

# HOGAR INFANTIL

S u m m e r   2 0 0 8

## Ranch News

This summer has been a very busy one at Hogar, filled with many wonderful activities and people visiting. There seems to be no end to the love and support Hogar’s kids receive from contributors and friends from the U.S. and other lands. Some long-time friends like Cindy and Michelle Morman and the Hughes family from Salem came to spend a little time, and the kids had lots of fun getting to know many new people as well. All of these experiences are important for Hogar’s kids—to make a personal connection to those who help feed and clothe them. Maybe the youngest ones don’t fully understand yet, but the older kids know that they have certain opportunities because of the financial support and prayers of people who live far away—most of whom they have never met. Many of them are deeply touched to realize that their lives actually matter to someone who they don’t even know.

One bit of recent news is that Hogar now has a new director (see article, next page). For personal reasons, Rene García and his wife Julia Cuellón decided that it was time to step down and spend more time with their own family. We are very grateful for their dedicated service to the children at Hogar. Rene continues to serve on the local *patronato*, or board of directors, so he will continue to have a presence at Hogar.

New director/subdirector team Jaime Jimenez and his wife Ardeluz Espinosa’ first major task was to welcome the summer visitors and plan the annual *quinceañera* party to celebrate three of Hogar’s girls’ coming of age in the traditional Mexican fashion. Faithful “*gringo*” parent figures David and Leslie Guinn made the trip from Texas to celebrate with the young ladies on this important day. Several other visitors were also present to share in the festivities. A beautiful string trio accompanied the girls as they danced the traditional coming-of-age dances they had practiced so much. The highlight of the program was when one

of the new little boys went out to dance alongside the young men accompanying the young ladies. Towards the end of the evening a marimba band played for everyone to join in the dancing. The three girls celebrating their path to womanhood shined and enjoyed knowing they are each special.



*Amayrani, Mercedes and Martha with their young attendants*

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- UNPAID OFFICERS
- DIRECTORS
- *David Guinn*—  
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  - *Neto Morgan*—Vice-  
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  - *David Pease*—  
Treasurer
  - *Johanna Wilson*—  
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“A PLACE OF SHARING”

## Ranch News, continued...

It's back to school time now, which means it's also the time to make sure every child has a new uniform and suitable shoes for school, notebooks, pencils, backpacks and other supplies. It seems most of the kids are squared away now and ready to get busy learning. We are also starting some new farm projects with some of the older kids. One young man wants to be in charge of chickens, and we're planning for him to visit a local chicken farm so he can learn enough to care for the chickens that will give us precious eggs to eat. Another university student wants to learn about pigs and will care for them, helping out Hogar and keeping a little of the money for himself as well. Some of our young women are wanting to make clothes for the kids with some of the extra fabrics we have around, so there is always plenty to do after homework is done. These are important transitional lessons that will help these young people when they are ready to have a job or a business of their own someday.



Summer also means a few new children at Hogar. We have 8 new students here, and 3 are triplets! (see their story, next page). We are happy to welcome them and all the new kids into the family. We give thanks for the ability to provide new opportunities for so many who have great need. Wishing you all many blessings for the students in your families in the coming year.

## Change in Director

Children at Hogar are used to change—kids and visitors come and go and there are many hellos and good-byes. Sometimes they have to say goodbye to a house parent or director. Easing this transition is the fact that Jaime Jimenez and his wife Ardeluz Espinosa are no strangers to Hogar's kids. Jaime came to live at Hogar at a very young age under the direction of founder, Nich Anderson. Having no family of his own, he has come to know what family is through his long-lasting friendships at Hogar. After many years of study and hard work, Jaime graduated with a teaching degree and certificate to teach junior high school.

Soon after his graduation, Jaime served on the three-director team that ran Hogar at that time, but after a year left that position to make his life as a teacher in a local junior high school. His wife, Ardeluz, who he met while attending high school in Ocozocoautla, had started a job at Hogar as the manager of inventory, and she has worked at Hogar ever since - more than twenty years. They have two children: Jahaira, who is studying computer systems in the university, and Kevin, who just started high school. Both live at the ranch with their parents and help out with sports or homework when they can.

When asked what they think is most important for Hogar's kids right now, Ardeluz responds, "having a sense of responsibility. We want all the kids to feel a part of the workings of Hogar and to have a sense of belonging here. When they feel a part of what's happening around here, they are much happier and more motivated to move ahead in life."



*The Jimenez-Espinosa family*

**"A PLACE OF SHARING"**

## Three Times the Fun

They say “two’s company, three’s a crowd” but in this case we prefer “the more the merrier!” Summertime is generally when Hogar receives an influx of new children, and this year we have something we’ve never had before—a set of triplets. The three boys, age seven and their older brother, age 8 arrived the middle of August and seem to be happy and already making many friends. It seems they are very content with their house mother, *Tía Ramona*, who has seemingly unending patience and hugs to give out.

They have been through a great deal of pain for their few years. Three years ago their mother was killed and they were left to live with their father, who died one year later of AIDS. Their grandparents took them in and have tried their best to care for them, but their grandfather’s drinking problem and their grandmother’s tiresome work schedule created a home environment that was not stable. They came to Hogar needing good food and loving attention, which is thankfully in abundance here.

Because of the upsetting events in the boys’ lives, they did not get the support needed at home to be able to succeed in school. Alexis started school last year in first grade, a little older than most of his classmates at 7 yrs old, but understandable under the circumstances. Unfortunately he did not pass, so he is starting first grade over again, this time with his three brothers. We hope to provide them and all the kids with the educational support they need to not only get good grades but to also enjoy learning and be excited by new ideas and concepts.



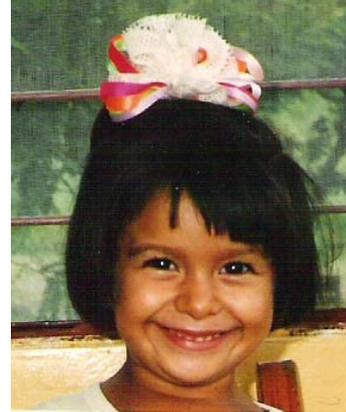
*Triple take: Fernando, Alfredo, Armando (front) with big brother, Alexis*

## Meet the Kids

My name is Rosi. I have lived at Hogar ever since I can remember—I was three years old when I came here. My mother died soon after I was born, and my father didn't get much help from other family members, so he cared for me himself as best he could. By the time I was three, he could no longer care for me and work enough to feed us, so he brought me to Hogar, and they took me in. Suddenly I was in a big family and I played and grew along with my new brothers and sisters.

So now I've finished high school and taught elementary school in a rural community in exchange for a college scholarship. For the time being I am studying computers in a local school while I get my college enrollment and scholarship in order. I hope to enroll in a larger university in the coming year. I love to crochet and see different sights in the area. Someday I'd love to travel to see more of Mexico and other places, but there's lots of time for that after I finish my studies. I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't come to Hogar. I still go to see my father during the holidays sometimes, but this is the home that is in my heart.

*Rosi then...(love that bow!)*



*...and now!*



## Meet the Staff



“¡Sapo!” You may occasionally hear Hogar’s new driver, Marcos, referred to by his childhood nickname. They affectionately called him “toad” because when he came to Hogar at the age of three, he was tiny but had a big tummy. He grew up lean and strong and proved himself to be one of the more responsible students at Hogar. As a young man, Marcos doubled as a part-time driver and student. Now Marcos is grown and married with a beautiful daughter, and he takes the responsibility of driving Hogar’s precious cargo to school and fieldtrips very seriously. His wife and daughter live in the nearby town of Jiquipilas and visit him as often as his schedule allows. Marcos says that driving for Hogar as a “grown up job” is a busy one but immensely satisfying because he connects to the place that gave him a wonderful childhood and so many opportunities. Thanks, Marcos, for keeping our kids safe and being a positive role model for them.

“A PLACE OF SHARING”