

HOGAR INFANTIL

Winter 2013

Ranch News

Hello, all! From homework and Christmas parties to farm plans, Hogar continues to “*salir adelante*”, a term commonly used to signify moving forward with purposeful intention of goals for the future. The children enjoyed a very festive Christmas celebration, and some spent time with family over Christmas and New Years. Then, just like their counterparts in the US, they went back to the school routine in January. Each year brings new growth and evidence that hard work pays off.

We’ve had some interesting visitors to the ranch (besides Santa Claus and his assistant) who recently have been taking further steps to getting some financial and technical assistance in various projects, including having a private well dug on Hogar property. As you may recall, the water supply has long been an issue; traditionally Hogar was set up supplied by a spring in the nearby hills, and more recently has been connected to city water from Ocozacoautla. But both sources have proven to be unreliable, especially in the dry season. We hope to be able to report some news in this area soon.



“Paz” from our home to yours!

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UNPAID OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

- *David Guinn*—
President
- *Neto Morgan*— *Vice*
-President
- *Johanna Wilson*—
Treasurer/Secretary
- *Leslie Guinn*—
Director
- *Katie Bronec*—
Director
- *John Murphrey*—
Director
- *Paul Roach*—
Director
- *Cindy Morman*—
Director

P.O. Box 7049

Salem, OR

97303—0031

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www.hogarinfantil.org

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Note of Thanks

We recently received this personal correspondence along with a report from Juan Diego Fernandez, one of Hogar’s graduates who is now a science teacher at the local high school and treasurer of the local *patronato* (board):

“I always travel the streets of Ocozocoautla on my bicycle, and sometimes I see Rafael Villatoro. Yes, Rafael Villatoro, Computer Systems Engineer! The man that came to us as a child 16 years ago with an uncertain future, now interacting in society with a good job that gives him resources to pay rent, to feed and clothe himself, to help out his family members and—why not—to have fun. This is to transcend life. But behind this success there are people who have given years of their life in support of Hogar Infantil, by either direct or indirect means. Thank you, donors (tíos y tías) and members of the international board of Hogar Infantil.”

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Community Collaboration

Earlier this month a group of interested folks from both sides of the border met at Hogar Infantil to talk about the needs of the farm and buildings there. One of our long term needs has been a well not only for a reliable water supply for the children but also to expand options for crops and farm projects. The local director and board members brought together leaders in the community, including agronomists, engineers and farm coop directors, to talk about organic farming and environmental issues, and how Hogar might play a mutually supportive role in the community. One community farmer presented Hogar a breeding ram for expanding the sheep herd. We are hopeful that with collaborative efforts between mission teams from the Anglican Church and local community members as well as the Hogar community itself, great strides can be made in creating more self-sufficiency for the ranch.



Director Adonai Luis accepts a donated breeding ram

We thank all of the efforts of Rev. Charles Parker, Marthe Curry and others in opening up doors to communication and collaboration. We are hopeful that many good things will result from these joint efforts on behalf of not only the betterment of individual children’s lives but also of the larger community. We’ll keep you posted!

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Navidad 2012

The Christmas season is a joyful one in Mexico and each year Hogar has its share of festivities. Board president David Guinn and former director Pedro Zubizarreta flew down for the celebrations in mid-December. A gathering on Friday evening for *egresados* (graduates) from Hogar kicked off the weekend—many recent graduates came, as well as those who lived at the ranch decades ago. It was especially touching for David to spend time with men and women he had not seen in years, many bringing their young children or tales about their grown up children. Hogar Infantil is really one big extended family, and, much like a large family reunion, there were hugs and reminiscing well into the night hours.

Saturday brought a flurry of preparations and activity as final decorations and food were prepared for the big Saturday night party. This is the party all the children await with anticipation and talk about for months in advance, so excitement was high. As hoped, Santa made a dramatic entrance and distributed gifts and goodies to all. Music and song are always a part of the evening, and of course no party would be complete without several piñatas as a big finish. The children pitched in with some of the clean-up and went to bed happy and full. We thank all who participated by donating gifts or money to make this weekend possible. Of course our goal at Hogar is to provide the most necessary for these children, making their education not only a dream but a reality. However, one could argue that having a great party now and then is more a need than a want. It strengthens relationships by having a great time together and celebrates the worthiness of each child to experience the joy of the Christmas season, and we hope that joy will last throughout the year.



Even the older students love Santa!

In Honor of...

Each year we receive several donations in honor of others. This may be in honor of a loved one who has passed, or it may be in celebration of a joyful event such as a wedding or birthday. Some even give to Hogar rather than exchange Christmas gifts. Whatever the reason, we love that Hogar is connecting people across the globe in this loving way, as well as being grateful for your generosity. Below are the names of those individuals or families in whose name these donations were received in 2012.

Marjorie Spears

George Hoke

Martha Hoke

Don Wiederander

Helen Zakour

Ric Zakour wedding

Louis Saldana

Katie and Neto Morgan-Bronec Family

Dave and Valerie Bronec Family

Leona Conte

Cordelia Smith

Kent and Jane Robinson

Paul and Connie Roach wedding

Gary Kochman

Keith

John Perry and Elizabeth Carr wedding

Jim and Celeste Kersey-Bronec Family

Many Ann and Pat Henry Family



“A PLACE OF SHARING”