

Ranch News



Planting chile peppers

¡Hola a todos! Springtime brings a flurry of activity on a farm, and Hogar Infantil is no different. Many new projects are underway, including worm composting, planting a large tomato and chile pepper patch, and caring for our new animal additions: rabbits and ducks. Each project has a group of youth in charge - teams who sign up voluntarily for the things that interest them the most. Each team is learning not only the skills involved in the agricultural project but also about self-sufficiency, leadership, teamwork and organizational skills, not to mention taking pride in contributing to their home.

graduating from primary school, seven from junior high, two from high school, two from tech schools and one woman who is receiving her university degree in education later this summer. Because Hogar's motto is **breaking the cycle of poverty through education**, these achievements are especially exciting! We celebrate these young people who have proven what they can achieve with adequate support, and we thank you all for the role you have played in making their success a reality. Preparations are underway for our annual party for all the graduates and three young women *quinceañeras* at the end of this month.



Youth on the "garden team" starting seeds in plug trays

Of course, the most exciting part of the coming of summer is graduation for many young people. We have three

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Money Matters

By David Guinn

A FAQ is, “how is Hogar doing financially?” I think it is a good question and that our donors have the right to a straight answer. Yet, there really isn’t a simple answer. The fact is that Hogar’s donations and number of donors have steadily declined over the years. Today, donations don’t cover the expense of running the home. The average monthly cost of keeping Hogar going is about \$13,000/month. This supports the children, the employees (ten) and includes sending some kids to schools of higher learning. It really is a lot of bang for the buck.

On a brighter side, the shortfall between donations and expenses is covered from endowment funds. Over the years several donors have made bequest to Hogar from their estates. This money has been invested in conservative stock and bond investments. Presently we are not having to dip into the capital investments and are relying on earnings to make up the shortfall.

One might ask “why don’t you do some fundraising like most other good works”. Hogar’s paradigm is “no donor’s money spent on fundraising, it goes to operate Hogar”. I’m not willing to change that. In the past a few years, donors have had fundraising events with our Board’s approval. In short, “word of mouth” has been the chief fundraising tool.

Some income is generated at the ranch by pig production, raising sheep, and a corn crop. We also have gardens, chickens, and a few ducks. There is hope that in the future some money might be obtained through grants from Mexican foundations. The kids at Hogar do most of the work but can’t be expected to be full time students and farm hands at the same time.



My answer to the FAQ is that Hogar is making ends meet but barely. Since 1978 when I got involved with Hogar I’ve seen harder times. I have faith that things will work out.

Hogar does have a big wish list in Mexico. We need a well for a reliable independent source of water and have a study that a deep well (300 ft.) is feasible. Money is needed to send more students to college. A vehicle needs to be replaced. Our dining hall menu should improve and provide more protein.

On this side of the border we need individuals interested in being on our Board and sharing their talents as unpaid volunteers. Fresh and younger blood is needed. We need more donors and hope you will tell friends and family about the home. We hope to have a new brochure in the near future so you can have something to hand out. Your interest as well as your money is needed, but it is true that money matters.

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Hogar Helpers

This past month you may have heard that Hurricane Barbara hit the Southern Mexican coast. Thankfully, Hogar sits far enough inland that it was only felt as a strong wind storm. However, the coasts of Oaxaca and Chiapas were hit pretty hard. US Board member and Hogar graduate, Neto Carrasco Morgan, (as well as a couple of current Hogar students) is from a small fishing village called Bernal on the coast of Oaxaca. It's relatively close proximity and shallow beaches make it a common destination when Hogar kids get a special outing. As pure coincidence, Neto was visiting Hogar when the hurricane hit the coast. The entire village of Bernal had evacuated, and the next day Neto, his brother Pedro, and Hogar director Adonai organized a trip to lend a helping hand to those displaced from their homes. Kids helped prepare clothes from donations received locally and pack the van with foodstuffs, and a couple of older youth rode along to help.

When they arrived they were greeted with a warm welcome from the townspeople, who were beginning to move back into their homes and survey the damage. They had set cooking stations in the center of town to prepare huge communal meals for anyone who needed it. The sea water that had flooded the town had mostly returned to reasonable levels, but many trees were down. Most homes were not severely damaged, but some were destroyed by fallen trees or from being made of less sturdy materials. Fishing boats were toppled and some damaged beyond repair, resulting in a loss of livelihood for some families. Hogar's crew set to work helping clean up, distributing supplies and talking with the people of the town. They stayed throughout the day, getting firsthand experience helping others simply in the spirit of community and giving. As children who are receiving assistance that enables them to achieve their dreams, it's so powerful for Hogar's children to benefit from "paying it forward" by helping others in need.



The people of Bernal receive bags of clothes from the group who went to help after Hurricane Barbara

Photos

****Remember to check out the news-
letter and photos in color on our we-
site, www.hogarinfantil.org,
and share with your friends!****



Long-time donor and friend, David Slade, with birthday notes from Hogar's kids



Ready for school!

Congratulations, 2013 graduates!



“A PLACE OF SHARING”