

HOGAR INFANTIL

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Ranch News

Greetings to all of you who keep Hogar Infantil in your hearts! While the colors of the seasons are not the same in all parts of the world, Chiapas definitely has seasonal changes. “Fall” generally bring an end to the heavy rains, and milder temperatures surround the now green and lush landscape. It’s a gorgeous time of year.



Hogar’s children have unfortunately missed a great deal of school recently due to teacher strikes in the “*reforma educativa*” movement, which has been particularly active in Chiapas. Educators have raised their voices in daily protests, blocking off streets and other areas, including Pemex distribution centers and toll booths on major highways. These protests, although inconvenient for many people, seem to have basic support of the public because it is widely felt that money should go into the educational system, rather than the pockets of corrupt officials. Hogar’s kids have experienced many teacher strikes over the years, and they make a grand effort to continue a well-rounded study and work routine at home, even when there are no formal classes at school. We hope that a resolution will be made soon for the benefit of everyone involved.



Thanks to the help of a small group of churches, Hogar’s kids recently received brand new shoes: a pair each of sneakers and dress shoes for each Hogar child! A special thanks to our “*Tío de los Zapatos*” Gary Kochman, who comes to deliver shoes each year, and for the combined efforts and donations of his friends in three parishes in New Jersey. What a blessing to receive such a gift of love!

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UNPAID OFFICERS

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

P.O. Box 7049

Salem, OR

97303—0031

**A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
Corp**

www.hogarinfantil.org

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Well Update



Great news! The well digging crew has struck water at about 70 meters. Unfortunately they've hit a delay because a stem pipe got stuck at 14 meters and is proving difficult to remove. The Mexican board of directors is overseeing the project and is weighing the options, keeping in mind not to spend more than absolutely necessary. We trust that the problem will be resolved soon, and water from right under the children's feet will be flowing abundantly!

The other great news is that, because of an overwhelming response to our water plight, we received more money than budgeted for the well. Thank you!! With your permission, we'd like to use any surplus to build a small, cement pump house with locking gate, and also update existing (original!) water pipes to and within the buildings. If there is further surplus we hope you agree to any needed physical updates on buildings.

Comments or questions can be directed to hogarinfantilchiapas@gmail.com.

New Brochure Coming Soon!

Hogar's fundraising is almost exclusively word-of-mouth, and we rely heavily on this newsletter and your help in sharing us with friends and family. We are in the process of creating an updated brochure, and we'd be happy to send you some to share once it's finished. Please send a request with your donation or email Katie at hogarinfantilchiapas@gmail.com.

Don't forget to steer people to the website, www.hogarinfantil.org, to learn more about the ranch and see newsletters and photos in color. We appreciate your help in spreading the word and helping children in Chiapas!

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

iNavidad!

It seems impossible that this time of year has come around once again, but it's here! Once being more of a toy drive and "sleigh ride" for the Guinns to deliver actual goods donated, Hogar's Christmas drive has evolved over into one of more financial donations and local shopping. This is due to tighter restrictions at the border and more quality goods available at reasonable prices in Chiapas. We all know how fun it is to shop for someone at this time of year, so if you would like to donate goods for Guinns to take to the Christmas party on December 15th, we welcome you to do so.



Think small, Spanish, all ages and both genders. Hair adornments, USB drives, MP3 players, decorative pencils, pens, small books, games, crafts and toys are wonderful—just please keep in mind that space is limited and all material donations must reach Texas by Dec. 10th.

Material donations may be sent to:

Hogar Infantil

PO Box 1835

Granbury, TX 76049

In many communities around the globe there is a movement to simplify and "de-clutter" the holidays with less gifts or giving something more meaningful than cheap toys made overseas. We invite you to consider giving a donation to Hogar in honor of someone you would normally buy a gift for. If you include a name and address and instructions to do so, that person will receive a note telling them of the donation. If you choose this option, we recommend you do so by December 1st so our volunteer has time to mail a recognition to your "recipient." You may also email your request early to Cindy at cmorman@bendbroadband.com.

Monetary donations may be sent to:

Hogar Infantil

PO Box 7049

Salem, OR 97303-0031



We are deeply grateful for the support you give, which helps make a magical Christmas for Hogar's children!

Licenciada

By Katie Bronec

It gives us great pleasure to present to you our newest college graduate, *Licenciada* América. “*Licenciada*” is a title given to those who have a 4-year college degree (equivalent to a US bachelor’s degree) in a humanities field of study—in América’s case, Education. From a family of 12 children, América came to Hogar as a small girl, grateful to be given this precious opportunity. Now, nearly 15 years later, her testing and thesis are completed, and she is awaiting her actual license to teach middle or high school in the state of Chiapas.

This comes at a particularly interesting time in Mexico, as many teacher strikes across the country demonstrate the need for structural change in the education system and fair compensation for teachers. While there is an air of uncertainty because of this, América and her classmates are also hopeful they will play an important role in the lives of young people.

After first being grateful to God for giving her strength, América gives thanks to her friends and family for their emotional support, her teachers who have shared their wisdom, and most of all the staff and supporters of Hogar Infantil for making this dream a reality. It is because of your generous investment in children that América has a bright, professional future passing along Hogar’s motto, “breaking the cycle of poverty through education,” to a new generation of children.



América proudly shows off her university degree

“A PLACE OF SHARING”