



SEACM's mission is to welcome refugees and immigrants of all nationalities and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

2315 Placer Street
Redding, California 96001
(530) 241-5802
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

In Memoriam to our Founder, Barbara Grosch


Barbara Grosch, our friend and founder of SEACM passed into Eternal Life on May 19, 2021. It is only fitting, therefore, that we dedicate this issue of the newsletter to Barbara, her vision for this ministry, and a bit of the history of SEACM. Yet this is no easy task. It is nearly impossible to separate the story of SEACM from Barbara as a person. They are woven together seamlessly.

Barbara had already worked with SEAsian families in Oakland prior to moving to Redding with husband Bob in 1987. When she found that both Mien and Hmong families lived here as well, she envisioned an interfaith ministry that would help these newcomers from refugee camps adapt and thrive in this community. In concert with the wife of the Presbyterian minister, she approached three church bodies for funding: Presbyterian USA, All Saints Episcopal Community Services, and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Once funds were secured, a broad array of services to assist SEAsian families in their new life were offered. Importantly, services were also offered to the broader community in order to build bridges of understanding and resolve any issues that might (and did) arise. The nonprofit began as Southeast Asian Christian Ministry (SEACM). Barbara served as its director for the first eight years, took a few short years off the board while working in the education field, and then returned to serve as a board member up until the time of her passing.



Adapting to change is one of the hallmarks of a long-term, successful ministry. Looking back, one can see three distinct periods in the life of SEACM. During the first years, support from Church World Service deepened the level of service SEACM could provide. Support included reunification for families separated by war, training and establishing teams in churches to welcome new arrivals and serve as co-sponsors, and organizing housing, food, clothing, classes, interpreters for new arrivals. Resettlement took place within a 100 mile radius of Redding.

1994 the focus of the ministry shifted as refugee camps were closed and reunification stopped. The name of the nonprofit was shortened to SEACM and became a ministry to refugees and immigrants of *all* nationalities. In the years following, more Latino families arrived in Redding. Fortunately, a fluent Spanish speaking volunteer appeared and now serves as SEACM director. She is the only Board of Immigration Appeals accredited consultant north of Sacramento in the state of California and works in concert with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

 (Continued on back page)

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Your Giving Makes a Difference

Many, many thanks for your continued support. Your giving helps support the continued operation of SEACM. Immigrants and refugees need our prayers and support, now more than ever.

You may mail your donation to:
SEACM, 2315 Placer Street,
Redding, CA 96001 or visit our
website (above) to give online.



(Continued from front page - "In Memoriam...")

Today, our cultural and political landscape has changed once again. We have adapted and will continue humbly to serve people who have often been labeled as the "other." In the midst of much "false teaching" about refugees and immigrants, amplified by social media, SEACM remains steadfast by helping immigrants in completing citizenship application forms, preparing for the citizenship test, completing and filing DACA forms, reuniting family members, navigating the health care system, and much more.

Barbara's vision for SEACM represents a true enactment of some of her favorite scripture. She often referred to Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." In public addresses to community groups, I often heard Barbara open minds by sharing Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." With inspiration from Barbara and faith in Christ, this ministry will continue for many years to come.

-Bill Rich, Editor

SEACM Facts and Figures for 2020

Each year, SEACM does an end of year assessment of how we are doing...who did we serve, what types of services were provided, how much assistance was given, and what countries did our clients come from? We thought you would like to see the compiled data from 2020, as follows:

1. Scheduled Appointments with Director = 136 (Drastically reduced due to COVID-19 protocols)
2. Applications for Family Unity = 67
3. Citizenship Applications = 32
4. Green Card Renewal Assistance = 44
5. DACA (Deferred Action Childhood Arrival) = 69
6. Webinar/Trainings = 38
7. Immigration Meetings = 6

People served by SEACM in 2020 came from the following 25 countries:

Mexico, Laos, Philippines, Viet Nam, China, El Salvador, Canada, Peru, Niger, Colombia, Thailand, Fiji, India, Syria, Namibia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Ecuador, Denmark, Iraq, South Africa, Honduras, Scotland, England, and Ethiopia