclusive and democratic community, the less they are drawn to individualism



*Katherine spending time with grantee partners in the backyard after a shared meal, continuing conversations and exchanging insights about their work.*

and extremism. Healing and building community are our goals.

*Our work is more important than ever, built on love.*

I'm grateful for all the women who have been part of Mary's Pence, especially Sister Maureen Gallagher OP, who was among our founders and was the first staff person in 1987. I'm indebted to the many staff, board, volunteers, and donors for their work and financial support. And I am grateful for our grantee organizations and ESPERA partners who sow the seeds of love into this work.

As I step away, I have confidence that the work we have nurtured together will continue to grow and bear fruit, guided by love, hope, and the commitment of all who carry it forward.

Blessings,



Katherine Wojtan



*Katherine sharing a moment of connection with an ESPERA participant from El Salvador during her 2024 visit to Central America.*

## Mission and Vision

### Mission

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

### Vision

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

## Values

### 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 in 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 involved in creating solutions.



# Staff and Board

## 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

## 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** (1937-2025)

**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)

**Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz** (1943-2012)

## ESPERA Staff in Central America

**Mabel Martínez Arriaga** ~ ESPERA Program Lead  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Brenda Pérez** ~ ESPERA Economic Initiatives Advisor  
Suchitoto, El Salvador

**Eva Martínez** ~ ESPERA Promoter  
Suchitoto, El Salvador

**Sonia Casco** ~ ESPERA Program Assistant  
La Esperanza, Honduras



*Mary's Pence Staff And Board members at the October 2025 board meeting in Minnesota.*

## 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*

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

**Emma Tacke** ~ Executive Committee Member /  
West Hollywood, California  
*Political Science and Gender Studies Graduate*

**Amparo Martínez Ruiz** ~ Mexico City, Mexico  
*General Counsel at Tiendas Tres B*

**Auxiliadora Salgado** ~ León, Nicaragua  
*Accountant Experienced in Community Projects  
Focused on Children and Women*

**Grace Koleczek** ~ Bloomington, Minnesota  
*Chaplain in the Twin Cities South Metro Area*

**Halima Hamud** ~ Boise, Idaho  
*Community Organizer and Advocate*

**María Raquel Valencia** ~ Suchitoto, El Salvador  
*Center Director, Vocational Technical Training*

**Sr. LaKesha Church** ~ Redlands, California  
*Teacher at Aquinas High School*

**Nohely Álvarez** ~ Hyattsville, Maryland  
*Postdoctoral Associate at Georgetown University*

**Sara A. Osman** ~ Bloomington, Minnesota  
*Human Rights Lawyer - Fulbright Research Scholar*

# Financial Report

## Financials

Fiscal Year 2025: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

### Income

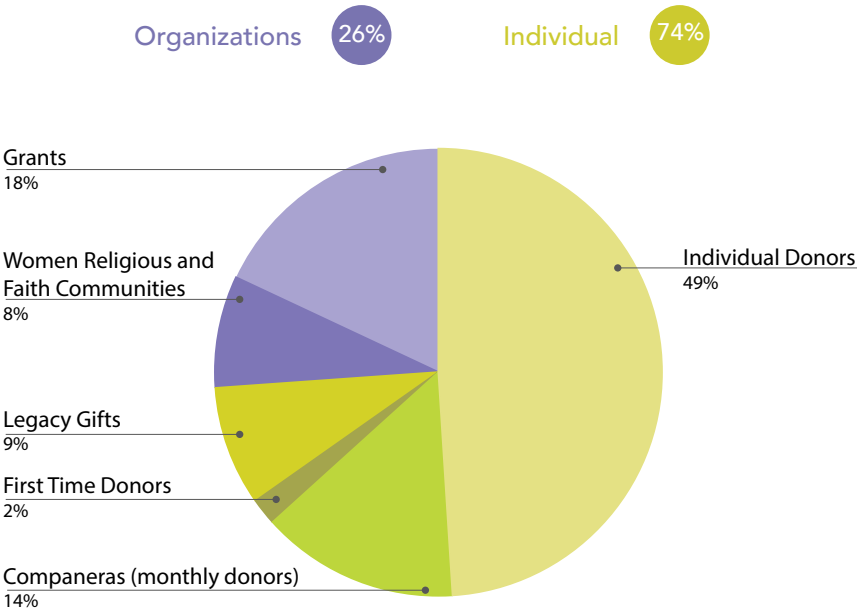
Contributions.....	\$805,004
Estate Contributions.....	\$77,388
Investment Income, Net.....	\$35,438
Total Revenue and Support.....	\$916,860

### Expenses

Program Expenses.....	\$849,480	(81%)
Management and General Expenses.....	\$60,205	(6%)
Fundraising Expenses.....	\$143,534	(13%)
Total Operating Expenses.....	\$1,053,219	

Change in Net Assets.....\$(136,359)

## Our Donors



## 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 monthly, an audit of Mary's Pence is conducted once a year by a CPA firm specializing in nonprofit organizations. A copy of our 990 is available on our website. For more information, visit: [maryspence.org/about/financials](https://maryspence.org/about/financials)



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.

## Donor's Quotes

"Raised on a farm, I witnessed women making things happen! Discovering Mary's Pence through their calendar, I knew immediately it was an organization to support: small women's groups making big impacts in their communities."

Michelle H.

"I am proud to support Mary's Pence because I know my donation goes to help women become economic participants, benefitting them, their families, and their communities."

Jeanne Bender, Mary's Pence donor for 25 years

"I give to women's organizations because I believe in a fair and just future for all. Women play a key role in creating the communities where personal growth and solidarity flourish. As I thought about this, I realized it feeds my soul and gives me even more hope in these difficult times to support and nurture women's organizations."

Mary Lee Fitzsimmons, Mary's Pence donor for 28 years

# Two Programs, The Same Goal

At Mary's Pence, the work we do through both our U.S. Grants program and the ESPERA program in Central America and Mexico is guided by the same goal: improving women's lives. The needs of women are common across boundaries - economic security, fully participating in society, health and wellness, and safety from gender based violence. However, how we support the work on these issues may look different by region, because contexts differ. But the building blocks of support are the same.



*Members of Southern Project Hustle relaxing together at the Givers Revival retreat after a day of retreating in Louisiana.*



*Women from Guatemala, members of ESPERA, enjoying a relaxed day playing basketball, sharing laughter, and being in community together.*

## How We Support Women Through ESPERA and Mary's Pence Grants

### We Provide Financial Support

In Central America and Mexico, our grants create lending pools and fund capacity-building initiatives, while in the U.S., grants address underlying issues of injustice and create long term change.

### We Fund Grassroots, Women-Led Organizations

In both programs we support community-based, women-led organizations committed to social justice and improving the lives of women.

### We Build Capacity

Across both programs, we invest in training, infrastructure, and resources for women's

organizations, including office space and equipment, as well as skills-building workshops and coaching.

### We Are Responsive to Needs

We trust local organizations and leaders to decide what their communities need most. We provide support and resources for their priorities.

### We Build Community

Connection and collaboration make the work stronger. We bring women and organizations together through gatherings and networking opportunities that foster peer support, shared learning, and stronger collaboration.



The Issues and Needs We Address are Common Across Borders

To live a full and joyful life, we all need the same things - economic security, full participation, health and emotional wellness, and freedom from violence. The differing circumstances in the United States vs. Central America and Mexico require different means to achieve these goals. Here are some examples.

Needs We are Addressing	ESPERA (Central America & Mexico)	Mary's Pence Grants (U.S.)
Economic Security	Women receive funding and training to invest in small businesses. Community-managed lending pools provide opportunities for women to create businesses where formal jobs are scarce.	<i>Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights</i> strengthens low-income parents' economic security by offering skill-building workshops on rights, advocacy, and financial empowerment.
Rights to Full Participation	We partner with 19 women's groups representing local communities, offering peer support and collective advocacy. Women gather and together gain confidence to speak up in their organizations, communities, and families.	Grants fund civic engagement, such as get-out-the-vote efforts by <i>North Carolina Hmong Women Association</i> , and legal advocacy through <i>ROOT Legal</i> , helping women raise concerns within the justice system.
Health and Emotional Wellness	The Medical Assistance Fund supports women with illnesses or accidents that cause high costs or temporarily affect income. Emotional wellness workshops help women overcome challenges, build confidence, and pursue their goals.	<i>Georgia Black Doula Network and Training Institute</i> is dedicated to eradicating maternal and infant mortality experienced by Black families and improving maternal health outcomes in the state of Georgia.
Protection from Gender-Based Violence	Income-generating opportunities, psychological intervention, and emotional wellness support have allowed some ESPERA women to leave abusive relationships.	<i>Kind Hearted Women's Society</i> advocates for visibility and justice around missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Mary's Pence remains responsive - funding and supporting work that is improving the lives of women. We are grateful for the women doing the hard work in their communities, and for the many supporters who trust us to use their dollars to make the world a better place.



Women from Guatemala sharing a joyful group activity that fosters connection.



A group of Missouri Disability Empowerment advocates smiling and posing for a picture at the Capitol.

# Mary's Pence Grants: The Power of Showing Up Together

Mary's Pence shows up with intention, responding to real and dynamic needs of women (cis women, trans women and nonbinary people) by investing in grassroots organizations that help communities flourish in solidarity and justice. Our network of leaders, donors, partners, and volunteers is rooted in mutual trust. Donors know their support reaches groups with deep community ties, and grantees know we listen and walk alongside them. This mutual trust allows us to achieve more than any of us could accomplish alone. **It creates a community where support is generous, connection is meaningful, and social justice is achieved through partnership and solidarity.** Together, we are creating the world we wish to live in.



Grantees and Mary's Pence Staff at the 2024 Grantee Gathering in Minnesota.

“This early vote of confidence opens doors, validates the mission and helps the girls in the program feel the strength of a broader community standing behind them.”

Sarah Jakle, Executive Director of *DemocraShe*

“Mary's Pence was one of our earliest funders, providing three years of small but vital seed support when *IRMS* was little more than a vision. Their belief in women-led organizations working toward systemic change gave us our first general operating funding to begin to develop the volunteer organization into a sustainable entity.”

Dr. Alex DiBranco, Executive Director of the *Institute for Research on Male Supremacy*

## We Support Grantees in the U.S. By:

Providing Financial Support	\$157,500 in grants and \$15,750 in capacity-building grants
Funding Grassroots Organizations	Funded 23 small organizations with budgets under \$25,000. We are often their first grant.
Building Capacity	<p><b>Capacity Building Grants</b></p> <p>Funded 21 capacity-building grant requests for essential non-program needs such as training, equipment, retreats, communications tools, and consulting support.</p> <p><b>Trainings and Gatherings</b></p> <p>Hosted a Grantee Gathering with 19 participants from 9 organizations, featuring guest sessions on fundraising, administration, grant writing, evaluation, work-life balance, and communications. Grantees shared their expertise in policy and advocacy, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and community organizing.</p> <p>Hosted 3 grant writing workshops.</p>
Being Responsive to Needs	<p>We fund the issues women identify, responding to their needs across justice-focused issues.</p> <p>We keep our application simple and provide all information and application materials in Spanish.</p> <p>We talk with our grantees regularly throughout the year to understand needs.</p>
Creating Community	<p>Grantees are welcome to our Third Thursday Mid-Day Meet-Ups to discuss issues and share experiences.</p> <p>We facilitate peer networking opportunities, connecting grantees with similar missions.</p> <p>The work of the organizations we fund is focused on building strong local communities.</p>



# Mary's Pence Fiscal Year 2025 Grantees

## Fall 2024

**Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice**

*Micanopy, Florida | 3rd Grant*

**Chicago Hospitality Accountability and Advocacy Database Project (CHAAD)**

*Chicago, Illinois | 1st Grant*

**DemocraShe**

*Los Angeles, California | 1st Grant*

**Georgia Black Doula Network and Training Institute, formerly Atlanta Doula Collective**

*Atlanta, Georgia | 1st Grant*

**Idaho Justice Project**

*Boise, Idaho | 1st Grant*

**LitShop**

*St. Louis, Missouri | 2nd Grant*

**Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER)**

*Olympia, Washington | 2nd Grant*

**Sacramento Poderosas**

*Sacramento, California | 1st Grant*

**The Curve Foundation**

*Oakland, California | 1st Grant*

**Tight Lipped**

*Evanston, Illinois | 3rd Grant*

**Trans Housing Initiative**

**St. Louis (THISTL)**

*St. Louis, Missouri | 2nd Grant*

## Spring 2025

**Altagracia Faith and Justice Works**

*New York, New York | 3rd Grant*

**CLUTCH Inc.**

*Nampa, Idaho | 1st Grant*

**Hattie B. BWIP (Hattie B. Black Women in Progress)**

*Sierra Vista, Arizona | 2nd Grant*

**Kind Hearted Women's Society**

*Rapid City, South Dakota | 1st Grant*

**Loretto Justice Fellowship**

*El Paso, Texas | 1st Grant*

**Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation**

*Columbia, Missouri | 1st Grant*

**National Women's Defense League**

*Germantown, New York | 2nd Grant*

**North Carolina Hmong Women Association**

*Youngsville, North Carolina | 1st Grant*

**Project Rainbow Utah**

*Salt Lake City, Utah | 2nd Grant*

**ROOT Legal - Reclaiming Our Options Together Legal**

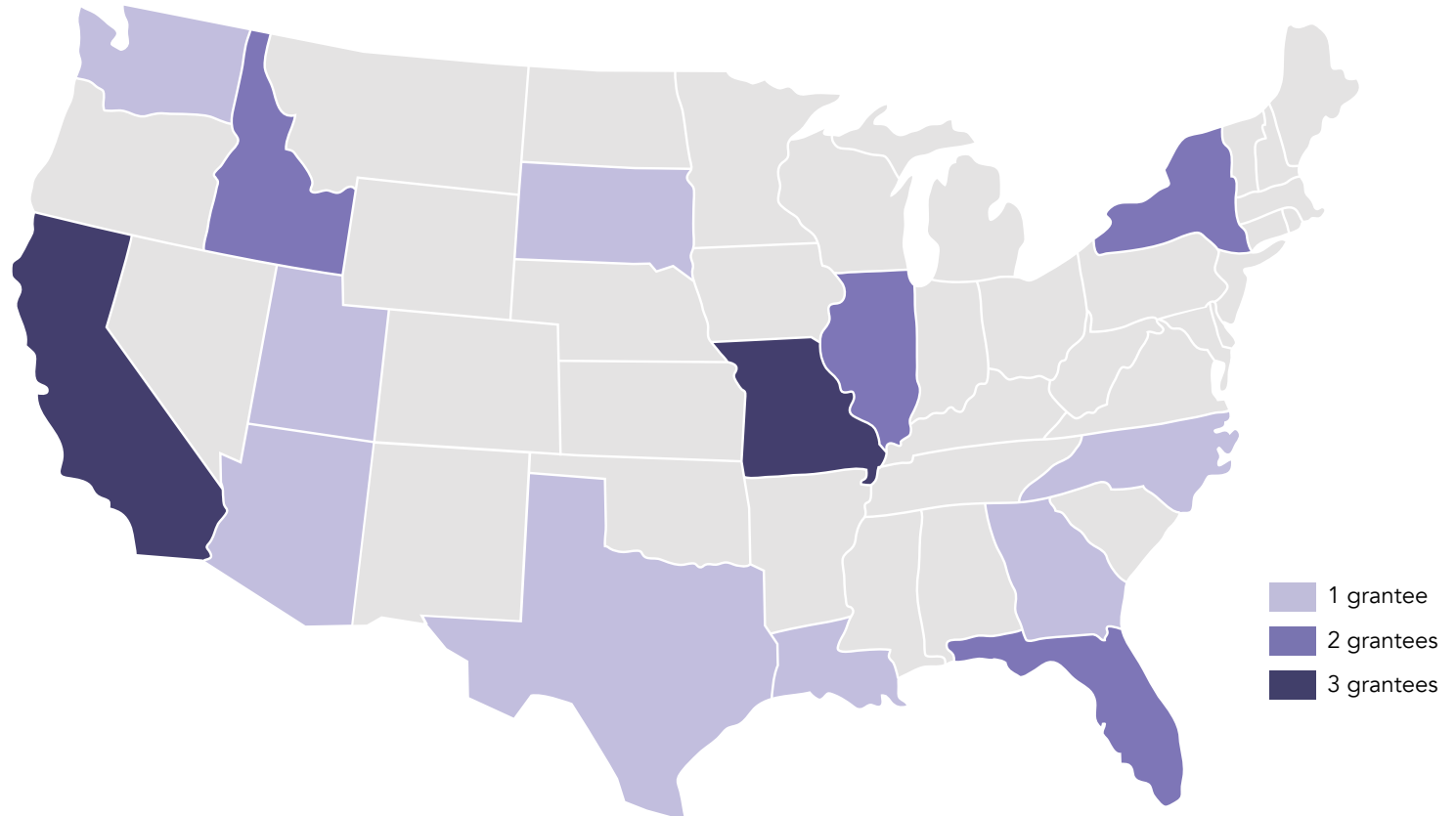
*Miami, Florida | 1st Grant*

**South Asian Women Project**

*East Elmhurst, New York | 2nd Grant*

**Southern Project Hustle**

*New Orleans, Louisiana | 1st Grant*



# ESPERA: Economic Systems Providing Equitable Resources for All

For 17 years, the ESPERA program has partnered with women's organizations across Central America and Mexico. Through accompaniment, funding, and skill-building, we work to improve women's lives. This support helps address local needs and the systemic barriers that affect rural and Indigenous women.

**Focused on economic security, women's leadership and strong organizations, family farming, and emotional wellness, ESPERA continues to grow.**

We are excited to welcome two new partners in Honduras: *Fundación Intibucana de Desarrollo (FUNIDE)*, which strengthens women's economic opportunities through savings groups and emotional well-being, and the *Center for the Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (CPTRT)*, which fosters healing and economic self-determination through small food production initiatives. Both align closely with ESPERA's values and will benefit from ongoing support and accompaniment.



Woman from Malguara, Honduras, harvesting beans (FUNIDE).

## We Support Our Partners By:

Providing Financial Support	<b>Grants</b> \$149,137 in grants awarded for projects emerging from organizations' Annual Operating Plans. <b>Lending Pool and Loans</b> \$241,295 in loans provided to 559 women from locally owned lending pools. <b>Stipends to Leaders for Work in the Local Communities</b> 16 women received payment for coordinating ESPERA activities.
Funding Grassroots Organizations	19 partner organizations actively participating in the ESPERA program.
Building Capacity	<b>Supporting Businesses</b> 21 business skills workshops, attended by 238 women 28 visits by ESPERA staff to support the development of business skills Monitored and coached 56 individual women's businesses 93 women participated in farmers' markets organized in partnership with ESPERA. <b>Strengthening Leadership and Operations</b> 28 visits supporting local leaders to manage loan pools and program focus areas. 4 ESPERA Local Leadership Council meetings in El Salvador; discussing Annual Operating Plans, ecofeminism, legal and political contexts, and emotional wellness.
Being Responsive to Needs	<b>Family Farming</b> 113 women from 5 groups in El Salvador participate in community farming to address food insecurity. <b>Health and Emotional Wellness</b> 651 women from 17 groups engaged in emotional wellness initiatives. 5 women received crisis counseling, and 7 women received medical assistance.
Creating Community	4 Information Exchanges for women to share yearly experiences and learnings. Every ESPERA meeting and workshop provides opportunities for women to connect, collaborate, and build community.

# 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 Organizadas de El Salvador - Apopa

Partner since 2013

*Apopa, El Salvador*

### Asociación de Mujeres Organizadas de El Salvador - San Julián

Partner since 2013

*San Julián, El Salvador*

### Asociación de Mujeres Organizadas de El Salvador - Santo Domingo

Partner since 2013

*Santo Domingo, El Salvador*

### Asociación de Mujeres Organizadas de El Salvador - Victoria

Partner since 2013

*Victoria, 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*

### Santa Rita de Casia

Partner since 2017

*Tonacatepeque, El Salvador*

## 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*

## Mexico

### Red de Mujeres Morelenses por una Economía Solidaria

Partner since 2009

*Morelos, Mexico*

## Nicaragua

### Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral (CEPROSI)

Partner since 2008

*Nindirí, Nicaragua*

## Honduras

### Centro de Prevención y Tratamiento de la Tortura - CPTRT

Partner since 2025

*Choluteca, Honduras*

### Fundación Intibucana de Desarrollo - FUNIDE

Partner since 2025

*La Esperanza, Intibuca, Honduras*

### Grupo Emprendedor La Epifanía

Partner since 2012

*Tegucigalpa, Honduras*

### Grupo de Mujeres Lencas de Chinacla-GML-CH

Partner since 2023

*La Paz, Honduras*





# ESPERA Program



Photo by Clara Chavarria.

## Santa Rita de Casia Tonacatepeque, El Salvador

### Women Standing Together and Organizing

In August 2024, members of the ESPERA partner organization *Santa Rita de Casia* gathered in Cantón Veracruz, in the Tonacatepeque district of San Salvador, to check in with one another.

The women have been part of the ESPERA program since 2016, originally through ACOMEST, another Mary's Pence partner in El Salvador. In 2020, they chose to establish their own identity as *Santa Rita de Casia*, allowing them to select their own leaders and guide their collective vision. Since then, they continued participating in ESPERA, forming and managing their own lending pool and strengthening their work by creating an annual plan and participating in emotional wellness workshops, with the support and accompaniment of Mary's Pence.



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# January/Enero 2026

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



# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo courtesy of North Carolina Hmong Women Association.

## North Carolina Hmong Women Association

*Youngsville, North Carolina*

### Celebrating and Preserving Hmong Culture in North Carolina

The *North Carolina Hmong Women Association* strengthens the voices of Hmong women and girls through education, advocacy, research, and leadership development, while preserving and celebrating their cultural heritage.

Their Mary's Pence grant supported a community needs assessment to identify pressing challenges faced by the community. The goal was to ensure that solutions are relevant, actionable, and rooted in the community's experience, and to provide data to advocate for resources and policy changes in North Carolina.

This image depicts volunteers at the 2024 Hmong New Year Celebration.



## Mary's Pence

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# February/Febrero 2026

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

# ESPERA Program



Photo by Clara Chavarria.

## ACOMEST

*Tonacatepeque, El Salvador*

### Small Shops, Big Commitments

ACOMEST was founded in 2011 in response to the violence faced by women in their municipality, creating a space to defend their rights. Starting with informal gatherings in homes, churches, and parks, the group became a formal organization in 2012.

In 2018, with support from Mary's Pence, ACOMEST secured its own location, creating a space for workshops, discussion groups, and training in rights defense, and environmental and spiritual health. We continue to support ACOMEST with funds for projects such as home gardens and leadership development.

In the photo, Rosa Amelia, sells clothing in a small traveling shop that she sets up in the public square.



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# March/Marzo 2026

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



# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo courtesy of Annie Rosenkranz, Loretto Justice Fellowship Director.

## Loretto Justice Fellowship

*El Paso, Texas*

### Advancing Justice in El Paso

The *Loretto Justice Fellowship* works at the intersection of complex challenges, including migration, climate change, healthcare, and political polarization. Guided by community-identified needs, the *Fellowship* and its collaborators invest in and partner with students from local universities, creating meaningful opportunities to advance justice and make a tangible impact.

As a cohort, Fellows are accompanied and supported as they participate in workshops on trauma-informed practices, resilience skill-building, advocacy, and networking, among others. This image depicts Fellows presenting in a community setting, where they share information about their work in El Paso.



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# April/Abril 2026

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

# ESPERA Program



Photo by Clara Chavarria.

## ASMUR

Bajo Lempa Region, El Salvador

### Rural Women Leading Change and Empowerment

*Asociación de Mujeres Rurales 'Olga Estela Moreno', ASMUR*, was founded in 1995 to defend women's rights and address social challenges faced by rural communities. Legally established in 2003, it brings together diverse women — homemakers, former combatants, peasants, and single mothers — who share the strength of being fighters. Its mission is to promote women's empowerment through organization, gender violence prevention, economic autonomy, and emotional well-being, building a path toward justice and dignity.

Silvia is pictured with her grandson. She runs a small store selling necessities and sweets, which supports her family and contributes to the local economy.



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# May/Mayo 2026

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

# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo by Frabes "Franco" Stevens, founder of The Curve Foundation.

## The Curve Foundation

Oakland, California

### Elevating Queer Women and Nonbinary Voices

*The Curve Foundation* envisions a world where all lesbians, queer women, transgender, and nonbinary people feel valued, supported, and connected. They uplift and celebrate the stories and cultures of these diverse communities. *The Curve Foundation* organizes *Lesbian Visibility Week*, *the Curve Archive*, and *The Curve Award for Excellence in Lesbian Coverage*.

"Looking back on the last 34 years, I'm most proud that we were able to carve out a space for queer women where there wasn't one, elevating and providing a platform for marginalized voices, and leaving this platform and history as our legacy." — Franco Stevens. The image depicts members of the 2024 Fellowship for Emerging Journalists.



## Mary's Pence

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# June/Junio 2026

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



# ESPERA Program



Photo by Clara Chavarria.

## Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto

Suchitoto, El Salvador

### Advocating for Women's Rights for 34 Years

*Concertación de Mujeres de Suchitoto* was founded in 1991, in the aftermath of El Salvador's armed conflict, to guarantee women's rights. Through programs centered on women's economic solidarity, organizational strengthening, reproductive health, and the right to a life free from violence, *Concertación* continues to advance the dignity of women.

Among its members is Deysi, who owns a beauty salon. With loans from ESPERA, she has upgraded her salon's infrastructure and equipment, enabling her to expand her business and deliver higher-quality services to her clients. In the photo, Deysi is braiding Clara's hair; Clara is a former Mary's Pence staff member.



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# July/Julio 2026

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

# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo courtesy of Kind Hearted Women's Society.

## Kind Hearted Women's Society

*Rapid City, South Dakota*

### Fostering Pride in Cultural Heritage and Preserving the Lakota Ways of Life

*The Kind Hearted Women's Society (Cante Waunsilpi Wi Ta Ominiciye) is an Indigenous organization dedicated to revitalizing Lakota culture and practices, with a focus on Indigenous women and girls. Their mission is rooted in the values of respect (Wóohola), cultural revitalization (Lak'hól'iyapi), healing (Wówanyang Wicák'h'e), empowerment (Wichóni), and community (Tiospaye).*

Traditional practices such as regalia making, storytelling, and sacred ceremonies are blended with modern advocacy and leadership opportunities to inspire self-determination and resilience. The image depicts Caylee, KHWS Executive Director, getting ready to speak at the United Nations forum on Indigenous Youth Voices.





## Mary's Pence

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# August/Agosto 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>   <b>Henrietta Lacks</b> Cancer Patient, Subject of Book: <i>The Immortal Cells of Henrietta Lacks</i>
<b>2</b>   <b>Jewell Jackson McCabe</b> Feminist, Social Activist	<b>3</b>   <b>Flannery O'Connor</b> 20th c. Author: <i>Wise Blood</i>	<b>4</b>   <b>Isabel Allende</b> Chilean American Author: <i>The House of Spirits</i>	<b>5</b>   <b>St. Mary Ellen McKillop, RSJ</b> 19th c. Australian Educator of the Poor	<b>6</b>   <b>Susie King Taylor</b> 1st Black Army Nurse	<b>7</b>   <b>Lydia Villa-Komaroff</b> Biologist, Advocate for Women in STEM Careers	<b>8</b>   <b>Sr. Maureen Gallagher, OP</b> Mary's Pence Founder 
<b>9</b>   <b>St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)</b> Theologian, Martyred at Auschwitz  <i>International Day of Indigenous People</i>	<b>10</b>   <b>Geraldine Ferraro</b> 1st Woman Nominated for the Vice Presidency	<b>11</b>   <b>St. Clare of Assisi</b> Founder: Poor Clares in the Franciscan Tradition	<b>12</b>   <b>Alexa Canady, MD</b> 1st Black Neurosurgeon	<b>13</b>   <b>Sr. Maude Petre</b> British Theologian, Author: <i>Modernism, Its Failure and Fruits</i>	<b>14</b>   <b>Sr. Irene Fitzgibbon</b> 19th c. Founder: New York City Foundling Hospital	<b>15</b>   <b>Edna Ferber</b> Pulitzer Prize Winning Author: <i>So Big</i>  <i>Assumption of Mary</i>
<b>16</b>   <b>Marilyn Joy Waring</b> Feminist Economist, Author: <i>If Women Counted</i>	<b>17</b>   <b>Raïssa Maritain</b> Early 20th c. Philosopher and Poet	<b>18</b>   <b>Judge Sheila Murphy</b> Mary's Pence Founding Board Member 	<b>19</b>   <b>Simone Weil</b> 20th c. Mystic, Philosopher, Author: <i>Waiting on God</i>	<b>20</b>   <b>Carolee Schneemann</b> Contemporary Visual Artist	<b>21</b>   <b>Alice Garg</b> Advocate for Abolishing the Caste System in India	<b>22</b>   <b>Willa Beatrice Player</b> 20th c. Educator, Civil Rights Activist
<b>23</b>   <b>St. Rose of Lima</b> 16th c. Peruvian Sister who Ministered to the Poor	<b>24</b>   <b>Clara Maass</b> 19th c. Nurse who Sacrificed her Health to Study Yellow Fever	<b>25</b>   <b>Sumi Haru</b> Actress, Advocate for Equal Rights for Asian Actors  <i>Birth of Muhammad begins at sundown</i>	<b>26</b>   <b>US Women Get the Right to Vote (1920)</b>  <i>Women's Equality Day</i>	<b>27</b>   <b>St. Monica of Hippo</b> Patron of Mothers	<b>28</b>   <b>Lydia of Philippi</b> Early Christian Leader and Benefactor	<b>29</b>   <b>Dr. Maria Zavala Valladares</b> Activist for Latina Access to Medical Careers
<b>30</b>   <b>Sr. Jeanne Jugan</b> 19th c. Founder: Little Sisters of the Poor	<b>31</b>   <b>Tz'u-his</b> 19th c. Regent of China					

# ESPERA Program



Photo courtesy of Epifanía.

## Grupo Emprendedor Epifanía

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

### Faith and Economic Development are at the Heart of Epifanía

*Grupo Emprendedor Epifanía (Epifanía)* economically empowers members of its Catholic community by supporting their small businesses, including the sale of food, clothing, and household textiles.

*Epifanía's* goals are to strengthen their community both economically and spiritually. They believe economic security and spiritual grounding offer sustenance to each member and their family.

In the photo, Heydi poses in her home-based butcher shop, '*Carnicería de Heydi*.' With ESPERA's support, she has grown her sales of beef, chicken, and chorizo, expanded to selling eggs, and carefully tracked her costs and profits.



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# September/Septiembre 2026

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



# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo by Sarah Jakle, Executive Director of DemocraShe.

## DemocraShe

*Los Angeles, California*

### Preparing Future Women Leaders

*DemocraShe* empowers historically underserved, female-identifying high school students with the leadership and resilience skills necessary to thrive as leaders, voters, civically engaged citizens, and future elected officials. *DemocraShe* uses evidence-based social work methodologies to build self-confidence and resilience at a pivotal stage of a girl's development.

*DemocraShe* invests in young women through an equity lens, offering a \$15/hr stipend to ensure accessibility and build a pipeline of socially conscious leaders equipped to sustain justice work.


The image depicts some of the amazing *DemocraShe* students.



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# October/Octubre 2026

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



# ESPERA Program



Photo courtesy of CEPROSI.

## CEPROSI

Nindiri, Nicaragua

### ESPERA Program Fostering International Exchange in Nicaragua

*Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral (CEPROSI)* joined ESPERA in 2008 and has experienced substantial growth in its ability to serve as a resource for women in the communities around Nindiri, Nicaragua.

In June 2024, during one of their biannual gatherings, *CEPROSI* extended a warm welcome to Brenda and Mabel, Mary's Pence Staff, and Lucía Mendoza from ESPERA partner *ADISA* in Guatemala.

The visit focused on exchanging savings and loan methodologies under the guidance of Lucía from *ADISA*. The gathering brought together *CEPROSI*'s leadership team representing 11 communities, and included *CEPROSI*'s director, Xenia, who joined in welcoming the visitors.

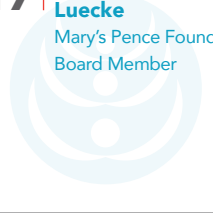


## Mary's Pence

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# November/Noviembre 2026

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

# Mary's Pence Grants



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Poderosas.

## Sacramento Poderosas

*Sacramento Valley, California*

### Using Art as Activism

*Sacramento Poderosas* uses art as a form of activism, transforming walls into spaces of resistance, healing, and cultural affirmation. As a women-led, community-driven collective, they preserve Xicanx, Latinx and Indigenous *herstories* through workshops, storytelling, and collaborative mural-making.

Ruby Chacón, one of the artists behind the murals, is creating this immigrant rights mural, which honors survival through culture, resistance to oppression, and ancestral knowledge that guides and connects the community across generations. A portion of the mural is visible in the photo.



## Mary's Pence

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# December/Diciembre 2026

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





# Mary's Pence

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