

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Fall Newsletter 2013

Memo from Mickey

We again have the good fortune of just returning from Guatemala, during which time we were able to spend many hours at the orphanage. It was amazing to see the continuing growth and progress of the family.

We now have 118 children. The staff consists of the two Sisters, our original novice, Rosa, seven 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, the teachers, about which you will hear more below.

This was the 5th year utilizing our own on-site school. It was also the 1st year using the expanded 9 classroom including the middle school. The children are on school-break now, but return to classes after the first of the new year. In January, we will have seven teachers each morning, four of whom will stay each afternoon to supervise homework and provide appropriate activities. The teachers next year will teach 40 pre-schoolers and kindergartners (ages 4, 5, & 6), 39 students in the primary grades (1st-6th), and 12 children in middle school, (7th-9th grades.). Additionally, seven children will go out of the orphanage for schooling, five for trade school training and two to academic high schools. Sister Elvira will continue to teach a special education class of 12 older children with development delay, as she feels she can "take them further." (Please see over.)

GIRLS RULE!

BOYS DO GREAT, TOO!

Late this summer, Samsung hosted its 2nd Annual Soccer competition, inviting primary schools from around Guatemala to send their teams to compete.

Our boys' team improved their standing as last year's quarter finalists, making it to this year's semi-finals.

Our girls' team WON the competition for the second year in a row. They were the dominant force on the field. To see how dominant, go to your computer and open www.Youtube.com and type in Copa Samsung Final 2013.

Once again, the orphanage has received \$10,000 worth of Samsung products. Additionally, the girls continue to collect medals. We now have TV sets with DVD players in the recreation room, dining hall and preschool room. Also, we now have two large refrigerator-freezers and three new washing machines, thanks to Samsung and our girls' team.

In November, during our fall visit, the mixed soccer league (our team has 2 boys out of 12 players) came to an end. The team won their semi-final match on Tuesday, and that Saturday were to play in the final.

At 9AM, we loaded 39 people into two camionetas. Sister/Coach Elvira and Mickey drove and we were off for the 75-minute trip to the match. (Please see over.)

Memo from Mickey, cont'd:

A day or two before we arrived, a six-year-old named Adelina was brought to the orphanage. She had been in an institution for the deaf when it was noted that she could hear certain ranges. At the orphanage she was fitted with a hearing aid and immediately could hear and start vocalizing. Over the next few days, we witnessed the miracle of her enlarging world and vocabulary. (Her first word was "mama," addressed to the Sisters.) She appears to be extremely intelligent and eager to take in the world from which she had been shut out until now. We look forward to watching her progress.

From a structural point of view, this year saw the completion of four classrooms in the school, the addition of a corral in front of the barn, the addition of a bathroom to Casita 3, and the completion of 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. We continue to need your generous support. So in this season of giving, please think once again of these children. Gracias!

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**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
TO YOU!**

GIRLS RULE! cont'd:

Our team (naturally) won, 12 to 0.

After the trophy awards, we all decamped to Burger King for a festive victory meal. When we arrived back in San Miguel Duenas, Elvisa stopped our small caravan and the team got onto the top of the camionetas and we drove through town to the orphanage with horns blaring, and the team throwing confetti and holding up their trophies. The amazed population came to their doors to grin and applaud at our passing. Arriving at the orphanage, we found that balloons had been strung, a congratulation sign was up, the drums were beating and the rest of the children were shouting their approval. Quite a day!



GALAS SHINE!

The Bay Area supporters of Casa de Angeles held their annual fund raising Fiesta on 9/21. The wine, munchies, and silent auction were followed by an excellent dinner, along with a slide show depicting the progress of building out the orphanage and capped by a video of the girls' soccer team winning the Samsung national soccer competition for the second year in a row. The event netted over \$40,000 toward next year's education budget.

In Corvallis, Oregon, the annual gourmet supper and silent auction netted over \$40,000, with more to come. As with the Bay Area gala, the focus was on the very important education budget in the orphanage's future.



Vegetable Garden Planting



Cowboys and Indians



Feeding Time



Little Ones Practice During Halftime

Casa de Angeles Fall 2013



League Winners



Victory Meal