

HOGAR INFANTIL

November 2006

Ranch News

by Director Cerlos Macias

I send greetings to you from all of the Hogar Children, staff, and my family. I know in the United States the month of November has a holiday known as "Thanksgiving," where you give thanks for your harvests, your families, and your life. Here at Hogar we continually give thanks to the outpouring of love and support that we receive from all of you. Each year we are blessed with new volunteers, clothing, special gifts, and of course your monetary gifts which provide food, housing, an opportunity to educate all of our 80 children living here at Hogar Infantil, and to have a staff that provides the emotional support for these children. Without your generosity we could not serve children like these sisters pictured here. They have come to us from a mountainous region of Chiapas where coffee is grown. They speak a language known as Tzotzil, which comes from the original Mayan culture of this region, and each day their Spanish is becoming more fluent.



We are now beginning to look forward to and preparing for any of you who can visit during the Christmas Holiday and come for our annual Christmas Fiesta, which will be held on December 16.

Thanks for your continuous outpouring of love and support and I wish all of you the happiest of holidays.



Con Carino
Carlos

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“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Featured Hogar Child

My name is Rafael.

I came to live at Hogar about 12 years ago when I was 7 years old. My two brothers were here for several years, too, but they have both decided not to continue their studies and now I'm the only one of us left here. This spring I graduated from high school, something I didn't know would have been possible for me had I not come here. Hogar has not only given me an education but has also taught me about respect for myself and others, pitching in and doing my part, and working hard in school. I love to play soccer and listen to music, and I am always excited to practice my English with visitors who come to the ranch.

I always wanted to join the military, but when I went for my physical exam I was one centimeter too short for the height requirement. I was so disappointed, because I thought that was what I really wanted to do. But, like my classmate, América, who you read about in the last newsletter, I am participating in the CONAFE program. I will receive college scholarship in exchange for teaching primary school in a nearby village. It is challenging, but I'm learning a lot about myself and I now appreciate the opportunities I have more. I am still deciding what I want to study when I finish my time with CONAFE, but I'm thinking about computer systems. I hope that I can someday find a way to give back a little of what Hogar has given to me.



Rafael with that never ending smile

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Preparing for the Christmas Fiesta

Well, it's that time again when many of us begin thinking of the upcoming holiday season. Maybe your family doesn't celebrate Christmas, but rather Hanukkah, Ramadan, Kwanzaa or another celebration. Whatever your tradition, it's a time of year for friends and family to come together and have a good time. Probably the biggest yearly tradition at Hogar is the annual Christmas party. Imagine lots of food and goodies, presents and smiling faces. This year's fiesta will be Saturday, December 16, which means the Guinn's will be leaving a couple of days before to get everything ready. As always we would love for you to join us for the fiesta. Three Hogar Board member, Leslie, David, and John, will be departing from Texas on December 12. If you wish to give a gift or two to the children, please mail it in time to reach Guinn by that time. Some tips:

- Santa is happy to do shopping for you. These donations of money go to the Oregon address. There is a Sam's Club in Tuxtla and we can purchase sports equipment or bicycles that can be used by many children.
- **Individual or group gifts can be mailed to Santa Guinn, 6405 Secretariat Ct. Granbury, Texas 76049.** It is not necessary to wrap gifts. In fact, it makes it easier to get through customs if they aren't.
- As you think of gifts please keep in mind we are restricted by volume and weight as to what we can carry.
- Books and games need to be in Spanish
- Between our children and the staff and their children, we have all ages. And, yes, teenagers are harder to shop for, but we need gifts for them too! Please no remote control cars, batteries go too quickly.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for another way to support the children of Hogar

May you share peace and joy with your loved ones this holiday season...

Construction Update

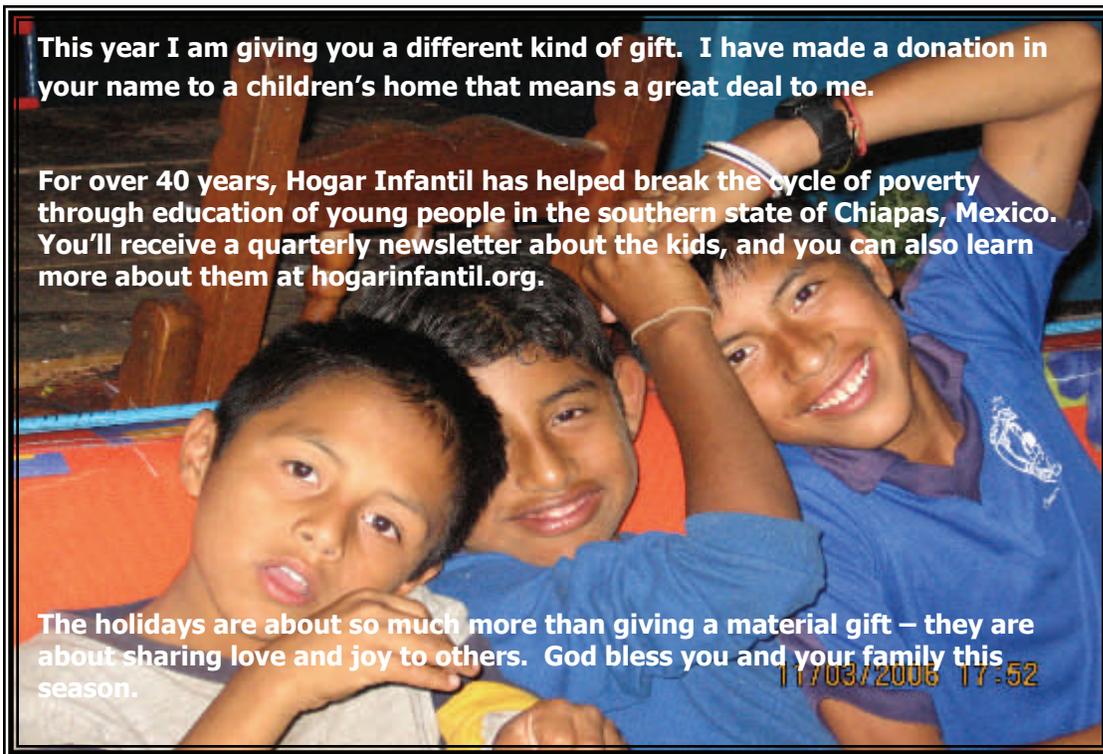
A photograph taken in late October showing the construction progress of the girls new dormitory. Donations are still welcome to help complete this project.



The new living space for the girls is progressing

Give the gift of love this season

We have had numerous requests to distribute a “gift card” for those who wish to give donations to Hogar rather than giving a material gift to family or friends. The following is just an idea – if you prefer to make your own, we invite you to do so. Copy this on decorative paper and include it in holiday cards, or hang it from your Christmas tree for that special someone. Detach the lower portion to include with your tax-deductible donation, and they will be added to our newsletter mailing list. We promise not to share their information or send them anything other than four newsletters a year. Thank you for spreading the word about this wonderful place.



Please accept this donation in name of my loved one and add him/her to the newsletter mailing list:

My name _____

Name of friend _____

Address _____
