CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter 2018

MEMO FROM MICKEY

Our fall trip to Guatemala isn’t until December and we are looking forward to spending time at the orphanage. The Sisters continue to report that the growth, health and happiness of the children is great.

During the last years we have taken in a few children with Down syndrome (the only ones eligible to enter an orphanage under the current law). This last year we had 2 children removed from the orphanage by the government. We now have about 85 children (we will get a more accurate count during our visit). The Court Justices have decided that this year orphanages would be allowed to take in children at the request of families, and we will get updated on this also.

Our staffing remains the same with 5 ayudantes, 6 teachers for the school hours, 4 teachers in the afternoon for homework and activities, and three men providing guard, driving and gardening services. All supervised by our amazing Sisters!

We have already purchased the (Halloween) candy to fill a pinata; now a tradition the children look forward to on our fall visit. We will also plant the annual vegetable garden. Since mid-November is the end of the school year, we hope to see “and catch up on” the older children who spend much of their year in Guatemala City. This includes our collegians and the 7 boys (age 15-20) who are living as a unit in the capital with each one holding down a job while trying to further their education.

Additionally, we hope to attend a soccer game of our 11-12 year old team which is now playing competitively and winning! Coach Sister Elvisa tells me there is also a great “crop” of 7-8 year old players following in the well laid footsteps.

The new school year in January will see Francisco entering the 5th year of University and Ruth entering the 2nd year of University. We will continue to have our own school with pre-school through 6th grade which each year includes 10-15 children from our village. A few more students are in high school and one is training to be a pre-school teacher. Education continues to be our single largest budget item, and is money we consider well spent!

The other major occurrence of the year was the eruption of Fuego, the neighboring volcano. This led to a 10-day evacuation to a convent in the capital while our contractor’s crew cleaned up the ash and debris which fell all over the area, and generator and water pump repairs were made. $6,000 later all was well and everyone returned to the orphanage and life moved on!

All of this has been possible only because of your spiritual, psychological, and financial support. The Board, on behalf of the children, want to again thank you for your generosity. You continue to change the future for these children. In this season of thanksgiving, please think once again of our angels.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS SUCCEED

The San Francisco Bay Area and Corvallis area supporters have held their annual fundraising dinners and auctions. They were both successful and together netted more than $85,000 towards the orphanage budget. The Board and children remain ever grateful for the support of our many donors.