



Bulletin THE GOOD SAMARITAN

May 2023

Matthew 6:8 says, “For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” We experienced this very thing when a Dutch volunteer, who year after year has come to harvest our olives with a group, told us in November, “I’ve been thinking about this for years, and I would like to help at the Center permanently. If you are in agreement, I can come in January”...

ABOUT ERIK

He is 43 years old and he is a farmer by profession and vocation! He sold the strawberry farming operation he had in Holland, and came in his car on January 3rd of this year. He started working at once, first with the olive trees and then preparing the garden land and the greenhouse. What he likes most: working the land, planting and harvesting. What most surprises him: having experienced only five days of rain in the four months since he came to Spain! In his country it rains almost every day. Of course, in this first season here, he is adapting to various challenges: the types of crops, the weather, the land, the drought, the Spanish language, the culture, etc. But he’s been learning, and the first plants have started to sprout.



GREENHOUSE REPAIRED !



Thanks to contributions from several entities and individuals from Spain and Holland, we were able to repair the greenhouse, which a strong storm had damaged several years ago. We still haven't been able to purchase certain materials, but we did acquire a tiller that we needed. Many thanks to all who have participated, we still need to cover part of the project, if anyone wants to help further with the project, their contribution will be very welcome.

Video :

<https://youtu.be/zguePg7Him0>



READY FOR THE NEXT HARVEST SEASON...

This winter we were able to clean and prune the olive trees, to optimize them for future harvests. Thanks to several volunteers and some Venezuelans, we got it done just in time (there is a date past which we are not allowed to burn the resulting debris).



VENEZUELAN'S DEPART



One of the refugee families that we sheltered at the Center is now living in Pozoblanco, with their four children all in school. The other two families moved to Cordoba, under a Spanish government program that settles refugees, until they can finalize their paperwork. It was a great experience to be able to shelter and provide for them at the Center during their first months in Spain.



HELP FOR FAMILIES



We continue to help families with food and basic supplies both in Pozoblanco and in Cabra and Manzanares. With inflation, and prices rising constantly, the families are very grateful for the help.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR NOW...


Since we closed the rehabilitation program in May of 2022, we have continued seeking the Lord's will to know what to use the facilities for, and what ministry to develop there. Meanwhile, we are emphasizing the production of olives and vegetables, because they are the only source of income we have, and no matter what ministry we carry out in the future, such production will be necessary for the Center's sustainability for the long term.



COLLABORATION

You can be part of the association's progress. There are many ways to help:

- We are looking for a couple that could take charge of the house (maintenance, cooking, cleaning, etc.)
- Volunteers who can come lend a hand with the agricultural work for periods of time at any time of the year. Right now we are suffering through a horrible drought in Spain; water is running out, and the fields, livestock and agriculture are suffering the consequences. Water has become more and more valuable, and we have had to adapt the olive trees so that when it rains they can absorb the greatest amount of water possible. But that takes manual labor. Here you can see an example of two students who came during their Easter Week vacation. :
<https://youtu.be/akf-8GEgtRU>
- Groups who want to use the facilities for a retreat or a camp experience (20 people maximum.)
- Join your prayers to ours for the future of the Center.
- And of course, you can buy olive oil or adopt an olive tree !



<https://www.buensam.org/collaborate.htm>

or contact with us : buensam2@gmail.com

Thanks!