

Montgomery County, Maryland-Morazán, El Salvador Sister City Partnership
Chronology of Activities

August 7-14, 2010 – Exploratory trip to the Department of Morazán by an official Montgomery County delegation accompanied by Montgomery Sister Cities board members and representatives of several civil society organizations, and civic and business leaders.

July 26, 2011 – Signing of sister cities agreement in Morazán. A large official delegation from the county also visited and participated in or planned projects in the areas of educational and cultural exchange as well as economic development .

August, 2010-August, 2015 – the nonprofit MoverMoms organized annual intergenerational, international service trips to support a private school in Morazán.

2011- present – the committee supports the annual Salvadoran Festival of partner organization COTSA (Comunidades Transnacionales Salvadoreñas), an umbrella group of Salvadoran hometown associations.

O/A August 6, 2011-2016 – the committee supported COTSA's Salvadoran American Day Dinner with a sister cities table, as part of their partnership.

December 10, 2011 – the annual fiesta, the Montgomery County- Morazán Sister Cities committee's biggest fundraiser, is held.

March 11, 2012 – exhibition soccer match at the University of Maryland between the home team and the U-23 Salvadoran Olympic Team, including a reception for supporters.

Summer, 2012 – annual committee visit (at least one committee member who makes a personal visit to Morazán also conducts sister cities business for one or two days).

October, 2012-present – the committee participates with an interactive exhibit at the annual World of Montgomery Festival.

November 24, 2012 – annual fiesta.

Date?, 2013 – Montgomery College Global Humanities Institute faculty travel to Morazán to provide technical assistance for forming a branch campus of the national university.

Date?, 2013 – subsequent donation of ten computers as a start-up gesture for the Escuela Tecnica branch campus.

Date?, 2013 – annual fiesta.

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Date?, 2013 – annual committee visit to Morazán.

2013-2015 – 14 trips (4-5 per year) by Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to build new, and rehabilitate damaged, homes in El Barrial, El Salvador.

Summer Date?, 2014 – annual committee visit to Morazán, during which they met with the new governor.

2014 – the county nonprofit Hungry for Music raises money for instruments for Salvadoran students.

2014 – a company in El Salvador is connected with a local nonprofit for a business venture.

September 13, 2014 – the annual fiesta.

October, 2014 – former Morazán Governor Miguel Ventura visits the committee to provide an update on projects as well as describe the current socio-political-economic landscape.

October-November, 2014 – the Montgomery College Global Humanities Institute and the arts departments organize a collaborative art exhibit with Xi'an University and the University of El Salvador on display at the college's Cultural Arts Center. (Xi'an, China, is another of the county's sister cities). Former Morazán Governor Ventura and Vilma Herrera, Counselor for Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of El Salvador, attended the October 23 opening reception.

By mid-2014 – approximately \$20,000 in medical and educational equipment/supplies is donated to Morazán.

January, 2015 – To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Chapultepec Peace Accords ending the Salvadoran civil war, the Salvadoran community and Embassy of El Salvador hold a concert of local folk musicians and dancers, artistic displays, and a reception.

November 7-10, 2015 – the second largest county delegation join the committee in Morazán to present a \$12,000 donation plus medical equipment, monitor the progress of the partnership's mutual benefits, support of democratic governance, and improvements to community health in Morazán.

Fall, 2015 – the annual fiesta.

March 24, 2016 – at the annual public county sister cities meeting, former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Mari Carmen Aponte is honored by the Montgomery County Executive for her support of the county's sister city, Morazán.

Spring, 2016 – to build the Escuela Tecnica, land was transferred from the central government in San Salvador to the Department of Morazán.

Spring, 2016 – a fundraiser by the Salvadoran American community with the committee’s participation honors the humanitarian work of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero (assassinated in March, 1980), with donations for ongoing cultural exchanges and projects to increase educational opportunity and economic growth of the Salvadoran community in the county and Morazán.

August, 2016 – the committee hosts the Salvadoran embassy’s General Counsel at an outdoor “asado” (barbecue), including entertainment.

September, 2016 – the committee funds a scholarship to a Salvadoran American student at Montgomery College, as a sponsor of the Montgomery County Executive Hispanic Gala.

November 1, 2016 – radio call-in program with county’s liaison to the sister cities program and a sister cities committee member, to promote the annual fiesta.

November 4, 2016 – annual fiesta.

November, 2016 – the committee supports the celebration of Salvadorans in the Exterior Day hosted by Salvadoran Ambassador Claudia Cajura de Centeno. She presents the County Executive with the Friend of Salvadorans award in recognition of the county’s commitment to the Salvadoran American community.

Winter, 2017 – construction of Tecnica Escuela has not yet begun, but it begins holding classes in another building in Morazán.

Winter, 2017 – the partnership expands membership to Leveling the Playing Field for baseball equipment to be donated to Morazán.