



BOULDER MANTE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

P O Box 1426
Boulder, Colorado 80306

<http://boulder-mante.org>

ANNUAL REPORT

February 29, 2016

“Our Sister City relationship is a long-term relationship—
“We are filled with concern for the safety of your citizens and would like to reiterate our desire
to continue our friendship and mutual support” Norris Hermsmeyer, Chair

Background: The Boulder Mante Sister City relationship is an outgrowth of an annual medical campaign to Ciudad Mante, Mexico developed by Boulder Community Hospital (BCH) and several outreach programs with Boulder Rotary and First Presbyterian Church in Boulder. Boulder City council approved the relationship on Dec. 7, 1999. A formal proclamation uniting the cities of Mante and Boulder was signed in Mante in January, 2000 and again in Boulder on July 7, 2000 at Folsom Stadium.

Medical Mission suspended: Shortly after the medical team had been in Mante in 2010, reports became available of drug related gang activity in the Mante area. Boulder Community Hospital began monitoring the situation in Mante later that spring. In the summer of 2010, David Gehant, President of Boulder Community Hospital cancelled the 2011 mission. Updates from our contacts in Mante indicate the situation continues to be hazardous for residents and potential visitors to the city.

Visitors from Mante: From Oct. 7-13, the Boulder Mante Sister City committee was able to host two guests from its corresponding committee from Mante, Mexico. One of our guests was Dr. Guillermo Sainz, a family doctor and the other was Luis Alberto Cruz, an architect, owner of the local television station and past President of the Mante Rotary Club.

Their purpose in visiting Boulder was to reignite the sister city relationship in Mante by taking back stories and video about Boulder to share with the residents of Mante. During their visit, they were able to tour several Boulder schools, Boulder Community Health, the Municipal Complex, First Presbyterian Church, and a variety of other points of interest. Of particular interest was visiting the Mante mural on the north side of the Dairy Center, the Sister City Plaza

at Broadway and Canyon and the Sister City Peace Garden between the Municipal Building and the Boulder Library.

Our Mante guests wanted to offer to Boulderites that the door was open for people to return to Mante. They stated the height of the criminal activity occurred about five years ago. For the last two years, conditions have changed dramatically. People now enjoy normal routines including shopping, visiting and going to events in the evening. As an example of current conditions, it was noted that Rotary had hosted some 18 youth exchange students in recent years with no safety issues. Guillermo was particularly interested in having guests return to Mante for fishing for black bass. Alberto and Guillermo agree. Mante is not paradise, but it's as safe as any place in Mexico these days.

During their stay in Boulder, the following topics were discussed.

- Reigniting the teacher exchange between the two communities. It was noted that several teachers still remain in touch by email.
- Our guests viewed the “city in a suitcase” created by the Boulder Museum of History which has many items from Mexico that can be loaned out to student and scouting groups who wish to learn about Mante and Mexico. Alberto and Guillermo are interested in creating a “city in a suitcase” about Boulder which could be circulated in Mante.
- Guillermo reported that the dental equipment purchased by Boulder resident donations and a grant from Rotary have been incorporated into service in Mante and are valuable tools for dentistry in Mante.
- The Mante guests were introduced at Boulder Rotary, where that club was reminded of the many Rotary grants that had been completed to equip the hospital, rehab facilities and clinics in Mante. The Boulder Club was reminded that they are sister clubs with Mante Rotary.
- Our Mante guests were introduced to Dr. Rob Vissers, the new CEO of Boulder Community Health. A discussion followed about smaller medical teams returning to Mante and the possible assistance Boulder Community Health might provide in equipping the new rehab facility in Mante. This could possibly be in connection with Project Cure.
- The Mante guests expressed an interest in the short term for help with speech therapy and audiology screening

As a result of this visit, it seems possible for a small delegation from Boulder to visit Mante in the near future for assessment and reconnection of our two communities and committees.

City in a Suitcase: In collaboration with the Boulder Museum of History a trunk of typical clothes, toys and souvenirs from the Mante, Mexico area has been assembled and loaned out to education venues such as scout troops and classrooms in the Boulder Valley School District.

Administration: In conformance with the requirement of the City of Boulder resolution 631, the following information is provided.

A (1) Copy of Dept. of Treasury letter stating determination of status of organization under section 501©3 is available for inspection upon request.

A (2) List of Board members:

Norris Hermsmeyer, President	Jean Bedell, Vice President
Pam Hyink, Secretary	Rich Lopez, Treasurer
Chan Mortimer	Celeste Landry
Jesper Frant	Sharon Trumpeter
Elfa Rodriguez	Jeannie DeMarinis
Andrew Moschetti	Gary Kahn
City Council Liaison: Mary Young	

A(3) By-laws of the Boulder Mante Sister City Committee state that membership is open to anyone with an interest in the work of the committee and membership shall not be denied to anyone based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a minority group, membership in a particular social group or because of expression of unpopular political opinions.

A(4) Financial report:

Starting balance, Jan 1, 2015	\$7213.54
Ending balance, Dec. 31, 2015	\$7213.54