

HOGAR INFANTIL

Winter 2012

Ranch News

Hello, all! The ranch has seen a joyous and eventful last three months. First we have to report that the annual Christmas party was once again a success. A flurry of preparations in food, gifts, decorations and performances added to the excitement and anticipation. After a meaningful and lovely mass in the chapel, the children enjoyed traditional tamales and deserts, watched and acted in plays and dance routines, and then the evening was topped off by a visit from Santa! The party generally has the same format and traditions every year, which might lead one to believe that it's less exciting as the years go on. But somehow the magic is very much alive every year, and a memorable time is had by all! Some of you gave a donation to Hogar instead of holiday gifts to family and friends; we thank you for your role in making a special celebration for over 70 children!

The farm is running well, and we are very excited about the new water purification system that will ensure healthy water throughout the ranch, thus contributing to healthy children and animals (see page 3 for full story).



We also had a wonderful visit from an award-winning muralist and filmmaker just before Christmas. You can read about their lasting gift on page 2. It's something that the kids will see every day that will remind them that there are literally people around the globe who support them, financially and with prayers. We believe that this knowledge fosters self esteem and confidence in the children—to know they are loved.

For that we owe all of you many thanks: playing such an important role in the upbringing of these children by assuring them food, shelter, caring staff, and education so they can break the cycle of poverty from which they came.



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**A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit
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www.hogarinfantil.org

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Peace Mural

We at Hogar Infantil are honored and pleased to share a special happening that took place last month. Fort Worth artist Jo Dufo and filmmaker Michael Aku RoDriguez chose Hogar Infantil as a stop in a project called “36 Peace Murals in 6 Months”. The first mural of the project took them to Swaziland, and in December it took them to Hogar Infantil. The mission is to spread the vision and inspiration of peace. They involve local community and children by asking those who wish to help Jo paint the murals, while Michael records a documentary about the process and its impact. Jo and Michael spent the first few days of their visit simply traveling around Chiapas, absorbing the culture and energy, watching and interacting with the children at Hogar, while the specific mural design formed in Jo’s mind. Once she had a basic outline for the wall (and we’re talking a long, six-paneled wall right in the main communal area of the ranch!) they invited local artists and Hogar’s kids to start painting. What a beautiful way to bring the kids and community together! Jo’s mural has the theme of community, family and togetherness, proclaiming the message *Sueña en Grande* - Dream Big. How wonderful that Hogar’s kids will see this message every day! Thank You to Jo and Michael for their profound and lasting contribution to Hogar Infantil.



Learn more about the 36 Peace Mural project on their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/36-Peace-Murals-in-6-months/163438860352115?sk=wall>

“A PLACE OF SHARING”

Clean Water!!

A couple of newsletters ago we promised to give an update on the new water purification system when it was finished. Thanks to many hard-working individuals and the support of a few organizations, the ranch is now home to a modern filtration system that can handle purifying all the water for the entire ranch! It comes with one request: that during times when there is a surplus of water, 25% will go to serve children or the poor free of charge, thus treating the system as a community ministry. Water shortages are still possible on rare occasions, as we read about in last summer's newsletter, and there are some ideas on the table to set Hogar up with a supply system that is more self-sufficient. But, the fact that all of the available water will now be purified eliminates the problem of water-borne parasites. Even being hooked up to the local city water system doesn't necessarily mean it is "safe". Giardia, typhoid, worms, parasites and amoebas have all been issues at Hogar and in the surrounding areas. What a relief to know the water will be free of these pests—not only the drinking water, but also the water used on gardens and to wash dishes, clothes and bodies! Here are photographs of the finished product and some friendships that resulted from the collaborative project.



Installation crew with local board members in the pump room



Kids are grateful for clean, safe water!!

A very heartfelt thanks to Steve and Susie Paterson, John Mather, Bob Brown, David Quinn, The Simon's Foundation, the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, The Peace and Justice Center in Phoenix, AZ, and all of the local Mexican folks who worked so hard to make this a reality!

Giving with love

We know that each donation is given to Hogar with love and compassion, always keeping in mind the wellbeing of children in Southern Mexico. Some gifts are given with a special intention to honor a loved one who has passed, to celebrate a special occasion such as a wedding, or simply as a Christmas gift to that person. We enjoy acknowledging these special gifts each year, because the commemorative intention adds a deeper level of connection between the giver and the recipient. The following is a list of those who were remembered in a special way in 2011 through a donation to Hogar Infantil:

Martha Hoke Bowne

Irvin and Marion Briese

Leona Coate

Dorothy Deihl

George E. Hoke Sr.

Leon Horsted

Mary Reed

Juanita Saldana

Roy Spears

Helen Zakour

Ingrid Zeek



“A PLACE OF SHARING”