

Casa de Angeles

"House of Angels. Home of Hope."

Fall Newsletter, 2011

Memo from Mickey

I have the good fortune of having just returned from a week in Guatemala, during which I visited the orphanage a number of times. As usual, I was struck by the continuing growth and progress of the children. It is wonderful seeing all these happy and healthy kids at play.

We now have 90 children under our care, up a dozen from last fall's newsletter. The staff consists of the two Sisters, who are sisters; our original novice, Rosa, who has returned; one novice; six hired ayudantes (helpers), who come from the village daily to provide cooking, laundry, and cleaning services; two men who perform maintenance, driving and security tasks; and five teachers. This was the third year of utilizing our own on-site school, and it was very successful. The children are on school break now, but will return to classes after the first of the new year. We had five teachers each morning, three of whom stayed each afternoon to supervise homework and provide activities. These teachers taught primary grades (1-5) to 36 of our children and to 15 children from the village. This next school year we will have six morning teachers teaching grades K through 6. Additionally, 9 children went off-site to middle or high school; next year, that number will rise to 10. The Sisters continue to teach the preschool for the three and 4 year olds. Also, one of the Sisters teaches a class of the older children with Down syndrome, as she feels she can "take them further" this way. (See over.)

FRIDGE FOTOS!

The photos accompanying this newsletter are special. We want you to know in what way. When we first met the Sisters in 1999, one of the children they had already "collected" was Chiqi. She was a three-year-old cutie with Down syndrome. Since then, we have watched Chiqi grow and progress. However, her time with us included a period of worsening of her cardiac status due to a structural abnormality common with Down syndrome. Eventually, it required that Chiqi be taken to Spain for open heart surgery that could not be done in Guatemala. She did fine after the surgery, but in the last year she has had some difficulties which required oxygen administration at night. At the moment, however, she is doing quite well. Chiqi is a very social child, and has become a good "mother's aide" for the Sisters. All of the photos accompanying this newsletter were taken by Chiqi during our recent trip to Guatemala!

THE WELL IS WELL!

In the spring newsletter we explained the water supply situation for the orphanage and the need for a deep well to have water independence from the "less-than-reliable" town supply. You responded very generously. On the visit to Guatemala just concluded, I was able to sign a contract with one of the largest well-drilling companies in the country for a 300' deep well that they are confident will give us a permanent source of good water. Thanks to all of our good donors who responded to this special plea. You did it!

Memo from Mickey, cont'd:

The major building project has been the construction of twin dormitories to house the high school and university cohort of young adults that the orphanage is starting to produce. The dormitories are two-story buildings with three-per-room sleeping quarters on the second floor. That floor also includes space for an adult dorm counselor.

The first floor contains bathrooms and showers plus areas designated as a study/homework/computer room, an area for table games and socializing, and a laundry room.

We are in the process of having the beds and other furniture for these new buildings, built by the carpenter who has worked with us for the last decade. His work has been first-class.

The area in front of the new dormitories includes a basketball court. We bought three balls and had our first "pick-up" game. Great fun!

All of this has been made possible because of your support. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the children, wants to thank you again for your generous support. You all continue to change the future for an eincreasing number of children.

As we move toward the completion of the physical plant -- including computers, furniture for the adolescent buildings, an animal facility, fruit trees on the remaining open land, and other projects -- and as we also work to meet our goal of the best education possible for the children, we continue to need and welcome your generous support. So, in this season of giving, please remember the children of the orphanage.

Gracias!
Mickey Golbus, MD, President
Casa de Angeles Foundation

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A Smashing Success!

Casa de Angeles founding board member Peter Hinckle, M. D., reports great news about the 2011 annual fund raising gala in Corvallis, Oregon, held this November.

The event garnered nearly \$40,000. Whoa! Donations continue to arrive. A yearly \$5000 donation from a special angel is also anticipated.

The evening included a dinner for 120 folks. More people wanted to attend, but space had to be limited.

A record-breaking silent auction and two successful raffles contributed to the success of the evening, as well as a slide show and a report on the children.

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