

2017 GRANTS TO SUPPORT CAMINO INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims on the Camino is pleased to report to you the results of the 2017 Camino Infrastructure Grants Program. Our Grants Program is one of the ways that our members can give back to the Camino and fulfill our mission as an organization to develop and improve the infrastructure of the Camino. Since 2008, membership dues have enabled American Pilgrims to make grants in an amount exceeding \$300,000 in support of a variety of Camino projects. Thank you for supporting this program with your membership dues!

In 2017, American Pilgrims has reached a new highpoint with the approval of ten grant requests in the total amount of \$51,431. Assisted by thirteen reviewers, applications that met program qualifications were reviewed and recommendations for the most needed and well planned projects were made to the Board. The thirteen reviewers are all American Pilgrims members and include former board members, hospitaleros, Chapter leaders, Gathering presenters and other active members.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Zaragoza - \$1,000

This grant will fund installation of signage on the Camino route in the province of Zaragoza. This portion of the Camino along the River Ebro is not adequately marked, which is necessary for it to receive UNESCO heritage designation, and to promote its use among pilgrims. The Association is involving the towns along the route in development of this historic route.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino Mozárabe de Santiago, Vía de la Plata, Zafra y Comarca - \$6,000

The 36-bed albergue in Zafra, north of Seville on the Via de la Plata, does not have bathrooms on the dormitory floor. This grant will fund construction of two bathrooms.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de la Casa de Galicia de Cordoba - \$6,000

About 2,000 pilgrims currently traverse the Camino Mozárabe in the province of Cordoba and the number is increasing. The climate causes yellow arrows and less permanent signs to deteriorate resulting in inadequate signage. This grant will fund the installation of 60 granite signs on a 244 km segment.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Cadalso de los Vidrios (AACSCV), Madrid - \$6,000

This grant will enable completion of construction of Albergue Betania in Cadalso de los Vidrios. This 14 -bed albergue is in an old parish house in a small town on the Camino del Sureste. According to local police, numbers of pilgrims pass through, looking for a place to stay. Local businesses and the association have raised a substantial amount of the funds needed for construction, which began last year.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Miranda de Ebro - \$4,400

This albergue is on the Camino route that runs northeast of Burgos, almost directly north of Santo Domingo and about 75 km from Burgos. Formerly a run-down municipal albergue, ownership was transferred to the local association, which is renovating and furnishing the building. This grant will cover purchase of furnishings. additional building supplies, appliances and furniture to complete renovation and furnishing of the albergue.

Asociación Jacobea de Málaga - \$4,032

With the increase in numbers of pilgrims on the Camino Mozarabe, rehabilitation of the Albergue Parroquial de Peregrinos de Antequera is necessary. The grant will contribute towards the costs of installation of new plumbing and connection to city water and sewer.

Asociacion de Peregrinos Via Lusitana - \$6,000

Albergue de Peregrinos de Alpriate is a 10 bed albergue on the Camino Portugues on the first stage north of Lisbon in an old building in a small village. The albergue opened in 2016 but requires much more renovation to repair the leaking roof and replace the damaged ceilings. There are no other places to stay on this stage. Based on statistics from 2016, they expect more than 500 pilgrims in 2017 and 750 in 2018. The local association has raised funds to cover the difference between the request and the budget.

Albergue "Domus Dei" de Foncebadón - \$6,000

Many of our members have volunteered as hospitaleros at this albergue and have experienced the lack of a bathroom in the building housing the hospitalero bedroom. This grant will fund the construction of a bathroom for the resident hospitaleros in this very busy albergue.

Asociación Jacobea de Almería Camino Mozárabe- \$6,000

The town of Alboloduy has donated a building to be reconstructed into an albergue on the Camino route between Granada and Almeria. The project is proposed by a very active, strong association and is supported by the community. They project 750 pilgrims will use the albergue in 2018.

Asociación Galega de Amigos del Camino de Santiago - \$6,000

This grant will contribute funds towards the remodeling of an existing structure into an albergue in San Antonio de Hebron on the Camino Portugues before the city of Padron. The project will add thirty beds. The albergue is a donativo, serving more than 1,500 pilgrims per year currently. The applicant expects that 2,000 pilgrims can be served after completion of the project.