

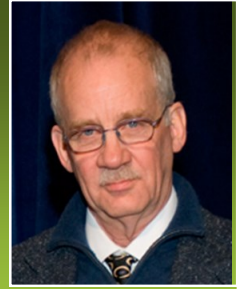


*More Than Housing . . . Hope*

# Keith Decker

## La Casa Norte Co-Founder

### Park West Furniture



Keith Decker was drafted into the Army in 1965 and in 1966, served in Vietnam as a medic in the 1st Infantry Division. Upon his return, he studied art and design and began working in furniture design and manufacturing. In 1977, Keith opened his own company, Park West Furniture, which is still in operation today. Keith continues to work with organizations on social justice issues and enjoys using art to express themes of social justice. His work has been published and is part of a permanent collection at the National Vietnam Art Museum in Chicago.

In 1990, Keith traveled to Central America to study the effects of foreign policy in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In Guatemala, he was introduced to an orphanage that was founded to care for the indigenous children that were orphaned by the civil war. This short trip was the catalyst to 22 years of work in Guatemala. In 1996, he developed an education fund that supports the educational need of the orphanage.

For ten years, Keith has organized annual work camps to Edisto Island, South Carolina where participants work on housing rehabilitation and construction projects for impoverished residents. He has served as a volunteer with the Lakewood Shelter System and at the Open Door Shelter, operated by the Night Ministry.

In 1993, he co-founded La Casa Norte which opened in 2002 and is located in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood. La Casa Norte provides resources to individuals and families confronting homelessness.

He currently live in Wilmette, Illinois.