

CASA DE ANGELES FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter 2019

MEMO FROM MICKEY

We just came back from our fall trip to Guatemala and we got to spend a fair amount of time at the orphanage. We are delighted to report that the growth, health and happiness of the children is great.

We now have 85 children (77 on site, 1 living at University, and 7 young men living together in Guatemala City-all employed and earning their own way). This last group will return for Xmas and we look forward to getting our annual picture of them. We have had no children removed in the last 18 months, and the atmosphere in the orphanage is markedly less tense.

Our staffing includes 6 teachers for the school hours, 4 teachers in the afternoon for homework and activities, and three men providing guard, driving and gardening services. The major change is that we now have a cadre of 16-21 year old young ladies (2 certified as caregivers and a 3rd taking that 2 year course) and a group of young men who have taken over the duties of the ayudantes (cleaning, laundry and cooking). All supervised by our amazing Sisters!

We had a great pinata experience; now a tradition the children look forward to. We also planted the annual vegetable garden, and over the next two days a scarecrow and fence appeared. Since mid-November is the end of the school year, we got to see the annual play which this year was about the story of bringing smallpox vaccine to the Western Hemisphere- orphan carriers.

One day we were joined by 8 members of the United Methodist Church of Savannah-our partners who have contributed significantly to the

operating costs of the orphanage over the years. Another afternoon we were joined by members of the Corvallis FIP village mission team.

The new school year in January will see Francisco with 2 more years to go at University (major news= the Sisters met Francisco's girlfriend of two years and approved with the warning, "finish school before starting anything else!), and Ruth entering the 3rd year of University. We will continue to have our own school with pre-school through 8th 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!

We are continuing the program of tiling all walls to a height of 5 feet which allows the walls to be washed rather than repainted annually. Other maintenance issues have been as expected for a facility of this size without any surprises (thus far).

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.