

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Spring Newsletter, 2008

Memo from Mickey

A number of the board members of the Casa de Angeles Foundation have had the opportunity to be in Guatemala this spring, and to visit the orphanage. We were all struck by the ongoing growth and progress of the children.

There are 43 children now, with a bit of "coming and going:" In the last year, we had three children return to their families. In each case, the families felt they were now in a position to be able to rear the child. When that happens, we always leave the "door open," in case a family finds that they just can't cope. So, the families know that the child is always welcome back with us. In addition to the children, there are 10 adult members of the orphanage community, including one novice, six *ayudantes* (helpers,) the two Sisters, and our night watchman.

We had one child arrive recently with Kwashiorkor disease, which is severe malnutrition. That child is now a happy, chubby baby! All of the children continue to flourish in the love provided them. I can even report some growth spurts as we start hitting the "hormone years" with our oldest group of children. (However, a growth spurt in Guatemala is a relative measure.)

The level of soccer play on our new field is improving. However, I suspect the adults had better challenge the children quickly if they are to have any *(Continued over.)*

Clean Water!

Anyone who has ever been to Guatemala or to any other developing nation knows the critical importance of clean water, something that we take for granted. For our part, we have installed two 10,000 liter containers for water storage. The concept is that this reservoir system will be constantly used and replenished with clean water, and also can serve as the orphanage's water supply, should the town water system fail, which usually happens two or three times a year for a number of days. The Potable Water Project has installed a water purification system of filters and U/V treatment so that potable water is delivered to all the faucets on the property. Also, we are putting in a generator to insure that electricity needed for the water pump and U/V light is there when the town electric grid fails: Like the water system, this also happens a couple of times a year for a number of days. So, we are now assured of CLEAN CHILDREN drinking CLEAN WATER, 24/7/365!

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, September 13, 2008

Annual Bay Area Fiesta!

Saturday, November 8, 2008

New Corvallis Catered Dinner!

Memo from Mickey, cont'd.

hope of winning. School and homework continue to be major time consumers, as more than half of the children are in the public school, including two in our equivalent of junior high school. The younger ones attend the Sisters' preschool. The 'tween dormitory, with its 16 showers -- a most important addition -- is now complete. The beds are being made. Delivery and occupancy are imminent, much to the children's excitement. We have started the discussion with the Sisters, the architect, and the contractor about a vision of the "built-out" orphanage ten years from now, when we will have over 100 children ranging from newborns to university students planning their weddings and getting ready to leave the *nido* (nest). So, we have identified areas for a vegetable garden, a fruit tree orchard, and the domicile for the 30 or so children who will be in high school, trade school, and university. We are thinking now about what the design of this last major building should be.

All of this exciting progress is the result of your loving support. On behalf of the children, the Board of Directors wants to thank you again for your generosity. You continue to change the future for an ever increasing number of children.

Mickey Golbus, MD, President,
Casa de Angeles Foundation



Fosca y Laurenz!

Fosca, our calf, has spent the last four months growing like... well, like a calf. She is jet black, unlike her mother, who is brown. Fosca and her mother, Laurenz, are currently arguing about whether it is weaning time or not. At first, we wondered at the name Fosca, which means 'unruly like a cowlick' in Guatemala, but we were told by the Sisters that it means 'dark' in Catalan. Anyway, the plan is for Laurenz to have the rest of 2008 off as a feeding vacation, and to see after that about a sibling for Fosca.

Photo Page

Front and center is the youngster with the greatest growth rate, Fosca, our calf. Upper left is what happens when Sister Betsebe has the children pretend they are zebras. Lower left are the children, lead by Sister Elvira (left) and Sister Betsebe (right), shouting their traditional "adios y gracias." A reluctant-to-leave Mickey tries to blend in to stay behind. Upper right is Rebecca Preston, daughter of Paul and Karen, regular members of our surgical mission team and avid supporters of the orphanage, with a new friend. Bottom right shows our fun play structures in use. Middle right shows two children, one with severe congenital rubella syndrome and one with Down syndrome. Neither has ever stood before. The Sisters put up a support bar, teaching both children to walk along using the bar for support. We never thought we would ever see either child standing, let alone walking!

Please send your support,
questions or comments to:
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