

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Fall Newsletter, 2012

Memo from Mickey

I have the good fortune of having just returned from time in Guatemala during which I was able to spend a lot of time at the orphanage. I was struck again by the continuing growth and progress of the children. It is a sad time after the death of Chiqui, which is reflected in the demeanor of the Sisters and reflected in the older children. We placed a wreath on her grave at the orphanage and planted an Angel's Trumpet tree next to it.

We now have 104 children, up 14 from last fall's newsletter. The staff consists of the two Sisters; our original novice, Rosa; seven ayudantes hired from 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 five -day shifts taking care of the eight most profoundly retarded children; and, our teachers.

This was the 4th year utilizing our own on-site school, a very successful venture. 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, three of whom stay on each afternoon to supervise homework and provide activities. The teachers next year will teach 21 preschoolers (ages 4 & 5), primary grades (K-6) to 50 children plus 10 children from the village, and 12 children will be in middle school (Basico.) Additionally, 6 of the children will (See over.)

CHIQUI

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Chiqui, one of the original group of orphans we met in 1999. Chiqui was then about 2-and-a-half years old, which placed her as one of the "elders" amongst those first children.

Chiqui had the Down syndrome, but was high-functioning and always one of the first to run forward to visitors with her welcoming hugs. She grew up helping the Sisters with the smaller children in a myriad of ways, and was a constant source of smiles. As part of her syndrome, she had a large cardiac defect (VSD) and developed secondary pulmonary hypertension. Because the type of open heart surgery she needed was not available in Guatemala, our foundation bought plane tickets for Sister Elvisa to take her to Spain where the necessary procedure was accomplished, free of charge, at the University medical school. Chiqui made an excellent recovery. On her return to the orphanage, she was proud to raise her blouse and show her surgical scar. She continued to do well but, in the last few years, the pulmonary hypertension returned and she became easily tired, taking morning and afternoon naps. Even so, her smile and good nature never faltered, and she remained as active as she could. In September, while watching a soccer match, Chiqui had sudden cardiac arrest. The EMTs were unable to revive her. She has been interred in the orphanage cemetery, but will live in our hearts and memory, forever.

Memo from Mickey, cont'd:

go to the capital for 9th grade, and one child will enter high school (Diversificado). Sister Elvira will continue to teach a special education class for the older children with developmental delay, as she feels she can "take them further" this way.

With this many children in our school, the original five classrooms we have built are no longer sufficient. So, we are initiating the building of an additional four classrooms. This is our next major project!

The most recent project -- the "granja" or animal shelter -- is finished. The jenny (female donkey), pig, turkey, and chickens are in place. Calves and goats are to be purchased in the next few weeks. Furniture and computers have been added to the dorms for our teenagers.

So, good progress is being made on "all fronts." Please feel good that all of this has been made possible because of your support, financially and spiritually.

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the children, wants to thank you again for your generous support. You continue to change the future for an increasing number of children. As such, we continue to need your generous support.

Gracias!

Mickey Golbus, MD, President
Casa de Angeles Foundation

COPA SAMSUNG!

Samsung sponsored a Guatemalan-wide elimination soccer tournament for primary school teams. The FANTASTIC result was that our orphanage girls' team won the tournament, over more than 30 competing schools. They were rewarded with \$10,000 worth of Samsung products,, plus a medal and digital camera for each player. Also, one of our kids won the tournament medal for most goals scored. We are all so proud!

FALL FUND-RAISERS

Mickey reports that the Bay Area Fiesta netted \$35,836. This is an all-time high for this event. Thanks to all who came, and all who worked so hard to make it such a fun success.

Peter Hinckle reports that his Corvallis fund raising event was the best ever, too! The dinner drew 140 people and others had to be placed on a waiting list. One of the attendees was a 10-year-old girl, Maggie Campbell, who described her project of collecting new shoes for the kids at the orphanage, two trunks full already.

A Tribute to Chiqui and the Sisters

Dr. Linda Fox writes: "Chiqui accepted what life gave her... She lived every day to the fullest. She became a special helper to the Sisters, holding babies inside the playroom.... The Sisters saw her as a valuable and contributing part of their family, never as a burden. They would do anything for her, and she knew it. She will be missed!"



Casa de Angeles Foundation

501 San Pedro Cove
San Rafael, CA 94901

415.482.8375

415.482.8376 (fax)

casaangeles@aol.com



Karate Class



Kids at play



Our First Place Team

Casa Memories of 2012



Gardeners who forgot to change clothes



Junior Tecchiees



Gardening