

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Fall Newsletter, 2009

Memo from Mickey

We have the good fortune of having just returned from two weeks in Guatemala during which we visited the orphanage a number of times. We were struck by the continuing growth and progress of the children

Amongst the fun occurrences were the planting of the vegetable garden and adding 12 fruit trees to the new fruit orchard. All plants and children were generously watered by our "wattering crew".

We now have 65 children. A new Guatemalan law restricting adoptions led to the closing of a number of orphanages that had been "supplying" children to adoption lawyers. The result for us was taking in eleven children in one week. Ten of these are rambunctious three-year-olds. We are considering buying track shoes for the staff.

The staff now consists of the two Sisters (who are actual sisters, too), three novices in training, five hired ayudantes from the village who come in daily to provide cooking, laundry, and cleaning services, one man who performs maintenance, driving and guarding tasks, and five teachers.

This last year was the first utilizing our own on-site school; it was very successful. The children are on school break now, but return to classes after the first of the year. We will have four teachers each morning, including a kindergarten for the five and six year (*Continued over.*)

Fridge Foto!

Toni Golbus took these recent photos of our prides and joys, capturing them in preschool, in a homework session, on the playground, doing gymnastics, and working in the garden.

Galas for the Kids!

The 9th annual fiesta in the Bay Area was held on Saturday, September 12. It was attended by an enthusiastic crowd of Casa de Angeles supporters, who enjoyed wine and tapas while bidding on a wide variety of items in the silent auction. Dinner consisted of Iranian kabobs and Hawaiian chicken-washed down with more wine -- followed by a new slide show review and "catch-up" on the progress of the children and their home at the orphanage. The event resulted in a net of more than \$28,000.

This year's event in Corvallis, Oregon, hosted by board member Peter Hinckle, M. D., was attracted 109 supporters. The sit-down dinner featured a raffle, a silent auction, a live auction, a slide show, and a video of the children, including their singing of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." The event raised at least \$28,000, plus elicited a separate \$5000 check from a kind donor who couldn't attend.

Memo from Mickey, cont'd.

olds, and one teacher each afternoon who supervises and helps with homework. The Sisters will continue the preschool for the two, three and four year old children. In addition, we will have one sixth-grader, four seventh-graders and one eighth-grader in middle school, plus our first student in high school. This last group of seven children attend schools outside of the orphanage, in Antigua and Guatemala City.

The major building project for 2009 was the school building, which was done in record time, for Guatemala. Pending projects include changing the soccer field over to artificial grass; installing the diesel generator to insure uninterrupted power; modifying Casita 3 into a preschool; building new animal sheds for the cow, goats, dogs and chickens; and, building a newly approved cemetery area containing four mausoleums of six crypts each, in the back of the property. The six children who have died over the last ten years -- all of whom had significant birth defects causing their shortened lives -- will be reinterred here.

The next major project will be building a dormitory to house the high school and university group of young adults that the orphanage is starting to produce. The dormitory will be a two-story building with three-per-room sleeping quarters on the second floor, plus a room for the adult dorm counselor.. The first floor will contain bathrooms and showers, plus areas designated as a study/homework room, a computer room, and a room for table games and socializing. Plans for this building are in the final stages of preparation.

All of this progress has been made possible by your support, spiritually and financially. Thank you.

Mickey Golbus, MD, President
Casa de Angeles Foundation

Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Casa de Angeles Foundation, the Sisters, the staff of the orphanage, and, most of all, the children, thank you all so much for your generous support over the years.. Each of you has been a true blessing!

As you have read in this newsletter, amazing strides have been made over a number of years to create a safe place to care for and help an ever increasing number of beautiful children of Guatemala.

Please know that virtually every dollar you contribute will continue to go directly towards serving the children and the orphanage. Your thoughtful and living gift to the Casa de Angeles Foundation this holiday season will literally change lives.

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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 full extent of the law.

We wish for you and your loved ones a happy and blessed holiday season, and all the best for you in the New Year!

