



UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT MERCY
Build A Boundless Future



Volunteering in a migrant shelter in Guatemala

*Report by
Joan Smith*



Friday, April 7, 2017 10 a.m. Briggs 005

In February of 2016 we hosted Joan Smith who spoke about her motivation to work at Casa del Migrante in Guatemala with the Scalabrini religious order. That was before she did her service. Now she is back to give a report of her experience. As she writes, reflecting on her experience: *“Working nine months in a migrant shelter on the Guatemala/Mexico border I was surrounded each day by Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and Hondurans in transition, people who had left their homes in search of life. Young men traveled in groups of friends or sometimes alone. Women traveled with children, or photos of their children. Whole families came through, grandmothers and babies and everyone in between. A few beautiful times, families were reunited at our door. Every day, I saw and felt the violence of poverty and the deep desire for life that pushed people through unimaginable challenges. I look forward to sharing more about my experience at Casa del Migrante and engaging in conversation about the current political discourse around immigration.”* Joan Smith has a Master’s degree in Communication from Oakland University. Come hear her speak about her experience in Guatemala.

This event is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive (CLASA), and King-Chavez-Parks (KCP) Successful Retention and Transition Program. University of Detroit Mercy McNichols campus is at 4001 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit MI 48221. For more information contact Dr. Gail Presbey at 313-993-1124, or by email at presbegm@udmercy.edu. See CLASA events at: <http://www.udmercy.edu/academics/special/clasa/event-calendar.php>