

SVdP's Migrant Camp Support (quoting Volunteer Sue Orme)

The whole thing started with Maggie at the parish. She asked for some help and I had been thinking about joining the ministry to practice my Spanish. The various churches in the area "adopt" a migrant camp to help during the summer picking season. Ours is Campo Sergio Uno, the owner being Roy Malinski's family, a parishioner.

The first year we simply helped with Maggie's group activities. There is quite a group of Hispanic youth and young adults that do the activities, games etc. with the families, so the last two years Pam and I developed the idea of a mini-fresh market for SVDP to handle and help with activities if the other group needs us. We shop the dock with Gil each week and also go to the Mexican distribution market with Eldon Van de Hey and get produce for free and put whatever we have in excess and set up a market, tables, and have the Mexican families shop. We think the camp has about 50 families.

Also Maggie asked for help for the school kids with supplies so we now include that with our backpack project. I consider it a shared parish and SVDP project. Pat and several others go with us when they can and my husband and Eldon take the yellow truck. The last 2 years our furniture guys have sent extra chairs and odds and ends with us to give out. One of the priests comes at least twice and says Mass.

We started the 4th of July party 2 years ago and this year Gil and Jose volunteered to do the Taco dinner you saw in the pictures. It is a great example of shared work.