

# CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

## Spring Newsletter 2017

### MEMO FROM MICKEY

We still have 87 children now in the orphanage. The reason this number is not changing (nor for the other orphanages which remain open) is the government's maintaining the law that says all children should be removed from orphanages and placed with family members. The impracticality of the law considering there is often no family or that the child is in the orphanage because the family did not or could not raise him/her, has not mattered. While the "removals" have stopped for our children, the government insists that the law is "still active". For this reason, none of the orphanages are taking in children because they do not know what the future looks like (actually, we have taken in 3 children in the last three years).

Recently, our Sisters had the opportunity to sit down with members of the Guatemalan congress and explain why the law was so harmful to the well being of Guatemalan children. In the words of Sister Betsebe, "we were listened to but don't know if we were heard". We can only hope that the congress will, at some point, realize what they have done and rescind the law.

Meanwhile, the work goes on and there are 87 happy and growing children who are receiving care and love. School has restarted with 75 children in our pre- and primary school (including 12 from the local town), and 9 going out to post primary schools. The "leader of the pack" (Francisco) is now in his 3rd year at the University studying agronomics. At the other extreme we have 11 children with developmental disabilities receiving both hydrotherapy and equine therapy sessions from professionals in these fields.

There have been a number of ongoing maintenance issues receiving attention. One lesson learned is that the bottom four feet of a wall gets especially grungy and covered with handprints, necessitating regular repainting. With age (ours) comes wisdom, and over the last few years we have tiled the lower four feet of the walls in the dining area, school and (now) the main quadrangle. These walls can be washed and the higher walls require much less frequent painting. The work that Casa de Angeles is doing is only possible because of your continuing spiritual, psychological and financial support. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the children, continues to thank you for this generous support. You continue to change the future for these children.

### GRADUATION

Two of our young ladies (Francisca and Paula) have graduated and received certificates as care-takers—approved for care from cradle to elders. We are proud of them and they will add to their CVs by assisting the Sisters

### SAVE THE DATES

The annual Bay Area fund raiser fiesta has been set for Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. As usual it will consist of a silent auction while enjoying wine and nibbles followed by dinner and a slide show highlighting the children of the orphanage. It will be hosted at Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael. If you live in the Bay Area save that date!

The annual Corvallis fund raiser has been set for Saturday, October 22<sup>st</sup>. It also will consist of a silent auction, raffles, dinner, and a slide show update. If you live in that area save that date!

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: [CASAANGELES.ORG](http://CASAANGELES.ORG)**