

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Fall Newsletter, 2010

Memo from Mickey

Saludos!

I have the good fortune of having just returned from a week in Guatemala during which I visited the orphanage a number of times. I was struck by the continuing growth and progress of the children. It is wonderful seeing all these happy and healthy kids at play.

We now have 78 children. The current staff consists of the two Sisters (who are actually blood-sisters, too); our original novice, Rosa, who has happily returned; five hired *ayudantes* (assistants) from the village who come in daily to provide cooking, laundry, and cleaning services; two men who perform maintenance, driving and guarding tasks; a gardener; and, five teachers.

This year was the second year of utilizing our own on-site school. It was a most successful academic year.

The children are on school break now, but will return to classes after the first of the year. We have four teachers each morning, two of whom are joined by a third teacher each afternoon to supervise homework and provide appropriate activities. All together, these teachers are teaching primary grades (1-5) to 36 of our children and 15 children from the village. Additionally, 7 of our children go off-site to middle or high school, as will 4 more in 2011. The Sisters continue to teach at our campus preschool for 3, 4, and 5 year-old children.

(Please continue reading, over.)

Photos

This edition of the Casa de Angeles newsletter includes two pages of new photos, created by Toni Golbus. They show the joys, the progress, and the challenges of the orphanage in 2010.

The Storms of 2010

The rainy season is finally coming to an end in Guatemala after the wettest six months in recent memory. The second page of photos with this newsletter demonstrates the trauma and drama of this tropical storm season for the orphanage. Tropical storm Agatha created a river running down the street that fronts our property. The force of the flowing water and mud broke through our front gates and deposited mud all the way to the back of our seven acre property. Mattresses, bedding, shoes, clothes, etc., were destroyed. Thirty-six truckloads of mud had to be removed from the property.

Thankfully, the staff was able to remove all of the children to the second floors of the dorms, and were able to stockpile sufficient food and water for the following 48 hours, during which there was no city power nor water.

The best news is that none of the children were harmed. Other good news comes from the fact that none of our buildings were damaged to any great extent. Cleaning and

(Please continue reading, over.)

The major 2010 construction project was the building of twin dormitories to house the high school and university cohort of young adults that the orphanage is beginning to produce. The dormitories are two-story buildings with three-per-room sleeping quarters, plus sleeping quarters for the adult dorm counselor, on the second floor. The first floor contains bathrooms and showers, plus designated areas for study/homework, a computer room, an area for table games and socializing, and a laundry room.

Other recently completed projects include changing the soccer field to artificial grass, installing a diesel generator to insure uninterrupted power, modifying Casita 3 into a pre-school, and creating a newly approved cemetery area.

All of this wonderful progress has been possible only because of your support financially, psychologically, and spiritually. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the children, wants to thank you again for your generous support. You are all a blessing, as you continue to change the future for an increasing number of children in Guatemala.

Mickey Golbus, MD, President
Casa de Angeles Foundation

10th Annual Fiesta!

The 10th Annual Fiesta was held in the Bay Area on Saturday,, September 11. It was attended by an enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed wine and tapas while bidding on a wide variety of items in the silent auction. An Iranian-flavored dinner followed, along with a slide show review of the progress of the children and their loving home. \$28,500 was netted for the orphanage.

repainting has restored things to physical normality. The second positive note is that the town came to the rescue of the orphanage, in that many of the townspeople came to do the clean-up and mud removal. Clearly, they view the orphanage as "theirs," and it was their efforts that allowed a rapid return to the normal schedules of the children and staff.

This was one of the most traumatic moments of the last dozen years for Casa de Angeles. Fortunately, everything damaged was fixable or replaceable. We are thankful for the uninterrupted health and safety of the children and staff.

Corvallis Sets Record!

Thanks to an after-party single donation of \$5,000, plus other after-party donations totalling \$700, the annual fund raiser in Corvallis, Oregon, has brought in \$40,449, to date. As Casa de Angeles founding board member and party organizer Peter Hinckle, M. D., said: "**Wow!**"

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Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions, comments, or ideas. All donations to Casa de Angeles are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



TROPICAL STORM AGATHA ENTERS 32 TRUCKLOADS OF MUD REMOVE



NO SOCCER TODAY! VILLAGE NEIGHBORS TO THE RESCUE



STORM RUINED-AND NEW-MATTRESSES