CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter 2017

MEMO FROM MICKEY

We have just returned from a trip to Guatemala where three board members and their wives, in addition to a number of visitors, were able to spend time at the orphanage. The continued growth, health and happiness of the children was obvious to all of us.

During the last year we have taken in a few children with Down syndrome (the only ones eligible to enter an orphanage under the current law), there have been 6 children removed from the orphanage by the government, and one child has died of his anomalies. We now have 75 children. The Court Justices have decided that as of January, orphanages will be allowed to take in children at the request of families. We are planning on taking in 6-10 children over the next year (recall that we were up to 105 children before the congress passed its anti-orphanage law).

Our staffing remains the same with 5 ayudantes, 6 teachers for the school hours, 4 teachers in the afternoon for homework and activities, and three men providing guard, driving and gardening services. All supervised by our amazing Sisters!

On our visit we were able to share a piñata filled with Halloween candy, planting the annual vegetable garden, and installing a statue of the Madonna and child in the orphanage cemetery. Since it was the end of the school year, we were treated to the end of the year play presentation-one skit about the Samuri culture and one about the Aztec culture. They were greeted by thunderous applause! Additionally, the 10-11 year old soccer team is now playing competitively and winning by scores of 10-3, 16-6, 12-2 (well, you get the idea). Sister Elvisa tells me there is a great “crop” of 6-7 year old players following in the well laid footsteps.

The new school year in January will see Francisco entering the 4th year of University and Ruth (at 17!) entering the first year of University. Two more teenage boys have joined the five already in the capitol in a work study program. They live as a unit and their salaries cover their education and living expenses. They will shortly be returning home to the orphanage for the holidays. We will have 15 children in pre-school and 38 in grades 1-6, including 10 from our village. A few more students are in high school or training to be a pre-school teacher. Education continues to be our single largest budget item (at $104,000 for 2018), and is money we consider well spent!

Work on the property has included maintenance and wall tiling of the school and quadrangle areas.

All of this has been possible only because of your spiritual, psychological, and financial support. The Board, on behalf of the children, want to again thank you for your generosity. You continue to change the future for these children. In this season of thanksgiving, please think once again of these children.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS SUCCEED

The San Francisco Bay Area and Corvallis area supporters have held their annual fundraising dinners and auctions. They were both successful and each netted more than $45,000 towards the orphanage budget. The Board and children remain ever grateful for the support of our many donors.