

# Santiago Pilgrim House Welcome Center

*Special Project*

*Create a central gathering place for pilgrims to debrief their spiritual journey and find answers to their life questions*

## The Project

Create the Pilgrim House Welcome Center

## Duration of Project

October 2012—March 2016

## Project Leaders

Nate and Faith Walter—International Teams workers in Santiago de Compostela Spain

## Budget

\$240,250—Covers the initial part of a two-phase project that will lead to the creation of a hostel in 2016 which will offer more services and generate funds for long-term sustainability.



## “Who is God and what’s the purpose of my life?”

These are the questions asked by many of the 150,000 pilgrims each year as they make their way to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Some walk 15 miles a day for over 30 days. 90% of these pilgrims report walking the *Camino de Santiago* (the ancient pilgrimage trail) for spiritual reasons.

Sadly, most pilgrims on the Camino never get to process their pilgrimage or interact with others in a meaningful way about their questions of faith.

International Teams has a team in Santiago with a passion for pilgrims. They understand the significance the end of the journey represents for the thousands of travellers. In Santiago, the team is laying the groundwork to help these spiritual seekers. The Pilgrim House Welcome Center will be a central gathering place where many travelers will encounter the love of Jesus. Staff members will engage them with questions, encourage conversation and reflection, and invite them to consider following Jesus. The PHWC will strategically create the right environment for the right conversation at the right time and in the right place.

## PROJECT DETAILS

<b>Locate rental facility</b> <b>October 2012</b>	Find a storefront building within a 5-10 minute walk from the Cathedral of Santiago
<b>Occupy facility</b> <b>January 2013</b>	Remodel, furnish, and equip building to prepare to launch the Welcome Center
<b>Launch Pilgrim House Welcome Center</b> <b>March 2013</b>	Publicize grand opening event and begin welcoming pilgrims into this unique, strategic facility in time for Holy Week 2013

## ANTICIPATED RESULTS

**Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago** will find in the Pilgrim House Welcome Center a central gathering place. No other similar facility currently exists. Pilgrims will have space and time to tell their stories, ask questions, and reflect in a welcoming environment. They will also have access to:

- A kitchen where they can cook their own meals
- Computers with internet access
- Books and other materials to help them debrief
- Art supplies to express themselves
- A team of Christ followers to help them process their spiritual journey

**The successful launch** of this project will mean that over 20,000 pilgrims per year will be exposed to the Gospel. For many, the end of their journey will become new life in Jesus.

## Partnership Opportunities

### Give

- Facility rent, remodeling, equipment and furnishings
- Promotion, project development, management and administration
- \$4400 per month covers the monthly costs of this vital outreach to thousands of pilgrims

### Go

#### Short Term Individuals—

- Volunteer at PHWC for the summer or for a year

#### Short Term Teams—

- “Pilgrims with a Purpose” to walk the Camino and share Christ with other pilgrims

#### Long-term Workers—

- Workers experienced in marketing and public relations
- Ministry coordinator for logistics and planning creative ways of presenting the Person of Christ

### Pray

- Pray for the pilgrims on the Camino, that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to Jesus
- Pray regularly for the team, the ministry, and relationships with the Spanish community

## Use of Funds

Pilgrim House startup capital	\$126,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3000 rent per month through March 2016</li> <li>• \$500 per month utilities, insurance, internet</li> </ul>
Remodeling and installation	\$17,000
Fixtures and equipment	\$22,500
Deposits, fees and promotion	\$28,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licenses and permits</li> <li>• Contingency funds</li> <li>• Website</li> </ul>
Project development	\$46,250 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership Development</li> <li>• Administrative Services</li> <li>• Promotion</li> <li>• Travel Costs</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$240,250</b>



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**"Tender feet lead to a tender heart," according to a Finnish pilgrim**

## About the Project Leaders

**Nate and Faith Walter have a common passion—backpackers.** They met at Wheaton College, where Nate was a history major and Faith a psychology major (class of 1997). Through Wheaton's Youth Hostel Ministry, they backpacked through Europe, staying in youth hostels and sharing their faith with other backpackers. Nate participated in Youth Hostel Ministry three consecutive summers.

After graduation, Nate and Faith joined the staff of The Shelter Christian Youth Hostels in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where they helped welcome guests, meet practical needs, and share the Christian faith. This experience, combined with their previous experiences of backpacking in Europe, awakened a vision to start other hospitality ministries

in Europe that would serve travelers while inviting them to encounter and follow Jesus Christ. Nate and Faith know firsthand how God uses the journey to lead backpackers to faith in Christ.

Upon returning to the US, Nate joined Hewitt Associates, where he gained corporate experience in customer service, and in people management and development. Faith earned a Master of Arts in Religion from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and then served as the volunteer coordinator for a non-profit children's home. They joined International Teams in 2005 and arrived in Spain in 2007. Nate is gifted in shepherding and hospitality. Faith is gifted in administration and communication. They were married in 1999 and have four children.



### For more information:

Contact Project Developer, Rick Knox—847.525.8112—Rick.Knox@iteams.org  
[www.iteams.us](http://www.iteams.us)