



Love is the Key

# The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar Los Angelitos

Summer 2007

## ANNUAL CASA HOGAR LOS ANGELITOS OPEN HOUSE!

February 3, 2007 was a night to remember for the children of the Casa Hogar los Angelitos and those that attended the 9th annual Casa Hogar los Angelitos Open House. Three young women celebrated their



Alejandra and Alberto

quinceañera, (a traditional ceremony recognizing their journey from childhood to maturity upon turning 15) as they were escorted to the stage for the traditional dances. After lots of searching for just the right gowns, they decided that they wanted their gowns to match and in doing so, the sister relationship was sealed. They were stunning.

The silent auction, headed by Joyce Murphy, proved to be a highlight for shoppers who were looking for that something special. Her entire committee did a wonderful job of displaying and selling the items.

The awards for the 1st Annual Manzanillo Golf Tournament were given to the lucky teams by Pat Martin, coordinator of the golfing event. Recognition was also given to those persons and businesses that co-sponsored the event. It was great to see the

community participate in this event.

We were honored to have The Colima Folkloric Ballet perform again this year. It was evident to everyone why they have traveled the world to perform. A special thanks to their director, Juanito for all his coordination and effort.

Truly one of the emotional highlights of the evening was the classical ballet performance of Lupita, Flora, Emigdia and Laura, as well as the excellent show provided by the casa hogar chorus, musicians and folkloric dancers. The education and development of the children is one of the major goals of the casa hogar program and this event provided a special showcase for the children to show their accomplishments.

The date has been set for next years event. Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, February 2nd, 2008.**

*You won't want to miss this night.*



Rodrigo

## UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT

A spectacular Golf Tournament at a World-Class Golf Course in the picturesque Vail Valley Gypsum, Colorado will be held on behalf of The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar Los Angelitos!



Register yourself or your team now! This event will be held Saturday, **September 8, 2007.**

Contact the Children's Foundation for more information or to learn how you can participate. Please see the enclosed flyer and application for detailed information.



### SPECIAL NOTICE

Check out our new website at: [www.childrensfoundationinc.com](http://www.childrensfoundationinc.com)

For continued updates check our blog at: <http://casahogarlosangelitos.blogspot.com>



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER, NANCY NYSTROM

People sometimes ask...**why do you put so much emphasis on education and education programs?**

Often our children have very little, if any, formal education prior to coming into the Casa Hogar, even at the age of nine, ten or eleven. Our teachers tutor the children until they are able to enter public school and provide on-going support after they have entered public school. We believe that education is the key to change, however, working with children who have not had adequate education, have learning differences and many times emotional problems requires special dedication, patience and determination. Our casa hogar staff must have a special heart and understanding for this work and these children.



There are many challenges facing children in Mexico. Even though Mexico and the US are divided only by a fence, there are 24.7 million children less than 17 years old living in poverty. An estimated 1 million children live on the streets ... without a home, without family and without care.

In Proverbs 31:8 we read "Speak up for those who have no voice...speak up for the poor and helpless...." **children**

**are the poorest of the poor** and the most helpless of all, and if we don't speak up for these children, who will?

During the early years of the casa hogar we didn't always have adequate staff to tutor the children. One day I noticed that several of the children didn't want to go to school... I began to investigate and discovered that the other kids...and several teachers... would refer to our children as "those burros or 'donkeys' from the casa hogar". I was heart broken for them.

It was then I made a conscious decision to do things differently... we would rescue children, feed them, give them medical attention and care...provide spiritual and moral guidance, ...**and we would educate them...** teaching them the skills that would enable them to be successful in life, so, we began an education program that would change the lives of these "throw away" children so that they never needed to feel

ashamed, or feel inferior to other children.

It has been proven that without education it is impossible to break the cycle of poverty...

Today most of our children maintain a grade point average of 8.5 (equivalent of 85% B+) and higher. Many of them are first in their class rather than last and they are all proud to say "I am from Casa Hogar Los Angelitos!"

Without education, the future is a closed door... after a child has been with the casa hogar for a period of time their lives **and** their dreams change... they begin to believe in the future... to see their own potential...

According to Wes Stafford of Compassion International the **root** of poverty is in the message that causes children to believe... "Nobody cares ...nobody believes in me...I am nothing"... when this happens they lose hope, they give up and it is impossible to move out of poverty.

Children learn what they are taught, they follow what they see.

We believe that every child is worthy of love and acceptance and in order to move away from the cycle of abuse and poverty we must work faithfully with these children to show them that there is another way.

When a child changes from "I am hopeless, I am helpless, I am a victim" to "I am worthy...I am capable" then he **can** and he **will** make a difference in his community, his world...and he **can** break the bonds of poverty". In reality, the answer to the question "Why do you put so much emphasis on education and education programs?" is; We can not afford **NOT** to.

~ Nancy Nystrom





# The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar Los Angelitos



**Jose Jr.** (as he refers to himself) was the first child to enter the Casa Hogar at the age of 9. He had never been to school and he was working on the streets as a **“flame thrower”**. Holding diesel fuel in his mouth, spewing it out and lighting it with a torch. If Jose had continued

working the streets his future would have been early death, severe brain and lung damage or prison. Today Jose is a young adult with a **masters electrician’s license** working for Emerson Electric.



**Carlito** came to the Casa Hogar at 18 months, he was **suffering from extreme malnourishment** living on milk with out ever having solid food. When Carlito was given soup or other soft foods **he would throw up**. Today after tender care, patients, and proper nutrition **he is becoming a healthy and happy child**.

## Graduation Celebration



Congratulations to **Azareel** who graduated from Secondary (Junior High) and will be going into High School in the fall.

Congratulations to **Alberto, Andres, Artemio** and **Xiomara** who graduate from 6th grade in July and will be going onto Secondary (Junior High) in the Fall.



## Migrant Workers, IN Mexico



Yes Mexico has it's own migrant workers, who come from destitution and work in the hot sun with their entire families...living in plastic bag houses, sleeping on cardboard, eating only tortillas for lunch and dinner. Unable to speak the official language, Spanish. Speaking only an indigenous dialect, Mezteca, unable to read and write.

In March the Casa Hogar began bringing 25-30 migrant children and adults to the Casa Hogar each evening after they completed their work in the hot fields. The casa hogar staff set up a special area, prepared food and began teaching basic reading, writing and language skills. The migrant workers live in conditions of extreme poverty and travel from the state of Guerrero, Mexico as far north as Jalisco each harvest season. The hope is that some of the children from this group will be able to return to the casa hogar to live and continue their education.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please note “Ministerios de Amor” on your contribution.



The children of the Casa Hogar have brought fresh water, and fresh hope.

## Multi-Purpose Room for Education

We are currently adding a multi-purpose library, music, computer and study room. This area will provide the needed space to allow for our continued focus on education.

In addition to our general education, our children will also be learning dance, music, art, and computers.

If you would like to support our education program, please note “education” on your contribution.

Many of our children had not attended school prior to coming into the Casa Hogar. The percentages were against them ever completing the 6th grade. Many of them have had to deal with learning disadvantages, trauma, prejudice and humiliation of being older than other children in their class room. The hurdles they have had to overcome to become successful are tremendous.

**We are so proud of each of them. This accomplishment is theirs!**

The Children's Foundation  
P.O. Box 1443  
Loveland, CO 80539-1443

*The Children's Foundation*

US Toll Free Phone: 888-934-3733

International Phone: 970-402-2272

Email: [childrensfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:childrensfoundation@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.childrensfoundationinc.com](http://www.childrensfoundationinc.com)



*Casa Hogar Los Angelitos*

Av. Pedro Flores #16

Col. Las Palmas, Salagua

Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico

(Not a mailing address)

Office Phone: 011-52-314-334-0878

Fax: 011-52-314-333-9332

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## MEET TWO OF OUR CHILDREN



### EMIGDIA

Emigdia is 10 years old. She loves to dance and is filled with contagious energy. Emigdia enjoys reading and learning, but struggles to focus without lots of one-on-one redirection. She is very smart and loving. Her favorite food is hamburgers. Emigdia's favorite sport is volleyball. She likes to play the "older sister" with all the babies at the case hogar.



### MIGUEL

Miguel is 11 years old. He likes all foods. His favorite sport is Fútbol. When he grows up he wants to be a lawyer. Miguel says he likes everything about the casa hogar. Miguel did not have the opportunity to attend school until entering the Casa Hogar this year. He is working hard to catch up and is so proud that he can now read and write, his favorite class is history Miguel loves to draw and paint.

*"There are millions of desperate children throughout the world. While we cannot care for all of them, we can care for some..."*

*Through our programs in Mexico we are providing food for hungry children and full time care for abandoned, orphaned and abused children. Providing hope for those without hope. You can help! It has been said "children are the hope of the future" but, there are children who are desperately waiting to find the promise of hope... You have the opportunity to help us provide hope for children. The need is tremendous, but one by one we are making a difference, we are changing children's lives... Will you help? Will you sponsor a child? Check out our website or contact us for more information on how you can sponsor a child.*