



The Board of Directors of American Pilgrims on the Camino is pleased to report the grants awarded through the 2020 Camino Infrastructure Grants Program.

Our Grants Program is one of the ways that members give back to the Camino. Through it, we fulfill our mission to develop and improve the infrastructure of the Camino.

Since 2008, membership dues and special donations to the Grants Program have enabled American Pilgrims to make grants in an amount exceeding \$350,000. These funds have supported a variety of Camino projects.

Thanks to all of our members for supporting this program! As always, the number of worthy applications in 2020 exceeded our available funds. However, many projects that will directly benefit pilgrims and the Camino will be supported.

In 2020, American Pilgrims distributed 17 grants in the total amount of \$55,000. A team of ten volunteers reviewed qualified applications and then made recommendations to the board based on the most needed and well-planned projects. The ten reviewers are all American Pilgrims members and include former board members, hospitaleros, chapter coordinators, Gathering presenters and other active members. The following is a list of this year's grantees, with a brief description of how their grant monies will be spent.

Asociación de Amigos de los Caminos de Santiago del Sureste de Caudete - \$5,000

This grant is dedicated to repairing the exterior walls of a XIX century building to stop leaks and mitigate interior humidity. The Albergue de Peregrinos Santa Ana serves the Ruta de la Lana and the nearby Camino del Sureste.

Albergue de la Santa Cruz, Sahagun - \$5,000

The Junta de Castilla y León required a complete replacement of the plumbing system of this albergue in order to continue lodging pilgrims. In addition to securing this grant to complete their project, the Marist Fathers have raised funds from a variety of other sources. Over 6,000 pilgrims from the C. Francés and C. de Madrid stayed there in 2019.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago en Almería "Almería Jacobea" - \$2,100

This grant was awarded to Almería Jacobea to fund waymarking along 31 kilometers of the C. Levante-Sureste between Almería and Cabo de Gata.

Federación Española de Asociaciones de Amigos del Camino de Santiago - \$2,900

These funds will be used to purchase dormitory furnishings for a new albergue in Fonsagrada, serving the Camino Primitivo. The association itself restored the building.

Asociación Jacobea de Almería - \$3,350

This grant was awarded to purchase furnishings for the newly expanded albergue in Huéneja, Granada, a donativo albergue located at the end of the fourth stage on the Camino Mozárabe. They will now be able to offer 20 beds for pilgrims.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago Mozárabe Sanabrés - \$3,350

As the beneficiary of this grant, the Albergue de Peregrinos Virgen de la Carballada, Rionegro del Puente, Zamora, will be retrofitted with LED fixtures and motion detectors to improve energy efficiency. Albergue administrators will also install high efficiency heaters for this albergue on the Camino Mozárabe.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Miranda de Ebro - \$1,150

This grant was awarded for the purchase of tools and equipment that will ensure waymarking along the Vía de Bayona (from Bayonne, France, to Burgos, Spain) is in good condition. The tools will also be used for carrying out routine maintenance.

Asociación Amigos del Camino Briviesca-Bureba - \$2,900

This grant supports the purchase of bed frames, mattresses, and pillows for the Albergue Briviesca-Bureba, Burgos, also located along the Vía de Bayona. Approximately 150 pilgrims stayed in this donativo Albergue in 2019.

Asociación de Amigos Vía de la Plata-Camino de Santiago de Puerto de Béjar (Salamanca) - \$1,500

Located on the Vía de la Plata, the Albergue de Peregrinos de Puerto de Béjar was opened in 2019 as a donativo albergue. The grant funds will be used to construct storage for pilgrims' bicycles.

Asociación Amigos Camino Santiago Comunitat Valenciana - \$5,000

This grant will provide funds for remodeling a large room in an existing building into the Albergue de peregrinos el Romani, Sollana, Valencia. Located along the Camino de Levante, it will offer eight beds along with two bathrooms, a sitting room, and a small dining area. Albergue administrators hope that offering this service to pilgrims will also keep the town from being abandoned.

Albergue Parroquial Santa María del Camino, Carrión de los Condes - \$5,000

Funds were awarded to repair the bathroom used by the volunteer hospitaleros and also to repair a leaky roof in the dormitory. This much-loved donativo albergue is a very popular place for pilgrims to stay and for our members to volunteer as hospitaleros.

Associacio Gerunda: Amics del Camins de Sant Jaume - \$2,500

This grant contributes to one stage of a multi-year signage project on the revived Vía Heráclea, a historic and cultural Camino route at Perpignan at the border between France and Spain and the Catalanian Maresme coast (the Costa Brava). The regional association is expecting growth in the number of pilgrims on the route approaching from France and the contiguous part of Spain during the Holy Year.

Parroquia de Aldunate - Lumbier, Navarra - \$5,000

Funding was granted to repair the choir dome of a former church as the first step to remodel the building into an albergue. Lumbier is located between Sanguesa and Monreal on a variant of the Camino Aragonés, which passes through Foz de Lumbier, a nature preserve. There are no albergues along this route.

Associação ACB - Albergue Cidade de Barcelos - \$900

The Albergue Cidade de Barcelos, located in the city of Barcelos on the Camino Português, received funding to improve the heating system in its building. As noted in the albergue's

proposal, grant monies will ensure that the heat provided is energy efficient and will contribute to the financial sustainability of this donativo albergue.

Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de Burgos - \$4,600

This grant will fund the replacement of windows which have never closed and latched properly in the Burgos municipal albergue, Casa de los Cubos. The windows are located in the dormitories on both floors and look out into a patio. These replacements will be energy efficient. This very busy albergue served over 28,000 pilgrims in 2019, including many of our members. A number of them have also served as hospitaleros here as well.

Asociación Amigos Leopoldo Panero - \$2,900

Located in Castrillo de las Piedras, Valderrey, Leon, on Vía de la Plata, between Bañeza and Astorga, this albergue is in the building formerly occupied by the Valderrey train station. Closed in 1982, it has been repurposed into an albergue and the renovations carried out with a grant from the Junta de Castilla y León. Grant funds will be used to purchase furnishings for the dormitory. Administrators are hopeful that having an albergue in this rural setting will help this small village.

AACPS Associação Amigos do Caminho Portugues de Santiago - \$1,850

This grant will be used to fund the purchase of a water dispenser and backpack lockers to be located in the AACPS office in Ponte de Lima on the central route of the Camino Portugués. Pilgrims often arrive much earlier than the local albergue opens and these improvements will allow them to safely stow their belongings and explore the town in the meantime.

Mission: *The mission of American Pilgrims on the Camino is to foster the enduring tradition of the Camino by supporting its infrastructure, by gathering pilgrims together, and by providing information and encouragement to past and future pilgrims.*

Vision: *We inspire all who seek the spirit of the Camino to connect with the global community of pilgrims.*