

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Spring Newsletter, 2012

Memo from Mickey

Once again, I write this message after many of the board members of the Casa de Angeles Foundation have had -- or shortly will have -- the opportunity to be in Guatemala this spring, and to spend time at the orphanage. We were again struck by the ongoing growth and progress of the children, as well as by their increasing numbers.

There are now 101 children!!! Our orphanage community staff consists of 19 adults including one novice, 7 ayudantes (helpers), two armed guards in rotation covering 24/7, 5 teachers, a gardener, Rosa and the two Sisters. The armed guards were brought on as a result of a deteriorating security situation in Guatemala. All of the children continue to flourish in both the love and safety provided them.

There was a "hiccup" in our building plans as the construction company we were using went out of business. We have interviewed two new architect/contractors to get their ideas for the animal shelter (granja) that is the next project. They each have submitted drawings and cost estimates, and we are discussing with the Sisters how we want to proceed. In addition, there are a half dozen maintenance-type projects to be done.

After three years with our own primary school, Sister Elvisa, who oversees education issues, decided to take the developmentally delayed children into their own class where she feels she can give them more (See over.)

FRIDGE FOTOS!

The photos enclosed were all taken by one of the children or the Sisters.

Top row: "Our new well hits water and creates a temporary aquapark." "Bubbles, bubbles, everywhere."

Middle row: "One of our budding photographers in action." "Our new rabbit likes to be cuddled."

Bottom row: "A hot soccer (futbol) game breaks out!" "Our main well drilling rig operator!"

THE WELL IS DONE; WELL DONE!

One year ago,, our newsletter reported the need for a deep well at the orphanage because the city's delivery of water was irregular, oftentimes with no water for days on end. It may be possible for a small family to tolerate this, but it caused great difficulty for our family of 100-plus! Your response to our request for help was fantastic; within a short time after that spring newsletter, you had provided the funds for us to proceed.

We now have a 300-foot deep well. It tapped into the aquifer, and the original flow was an amazing 130 gallons/minute to fill our 10,000 liter reservoir whenever the city supply allows the reservoir level to drop. We are now both electricity (generator) and water (well) independent!

Memo from Mickey, cont'd:

individual attention. The K-6 children are divided into 5 classes, some of which are double classes because of small numbers. In all, the classes range in size from 5 to 13 children. This includes 34 of the orphanage children and 10 children from the village. In the afternoon, three teachers remain to supervise homework and help with the children's various school projects. For the younger ones, there is a 10 student 5-year-old pre-school class and a 10 student 4-year-old pre-school class. Additionally, there are 11 students attending 3 different secondary schools, grades 7-9. Which secondary school a student attends is chosen by the Sisters on the basis of the intellectual and maturity level of the individual.

All of this has been made possible because of your spiritual and financial support. On behalf of the children, your Board of Directors wants to thank you again for this generous support. You continue to change and brighten the future for an increasing number of well-deserving children.

Gracias!

Mickey Golbus, MD, President
Casa de Angeles Foundation

FINANCE REPORT

As you are such faithful supporters of Casa de Angeles Foundation, we want to give you a grasp of the finances of the orphanage. The foundation was established in 2000. For the first 7 years, donations averaged \$120,000 annually. For the last 5 years, donations have been averaging \$185,000 per year. The funds have been expended primarily on land purchase and construction; but, they have also have been spent on education, medical care, and some daily operation expenses. We have been tremendously aided by the Isle of Hope United Methodist Church in Savannah, Georgia, for daily operating costs. The orphanage budget is between \$150-160,000/year. The largest item is education at \$50-60,000/year.

In our first year, our education budget was the cost of a box of crayons, as our oldest child was 4-years-old!

AYUDANTES?

Who are our "ayudantes," our helpers? They are women from the local town who have been hired and trained to work at the orphanage. The practice of hiring these wonderful women has had a very positive effect on the relationship of the orphanage and the town.

The ayudantes take care of three very important daily tasks that keep the orphanage functioning: First is food preparation. We serve close to 400 meals a day, albeit a portion of those meals are bottles of milk. It takes 2-3 women to prepare these meals and to take care of the never ending stream of dirty dishes. The second task is laundry. Imagine the amount of dirty laundry generated by 100 children hard at play! Four washing machines are kept very busy. Laundry is hung out to dry, then neatly folded. The third task is daily cleaning of rooms.. So, three big jobs done by 7 women daily. Bless them. We could not function without them!

FUN FALL EVENTS

The northern California Fiesta Dinner returns this year after a one year hiatus for the volunteer staff, due to popular demand. The date is Saturday, September 8 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. 6PM start with wine, nibbles and silent auction followed by dinner, slide show, and desert. Contact Mickey to make auction donations.

The annual Corvallis, Oregon, dinner gala will be held on Saturday, November 11, at the Adair Village clubhouse. Silent auction, power point presentation, and slide show. Contact Peter Hinckle, MD, for more information an/or to make donations for the silent auction at phinckle@comcast.net, or 541.740.5788

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