

CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter 2016

MEMO FROM MICKEY

We again have the good fortune of having just returned from time in Guatemala during which two board members were able to spend a lot of time at the orphanage. It was amazing to see the continuing growth and progress of the children.

In the last 1-1 ½ years we have had 4 more children removed from the orphanage by the government. Additionally, two children with in-operable anatomic defects have died, Nerea (frontal encepheloccele) and Evan (cardiac defect and severe pulmonary hypertension).

We now have 79 children. The staff consists of the two Sisters, five hired ayudantes from the village who come in daily to provide cooking, laundry, and cleaning services, three men who perform maintenance, gardening, driving and guarding tasks, and six teachers in the morning and four in the afternoon (to supervise home work and activities of the school age children).

The children are doing very well. On our visit we were able to share a piñata filled with Halloween candy (a tradition started last fall), a large number of kites for flying on El Dia del Muertes, flowers for our cemetery on All Souls Day, and the annual planting of the vegetable garden. We were there for the close of the school year and got to see the pageant and hear songs dedicated to the importance of scarecrows for the farmer. The 9-10 year old soccer team is very good and coach Elvisa says she expects them to “rule” in their age league!

The new school year in January will see 30 preschooler and kindergarten enrollees, and 22 of our children plus 10 children from the village in grades 1-6. Our oldest student will be entering his 3rd year of University majoring in Agronomics, while two girls are in academic high schools, two girls just received certificates of graduation from Ninera school and will return to the orphanage to obtain practical experience in their area, and the last teen aged girl will be entering training to be a gym/sports teacher. Additionally, there are six teen age boys in a trade school work-school program in the capital. The seventeen children with Down’s Syndrome receive ability-appropriate

training from the Sisters. Education continues to be the single largest item in the budget (\$96,000 of 2017) and it is money spent with pride in what it is accomplishing!

From a “structural point of view” this year saw the re-roofing of the quadrangle building along with numerous smaller maintenance projects.

All of this has been possible only because of your support, spiritually, psychologically and financially. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the children, wants to again thank you for this generous support. You continue to change the future for an increasing number of children. As the number and size of the children have grown over the years, so have the financial needs grown. We continue to need your generous support, so in this season of giving please think once again of these children

ANNUAL FIESTA FUNDRAISERS REACH NEW LEVELS!

The San Francisco Bay Area supporters of the orphanage had their annual fundraising fiesta in September and the Corvallis area fundraiser was in October. A crowd of 100 at each event enjoyed appetizers and wine as they participated in the silent auction before sitting down to a great dinner and desserts. The Bay Area event netted \$62,000 and the Corvallis event netted \$57,000 for the children! This \$111,000 is well above the usual amount raised and resulted from a single donor at each of the events offering a \$10,000 challenge grant to the rest of the attendees. These two spontaneous acts of charity resulted in \$50,000 in donations and thus the record total for the events. We, and the children, remain ever grateful for the support of our donors!

WELCOME ABOARD THE BOARD

Casa de Angeles Foundation is delighted to welcome John Long to its Board of Directors. John and his wife, April, are long time supporters of the orphanage and his energy and counsel will be welcome additions.

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