

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Spring Newsletter, 2007

Memo from Mickey

As in the past few years, 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.

We are now 40 children and 8 adults. A striking statistic is that 21 of the children are attending the local public school, including our first child, Claudia, who is in secondary school. This is a milestone for those Guatemalan children who make it that far, but I expect to be writing in a few years of Claudia's matriculation at the University! The 3-5 year olds continue to get a "head start" at our pre-school. The children function as a large family and are constantly looking out for -- and tattling on -- one another. It is great fun, and a privilege, to get to help serve at lunch time. One of the Sisters dishes out a specific amount for each child, as she knows just how much each one eats. She then hands the filled plate to us with the name of the child to whom we are to deliver it. Then all sing the Grace, signing as they go to include Katerina, who is deaf. After the meal, the children place their plates, glasses and silverware in a large plastic *(Continued over)*

Photo Montage

This issue's photo montage was created and designed by Toni Golbus. The photos were taken during March, 2007.



GODPARENTING

Some of you are aware of the Casa de Angeles godparenting program. In the Guatemalan culture, the godparent plays a central role in guiding the godchild to adulthood. As a godparent within our foundation's program, your financial support of \$25 per month provides for the long-term development of your godchild by helping to provide food, clothing, health care and education for the children. Indeed, a number of you have already volunteered to fill such a role. (Godparenting donations are used for operational support of the orphanage and are separate from other donations which are used for the construction portion of the project.)

In keeping with the Sisters' egalitarian principles, and a desire to treat all children *(Continued over)*

Memo from Mickey (cont'd.)

bucket, which is taken to the kitchen by the cook for washing. The older children go around and pick up the plates from the littlest ones or from those unable to do their own clean-up. It is a heartwarming sight.

The building projects for 2007 include the "tween-ager" dormitory which will complete the quadrangle, a soccer field, a water cistern and water purification system which will ensure both a back-up to the city water supply and that the water at all spigots is potable, and a program of brush clearing and minor repairs.

All of this is made possible only because of your continued support, spiritually and financially. On behalf of the children, the Board of Directors wants to thank you again for your generous support. You continue to change the future for an increasing number of children.

Mickey Golbus, M.D., Foundation President

LORENZO EXPECTING!

One of the major recent occurrences at the orphanage is our first pregnancy! Our cow, Lorenzo -- the name was chosen by the children in spite of the female nature of the recipient -- had a "date" in February and is expected to deliver in November. All are waiting anxiously for the "blessed event."

Godparenting (cont'd.)

the same, those of you who have also sent clothes, school supplies or Spanish language books for the library have been told that the Sisters would be told in whose name the gift was made, but that the gift was to be shared by all of the children.

Many of you who are godparenting have written to say how fulfilling you find the concept. We are delighted to hear that, and want you to know that the program also has been financially significant in that you have contributed approximately \$50,000 over the years towards the welfare of the children. Definitely, a WIN-WIN situation for you and the children.



OUR SUPPORTERS

We thought you might be interested in a few facts about your fellow donors to the Casa de Angeles Foundation. There are 766 of you (family units count as one donor), and many of you have donated many times! There are 126 of you who have cumulatively given more than \$1000 each. Of these, 11 of you have given \$5,000 - \$9,999, 5 of you have given \$10,000 - \$24,999, and 9 have given more than \$25,000. Additionally, many have contributed through the annual Abalone Fiesta in Marin and the annual Halloween Party in Corvallis, two mainstays of our fundraising program. Congratulations to each and every one of you! Your efforts have made the building of this orphanage -- and the taking in of the children -- an ongoing success story!

Casa de Angeles Foundation

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