

HOGAR INFANTIL

June 2004

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF HOGAR?

One question frequently asked is "Who is in charge at Hogar Infantil?" The day to day operations are handled by Carlos and Vicky Macias who are Directors.

They manage a small staff consisting of: house parents for each group of children, cooks, a maintenance man, a night watchman, a bus driver, and a stores keeper. Carlos, Vicky, and their two children have a small house on the ranch property. Carlos teaches school on weekdays during the school term. Vicky is in the office daily doing the accounting, paying the bills, answering the phone, and making sure everything runs smoothly. Carlos grew up at the ranch and has accomplished many needed improvements during his tenure as Director. The ranch staff works as a team to provide a family atmosphere for the children. Caring for so many children is a big job with many rewards and a fair share of problems.



The overall management of Hogar Infantil is done by a local board of directors or *Patronato*. It meets at least once a month on a regular basis and the members visit the ranch and help out as needed. The *Patronato* is made up of the following people.

* *Profesor* Jesus Clemente Ramirez Chavez: *Profesor* Jesus is the president of the board and it's cornerstone. He has served tirelessly for many years. A semi-retired educator, he is often stern and serious with Hogar's children, but his compassion for them always shines through. Many afternoons he is found

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UNPAID OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

- *David Guinn*—
President
- *Kathy Ledesma*— *V.P.*
- *Bob Herlocker*—
Treasurer
- *Katie Morgan Carrasco*—*Secretary*
- *Ron Speck*—*Director*
- *Steve Chambers* -
Chairman
- *Leslie Guinn*—
Director
- *Paul Roach*—*Director*
- *Johanna Wilson*—
Director

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"A PLACE OF SHARING"

tending his own private Eden on a couple of acres in a valley on the edge of the town. He has created a botanical paradise that he shares with his Scotty dog and some chickens. Issues of the environment are his passion.

* *Profesor* Edein Cruz Padilla: Edein grew up at Hogar and was one of the early Directors after the founder, Nich Anderson, passed away. He, too, has many years experience on the board. He and his wife, Anna Laura, are both elementary school teachers. They manage a ranch that has been in Anna Laura's family for many years.

**Profesor* Rene Garcia Martinez: Maestro Rene is another Hogar alumnus that helped in the direction of the ranch when Nich died. He and his family live in Ocozocoautla and are deeply involved in church work. Rene is very concerned with the spiritual development of Hogar's children.

*Dr. Rene Cruz Hernandez: Dr. Rene is a dentist who grew up and was educated at

Hogar. He takes care of the children's dental needs and is always a helping hand when help is needed.

**Ingeniero* (Engineer) Jaime Jimenez: Jaime was truly an abandoned child that Nich took in when he was very young. He never knew who his parents were and Hogar has been his only home. He served as director in 1990. His wife, Ardeluz, is the store keeper who keeps track of all the clothes, school supplies, and food stuff at the ranch.

**Ingeniero* Jorge Luis Nataren Cruz: Another engineer, Jorge, is also a product of Hogar. He is always insightful when dealing with problems, especially ones of a technical nature. He is married and lives in the town of Ocozocoautla.

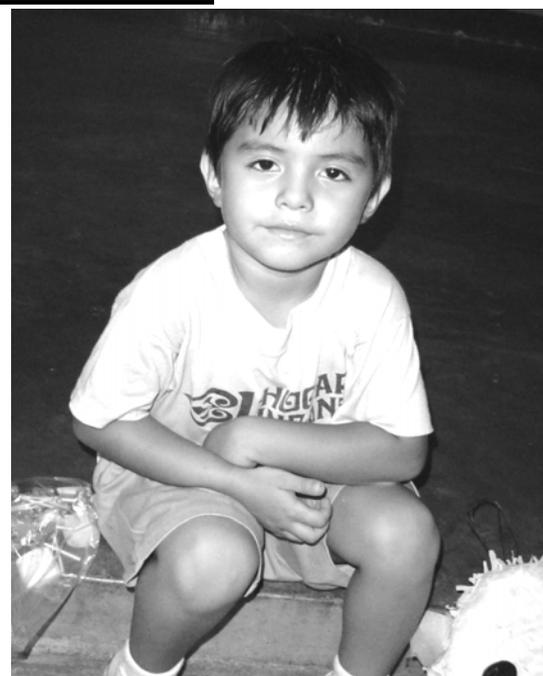
It is easy to see that Hogar Infantil has reaped a great deal of pay-back from efforts many years ago to raise and educate these fine men. They love the home and understand the children. The management of Hogar is in very good hands indeed! We are proud of those in charge and will in the future try to feature some of the staff members.

DIA DE LOS NINO'S (CHILDREN'S DAY)

About nine in the morning on April 30th little Carlitos walked down the path to Hogar's main building and announced in a loud voice that it was

“Dia de los Ninos (Children's Day) and that he was going to celebrate. He was dressed in clean white pants and shirt complete with shiny white shoes. Carlitos is the son of Carlos and Vicky Macias, Hogar's directors, and is the youngest child at the ranch being five.

All over Mexico Children's Day is celebrated before Mother's Day and Father's Day, implying that children come first. Schools let out and it is a day set aside to honor and entertain the children. It is a very special day.



The party at Hogar Infantil was hosted by a group of young women who go to a school for hair stylist. They have a symbiotic relationship with Hogar's children who need hair cuts and styling for the girls and the young women need to practice. Everyone wins. In years past hair cuts were given to our boys by an older boy with a pair of scissors in the front yard. Things changed when Hogar started taking in girls. The boys wanted to improve their appearance.

The hosts arrived in the early afternoon in cars that were jam packed with piñatas, candy, and a very large cake. Soft drinks were provided by David Guinn and John Murphrey who were enjoying a stay at the ranch. The afternoon was spent with piñatas, games, and dances. There is obvious affection between the hair stylist students and Hogar's children. Everyone had a great time.

After a big supper all of the kids gathered on the basketball court. Soccer games and basketball were played simultaneously on the same court. To an observer this was chaotic confusion, but order (of sorts) and courtesy prevailed. The last game was a mass Basketball game with teams of over ten that consisted of both boys and girls. Kids not playing were the cheer squads on the sideline. When it all broke up about ten little Carlitos had fallen asleep. Amid "Buenas Noches" and "Hasta Manana" someone picked up Carlitos and carried him off to bed.

SCHOOL IS OUT"""""" ALMOST!

June brings the end to another school year and it is always exciting. Graduations, in Mexico, don't come until the latter part of the month, but grades are coming in and as usual most of Hogar's children have made us proud.

Four youngsters will graduate from Primary School and and go to Secondary School next year. There are ten teenagers graduating from Secondary and five will finish Preparatory.

The grading system is on a one to ten scale and all of our Secondary graduates made above 9.0. Agustin Gonzales, Sandra Culebro, Lucia Lopez, and Cecilia Margarita all made 9.6. Wow!

Our Preparatory students were also outstanding, all making over 9.0. Rafael Montero got a whopping 9.8. Congratulations to all!!!



"It's full of candy!!"



You, Hogar's donors, deserve to know how things are going with our finances. There is good news and bad news. The bad is that donations have been down for the last three years and Hogar has been on an austerity program. Through attrition, our population of children has fallen to below seventy. There is room at the ranch for over one hundred, but we have had to shut the doors to new children except in the most extreme circumstances. This has been very painful because there are so many hungry and uncared for children who desperately need a home.

The good news is that one of our major donors and his wife realized this and have made the largest single donation even made to Hogar. The reserve in operating funds is now well above our goal of having one half year's operating funds in reserve. This summer we will be opening the doors to a limited number of new children. The most needy will be taken in first.

Hogar makes a commitment to each new child to see them through until they have prepared themselves to live a life free from poverty. It is a long term commitment, but as you know, the returns are great. The cycle of poverty and suffering is broken.

Your help is needed for Hogar to sustain the efforts on behalf of these children and those to come. Please dig a little deeper when you can and pass the word about Hogar to others. We will be happy to send you some extra brochures or copies of the newsletter. Feel free to call me (817-279-7186) or email Quinti@aol.com (David) or Hogar2@aol.com (Kathy) with your questions or comments. Money does matter.



Peace and blessings to all,

David Guinn

Editor's note: Kathy has been under the weather. Thanks be to God, she is improving and will write the next newsletter to you. This letter is an attempt by David Guinn to keep you informed about what is happening at your Hogar. Thanks for bearing with us.

