

News from the Villa

Friends of Villa Infantil

Summer 2010

The mission of the Friends of Villa Infantil is to serve the needs of the children by giving of ourselves, our time, our resources and our skills to enhance their lives and provide a safe environment and an opportunity for education, growth and development

Summer...By Sherry Hudson

School ended on July 9th -the kids have six weeks of summer vacation, one month of which is spent with local families while the nuns enjoy a month-long retreat at a convent in Guadalajara. Chuy, the caretaker, and his wife will manage the property while all are away. The last two weeks of holiday the children return to the Villa to settle back into the routine of life during the school year.

This month saw a lot of changes at La Villa! Three siblings were adopted together. It all came together within days of the school term ending, so they were able to finish out the year with their classmates, and they moved away to their new home at the same time as the rest of the children all left the Villa for their summer holidays in the homes of their respective host families.

Madre Maria with Sisters Patti and Blanca, immediately opened the doors and their hearts to a new group, all arriving early July. The orphanage is now bursting at the seams with 30 children. Due to economic conditions, more children than ever are being surrendered as their parents can't afford to feed them. Many young, single mothers who give birth after an unplanned pregnancy will simply drop the newborn baby at the door of a church, and the department of family services (DIF) whisks them here to La Villa. Unfortunately, because they were anonymously deposited, they have little hope of ever finding a home and family because the Mexican Government requires written parental consent for their child to be adopted.

Two young brothers, Gustavo and Fernando, happened to be dropped off by DIF while I was there in early July. Madre Maria offered the lads pizza but Gustavo was so heartbroken he plopped onto the floor crying, "I want my mother!" and continued sobbing all afternoon. How do you console a child who has just lost his mother and had his whole world turned upside down? Fernando, at 2, was blissfully oblivious to this harsh reality and wanted only to check out

the fantastic playground and the mob of kids- he must have thought he won the lottery! Hopefully, his older brother will come around soon, but it was all I could do to hold back tears of my own.

So now comes another harsh reality: with more kids than ever before, the new school year about to begin and donations dwindling things are looking really tough for the Villa. To be sure, things have always been tough, now they are grim. Since the recession hit, many of the sponsors have left and their cheques have stopped coming. The financial cupboard is now bare. Won't you help change the lives of these children?

Your help will give these children a chance at life. Please give. Please visit our website for information about sponsorship.

Villa Named to Receive Scholarships

Villa Infantil has once again been blessed to receive one year scholarships for some of the children from the Educational Foundation of the Americas, Inc.

The mission of the Foundation is to stimulate the quality of education in the Hispanic community of the Americas with specific emphasis on identifying and promoting model programs and/or educational institutions.

Additionally, the directors expect to foster bilingual or trilingual education that will allow this Community to develop their potential and make a significant contribution during their adult life.

Madre Maria strongly believes that education is the key to a better life for the children at Villa Infantil and while there are always needs, education has always taken first place. Both the Villa and Friends of Villa Infantil wish to extend our profound thanks to the Foundation. Visit: www.fdn-americas.org. For more information

Photo & Story Contributors

In this issue: Sherry Hudson
Lisa Le
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From the Editor

I first became involved with Villa Infantil in 2004. I sponsored a little boy who grew very dear to my heart. A short while ago he found a home of his own. I'm happy to say that my sponsored child and his sister were placed in a home together. What I wanted most has happened and yet now I know that his new life won't include me. Still I marvel at how often Madre is able to make the impossible happen. Once again she placed siblings together. And she's done it again since, placing two sisters and their brother in a new home. This is why we volunteer. To help Madre Maria give the children a chance. So while I'm sad to lose this little boy from my life, I'm joyous that he's found a new family.

I hope that you enjoy this edition and can continue to support the work of the Sisters and Madre Maria.

Sally Pachulski



Visiting the Villa

Normal visiting hours at the Villa are:

Monday - Friday: 10 to 12 & 4 to 6
Saturday 10 to 1:30.

No visiting hours on Sundays and holidays.

Madre and the sisters will welcome your visit but please be respectful of their time. Remember most children over the age of 4 will be in school until 1 PM during the school year.

Donations and Receipts

Donations of clothing and non-perishable items are always gratefully accepted. If you have items you would like to donate but cannot get to the Villa, please drop them off at Casa Flores B&B 38 Zaragoza in Ajijic, 2-1/2 blocks from the main Plaza. Owners Steve and Fernando have chosen Villa Infantil as their Charity of Choice and have also offered their B&B as an in-town drop-off point for the orphanage

Please contact them at (376) 766-5493 or visit their website at www.casafloresajijic.com

Friends of Villa Infantil is grateful for all donations. We thank you for understanding that we cannot issue receipts for donations that do not pass through our organization.

Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring one of the children at the Villa Infantil orphanage. Your financial contribution will help provide an education and assist in assuring the general well-being of a child.

For more information, please contact us at villainfantil2010@gmail.com.

Please Join us for the Next Meeting

You are cordially invited to the next meeting of *Friends of Villa Infantil*. Please email villainfantil2010@gmail.com for date, time and location information.

Madre Maria has provided a needs list which has been posted on our website. Your gifts of food, cleaning products and toiletries are greatly needed and appreciated!

www.friendsofvillainfantil.org

Contact Information

Sponsorships and Donations

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