

# **PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION'S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
ADVENT ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR**



***DECEMBER 3-4, 2022***

# **PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

## *19<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent Alternative Gift Fair*

### *December 3-4, 2022*

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM:  
A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND OF UNDERSTANDING,  
A SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND OF STRENGTH...  
HE SHALL JUDGE THE POOR WITH JUSTICE,  
AND DECIDE ARIGHT FOR THE LAND'S AFFLICTED.  
THEN THE WOLF SHALL BE A GUEST OF THE LAMB,  
AND THE LEOPARD SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE KID...  
- *PROPHET ISAIAH*

*The prophet Isaiah spoke these words to the people of Israel over 2,500 years ago. He affirmed that the God of Israel desired justice for the poor and the afflicted. Peace and harmony will be established within God's creation, archenemies will become friends. The long-expected Messiah will deliver on the divine promise. The ideal king upon whom the Spirit of the Lord will rest, the long-awaited Messiah, was going to usher in a time when "justice will flourish, and there will be the fullness of peace forever."*

Advent helps us to prepare the way of the Lord, the Prince of Peace, Christ the healer who has the power to bring justice to the poor, reconcile the warring factions, and restore broken relationships. For us, members of Christ's Body, the Church, Christ's mission is our mission. All too often, however, the frenzy of hyper-consumerism dulls our spiritual sensibilities.

The Alternative Gift Fair is a special opportunity for us to connect the liturgical celebrations of Advent and Christmas to the Gospel's liberating message. It is designed to help you find meaningful gifts for the holidays through which you can recognize your loved ones, while at the same time, building up God's Kingdom of love, charity, and justice for all of creation.

**Our 2022 Advent Alternative Gift Fair provides an opportunity to:**

- (1) Support the work of talented artisans in dozens of countries through **Bull City Fair Trade**
- (2) Provide shelter and comprehensive wrap-around services to families experiencing homelessness, through **Families Moving Forward**
- (3) Strengthen immigrant families in Durham by providing comprehensive mental health and emotional wellness services through a local non-profit, **El Futuro**
- (4) Help individuals and families in our local communities move from homelessness to housing by providing them with gently used, donated furniture, free of charge, through Immaculate Conception's **The Furniture Project of Durham**
- (5) Support **La 72 Migrant Center**, a Franciscan-run migrant and refugee shelter in Tenosique, Mexico
- (6) Protect biodiversity in the Amazon rainforest at **Serere Eco-Reserve** through Franciscan Missionary Union
- (7) Provide emergency food, shelter, clothing, and supportive services to homeless and hungry people in need through **Urban Ministries of Durham**

## ***WHAT IS FAIR TRADE?***

In addition to honor cards, only fair trade items will be available at the fair. Fair trade is much more than a fair price! Fair trade principles include:

- ***Fair Price:*** Democratically organized farmer groups receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and an additional premium for certified organic products.
- ***Fair Labor Conditions:*** Workers on fair trade farms enjoy freedom of association, safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited.
- ***Direct Trade:*** With fair trade, importers purchase from fair trade producer groups as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and empowering farmers to develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace.
- ***Democratic and Transparent Organizations:*** Fair trade farmers and farm workers decide democratically how to invest Fair Trade revenues.
- ***Community Development:*** Fair trade farmers and farm workers invest fair trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, quality improvement trainings, and organic certification.
- ***Environmental Sustainability:*** Harmful agrochemicals and GMOs are strictly prohibited in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations.

To learn more about fair trade, visit the website of the **Fair Trade Federation** at <http://www.fairtradefederation.org>

## ***WHEN AND WHERE?***

The Advent Alternative Gift Fair will be held the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> after each Mass in the Gathering Space of the Church.

## ***WHAT IF I'M NOT GOING TO BE HERE DECEMBER 3-4?***

We will have a table set up in the gathering space the weekend of December 10-11. You may purchase greeting cards and/or contribute to one or more of the organizations on either of these weekends.

## ***HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?***

### ***Make a Contribution to a Local or Global Charity***

Make a direct contribution to one or more of the charitable organizations. Consider honoring someone with an “alternative” gift, given in his or her name to an organization or a group that serves those in need with charity, justice, or care for our common home.

- At the Fair, an honor card will be provided for your gift recipient.
- All contributions are welcome. Thank you for your generosity!

If you would like to write ONE check but make donations to MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS, use the receipt form at the end of the booklet to select the organizations, amounts for each, and the number of cards from each, then write ONE CHECK, payable to *Immaculate Conception*. Cash and credit cards also will be accepted.

**OR**

### ***Purchase a Gift***

We have offered gift opportunities that directly support the working poor or through services that enhance health and quality of life. The gifts that are available for purchase through Bull City Fair Trade have been made by organizations that assure that the dignity of the worker or farmer who produced them is paid a fair wage. These items include fair trade coffee and chocolate, and handmade art pieces that return a fair price to the artisans for their labor.

**Thank You for Supporting the Advent Alternative Gift Fair!**

**Blessed “shopping!”**



**Bull City Fair Trade**, previously known as One World Market, began in 1991 in the basement of Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, NC. Bull City Fair Trade is part of a worldwide movement that is striving to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries through the expansion of fair trade. <https://bullcityfairtrade.com>

**Fair trade is an ethical, environmentally conscious, sustainable business approach rooted in dialogue, respect, and transparency.** It is a set of principles that focuses on opportunities for disadvantaged artisans and farmers living in developing countries. Fair trade is not charity, but a long-term system that seeks justice in the international trading system.

This system of exchange seeks to create greater equity and partnership in the international trading system by:

- Creating Opportunities for Economically and Socially Marginalized Producers
- Developing Transparent and Accountable Relationships
- Building Capacity
- Promoting Fair Trade
- Paying Promptly and Fairly
- Supporting Safe and Empowering Working Conditions
- Ensuring the Rights of Children
- Cultivating Environmental Stewardship
- Respecting Cultural Identity

Fair Trade can empower the poorest of the poor by providing a holistic approach to trade and development that aims to alter the ways in which commerce is conducted. Fair Trade Organizations seek to create sustainable and positive change in developing and developed countries.





# El Futuro

**El Futuro** is a non-profit organization based in Durham and serving a 20-county central NC region that provides comprehensive mental health and emotional wellness services for Latino families in a bilingual environment of healing and hope. Our mission is to strengthen families to live their dreams. We were formed in 2005 by a team of young psychiatrists when they realized that services of this type were not available to the Spanish-speaking population of North Carolina.

El Futuro now serves more than 2,000 individuals and families each year. With donors' support, El Futuro has grown each year to serve an average of 11% more clients than the previous year. We measure improvements in two aspects: social and family roles (92% of clients see significant improvements) and clinical stabilization (85% of clients see significant improvements).

Please view the video below to learn more about our organization:

[Learn about our mission at El Futuro - YouTube](#)

## Your contribution of:

- \$20 buys a quiet toy for a child whose parents are receiving therapy and helps encourage interactive play
- \$50 provides coffee & churros for our long line of people waiting to be seen in our clinics
- \$100 helps support a Lazos Fuertes virtual parenting education workshop for clients
- \$250 provides someone in need with a one-on-one therapy session with complete wrap-around services

If you wish to make a donation to only **THIS ORGANIZATION**, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***“Immaculate Conception”*** with ***“El Futuro”*** in the memo line and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write **ONE** check but make donations to **MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS**, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.



**Families Moving Forward** is the primary agency in Durham focused on addressing the needs of families with children who are experiencing homelessness. FMF has served over 300 families since its formation in 2016 with the merger of Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network with Genesis Home. Immaculate Conception has been partnering with FMF, and DIHN before that, for 25 years. It is a critical ministry allowing parishioners to provide compassionate service and hospitality, as they witness to the human dignity of all in our community.

FMF is a leader in Durham and throughout North Carolina in addressing the impact of homelessness on children. Its two-generation approach recognizes both individual needs as well as the needs of the family as a whole, combining interventions for parents and children to interrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Your gift will help FMF provide life-changing interventions, skills, and opportunities for families in its emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and aftercare programs.

If you wish to make a donation to only **THIS ORGANIZATION**, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***“Immaculate Conception”*** with ***“Families Moving Forward”*** in the memo line and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write **ONE** check but make donations to **MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS**, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.



# THE FURNITURE PROJECT *of Durham*

**The Furniture Project** is a ministry of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church dedicated to furnishing housing for families and individuals recovering from homelessness, incarceration, or other volatile living arrangements. Parish volunteers collect donated furniture and household goods for later delivery to those who have secured housing but have no means to furnish the space to make it a true home. We serve anyone in Durham who meets this need, without regard to their creed or identity.

The Furniture Project helps furnish upward of 50 homes each year, meeting a range of needs from simple replacement of furniture, to complete furnishing of couches, tables, beds, dressers, and cookware. All donations are provided completely free, as well as delivered and arranged entirely for free by volunteers.

## Examples of how your donation can benefit The Furniture Project:

- \$20 - basic housewares such as dishes, flatware, cups
- \$50 - basic cookware such as pots and pans
- \$80 - lightly used couch
- \$100 - lightly used mattress or box spring
- \$150 - a month of storage for donated furniture

If you wish to make a donation to only THIS ORGANIZATION, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***Immaculate Conception*** with ***Furniture Project*** in the memo line and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write ONE check but make donations to MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.





## LA 72 MIGRANT CENTER

### *A Franciscan Migrant and Refugee Shelter in Tenosique, Mexico*

**La 72** is a Franciscan project dedicated to the comprehensive care of migrants and refugees who flee abject poverty, hunger, violence, and the powerful environmental and political forces that wreak havoc on vulnerable people. Over the last eleven years, the Franciscan Migrant and Refugee Shelter in Tenosique, Mexico - La 72 - opened its door and cared for more than 100,000 people, the vast majority of whom are of Central American origin. The Center's mission is to welcome, comfort, and accompany vulnerable migrants and refugees.

La 72 is Mexico's first migrant shelter to cater to LGBTQ migrants. Many of them are fleeing life-threatening situations in Central America. The Center provides humanitarian assistance with meals, lodging, medical care, clothing, basic hygiene items, psychosocial care, information on human rights, as well as legal assistance. Over the last three months, 1,232 migrants and refugees were offered shelter, food, and medical attention.

**Here are a few examples of how your donation could assist with the mission of La 72:**

- \$20 US = 100 diapers
- \$50 US = supplemental food for 200 meals
- \$100 US = 1 week of cleaning supplies
- \$500 US = 25 sleeping pads
- \$1,000 US = housing for long-term volunteers for 6 months

If you wish to make a donation to only **THIS ORGANIZATION**, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***"Immaculate Conception"*** with ***"La 72 Migrant Center"*** in the *memo line* and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write **ONE** check but make donations to **MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS**, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.



## SERERE ECO-RESERVE

### *Protecting Biodiversity in the Amazon Rainforest*

**Serere Eco-Reserve** is located at the foothills of the Andes mountains. It is home to an amazing variety of birds and animals, including several jaguars. The Serere is adjacent to Madidi National Park in the Amazonian rainforest of Bolivia. Madidi is considered to be one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. It is home to over 1,000 species of birds, which is more than can be found in all of North America.

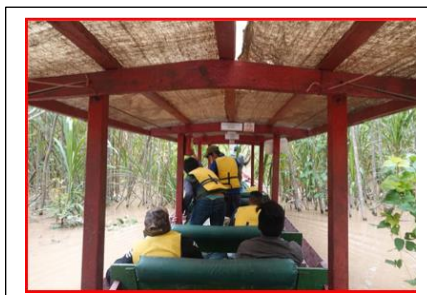
This extraordinarily rich biodiversity, however, is rapidly being lost to illegal logging, poaching, and destructive gold mining. A prominent Bolivian conservation activist, Rosa Maria Ruiz has worked tirelessly over the last 50 years to protect the Amazon rainforest and safeguard its rich biodiversity. Rosa Maria's multi-year consultation effort with the local indigenous communities played an instrumental role in establishing Madidi National Park. You can read more about Rosa Maria Ruiz's impressive conservation work in partnership with the Franciscans at <https://hnp.org/eco-bolivia-and-protecting-biodiversity>

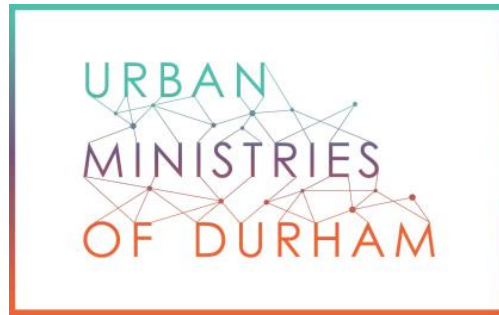
Some of Immaculate Conception's parishioners met Rosa Maria Ruiz in person two months ago when she visited Durham. Here is a short video of an interview taken during her recent visit to our parish. [Learn More About Rosa Maria Ruiz - YouTube](#)

Your donation offered through the Franciscan Missionary Union will go toward a purchase of a new \$7,000 motor for the boat that will be used to patrol the protected area around Serere and keep at bay the illegal loggers and poachers.

If you wish to make a donation to only **THIS ORGANIZATION**, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***"Immaculate Conception"*** with ***"Serere Eco-Reserve"*** in the memo line and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write **ONE** check but make donations to **MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS**, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.





**FOOD, SHELTER AND A FUTURE**

**Urban Ministries of Durham** connects with the community to end homelessness and fight poverty by offering food, shelter, and a future to neighbors in need. Established in 1983, the program will help anyone in need and assists more than 6,000 men, women, and children each year thanks to thousands of donors, including our parish. UMD is the primary public homeless shelter in Durham for single adults and the backup shelter for families. Case managers work closely with clients to help them obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible and secure a steady income—often through employment. Staff also connect shelter residents with other supports to promote wellness and long-term stability.

UMD's Community Café serves nearly a quarter million meals a year to shelter residents, unsheltered homeless, and others who are hungry. Its Food Pantry and Clothing Closet distributes food, diapers, hygiene items, and gently-used clothing to more than 500 low-wealth households per month. Many parishioners are deeply involved in the work of UMD. Meals for the hungry and homeless are served in the café one Saturday a month by our church.

**Here are just a few examples of the power of your donation to UMD. Your contribution of:**

- \$45 will pay for one night of shelter for a homeless person plus meals for a day
- \$100 will enable a shelter resident to secure a valid ID so they can obtain a job
- \$250 will furnish a move out-kit of sheets, pillows, pots, pans, and other needed items for a client exiting into housing
- \$500 will pay for a meal for 200 men, women, and children who are hungry

If you wish to donate to only **THIS ORGANIZATION**, we accept cash, credit cards, or you may write one check directly to ***Immaculate Conception with Urban Ministries of Durham*** in the memo line and return it at the Gift Fair.

If you would like to write **ONE** check but donate to **MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS**, use the form to select the organizations, specify the amounts for each organization, and the number of cards from each organization, and write one check to ***Immaculate Conception***.

# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent Alternative Gift Fair December 3-4, 2022

1. If you wish to make a donation to ONE ORGANIZATION, you may write one check directly to Immaculate Conception with the name of the organization in the memo line.

2. If you would like to make donations to MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS, use this form to select the organizations, specify the amount and number of cards from each organization, and write ONE CHECK to Immaculate Conception.

I am making the following gifts:	Amount	# of Cards
<input type="checkbox"/> El Futuro	\$_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Families Moving Forward	\$_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture Project	\$_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> La 72 Migrant Shelter	\$_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Serere Eco-Reserve	\$_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Ministries	\$_____	_____

Please provide the following information to ensure the accurate preparation of your tax receipt:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Received \$\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ and Check Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Credit Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ and Last 4 Digits of Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_