

CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter 2014

MEMO FROM MICKEY

We again have the good fortune of having just returned from time in Guatemala during which three 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.

We now have 105 children. The staff consists of the two Sisters, our original novice, Rosa, six hired ayudantes from the village who come in daily to provide cooking, laundry, and cleaning services, two men who perform maintenance, driving and guarding tasks, two "grandmothers" who rotate fifteen day shifts taking care of the eight most profoundly retarded children, and seven teachers in the morning and four in the afternoon (to supervise home work and activities of the school age children).

From a "structural point of view" this year saw the completion of the larger soccer field along with numerous 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. Gracias!

EDUCATION MILESTONE!

We have reached a milestone in that our first student will enter University this January. He will be majoring in Agronomics (Agriculture) which is a six year course and the University is in Escuintla. We have had the privilege of watching this young man develop from a two year old infant to an 18 year old outstanding individual. We know he will do well.

January will also see one student in the last year of high school, one in the first year of high school, three in the second year of trade school, 12 in middle school, 31 in primary school, and 50 in pre-school and kindergarten.

This year our school will have 95 students (including some from our village) in our Ministry of Education approved primary and middle schools. We have watched our education budget grow from a box of crayons in 2000 (the oldest child was three) to \$92,105 in 2015. Well spent money! And all made possible by your generosity.

SUCCESS IN OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

The San Francisco Bay Area supporters of the orphanage had their annual fundraising fiesta Sept. 6th. A sellout crowd of 100 enjoyed appetizers and wine as they participated in the silent auction before sitting down to a great dinner and desserts. The event netted almost \$37,000 for the children! We can't wait until next year.....

And in early November the Corvallis area supporters of the orphanage held their annual fundraiser with 90 attendees raising more than \$33,000 for our children.

Fall Newsletter (cont.)

SOCCER REIGNS

This year has seen the completion of a new larger soccer field. The original soccer field was built a number of years ago for the then primary school aged teams. Primary students play in five person teams on a smaller field. Middle and high school students in Guatemala play on seven person teams on a larger field. Our new soccer field of 20 meters by 40 meters is designed for our older students (see photo below).



11 year olds get a two hour practice session and finally the 12 and over children get a four hour session. Soccer is a serious “business” in our orphanage. Word from Coach Elvisa is that she has a group of 7 year olds that are going to dominate league play for a number of years to come. Their last outing was a 6-0 win over the International School (Antigua) team.

WEB SITE

We are in the midst of establishing a Casa de Angeles Foundation web site. This is a joint project with the Sisters and has been long in the discussion stage. You will have the opportunity to receive future newsletters by e-mail or via the web site. Watch this space for updates and announcements.

Although the children play “pick-up games” daily, serious (!!) practices are held by Coach (Sister) Elvisa on Saturdays. We were lucky enough to watch some of this training on our new field the week we were in Guatemala. First the smaller (ages 6-8) children were put through paces of running through cones, kicking on goal, and practicing penalty kicks and then they were divided into two teams (mobs) to scrimmage. Their sneaky coach loaded one of the teams with a few “ringers” in order to stimulate the young players to try harder (her words!). Then the 9-