

El Hormiguero



BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

1.- Tortillas from our harvest. 2.-Workshops for women. 3.-A harvest in my family. 4.- Fandango at Las Hormigas • How to make a donation

¡Welcome 2011!

From our work and our “ant” achievements we reassert our commitment with Ciudad Juarez, with the fringe communities at the North-West of this city, with our country, to continue to seed LIFE in the midst of so many contrary and adverse signs.

This is what “Las Hormigas” A.C. was born for, and this is why we still believe it is worth to expect change and transformation within each person for true social change to occur.

Tortillas from our harvest

By late September we had a great experience with the girls and boys of the “Smiles in the Desert” educational Project. Part of the corn we harvested we put apart to make nixtamal (tortilla dough) for hand-made tortillas.

The children didn't know what nixtamal is, and much less that they were capable of doing tortillas, because they thought these could only be made in tortillerías (tortilla factories).

They really enjoyed grinding the corn, kneading, and doing their small tortillas. Finally they placed them on the comal (pan for heating and cooking tortillas), on the fire we made at the yard, so that each took care of her/his own tortillas.

That same day we explained to them that they have inside of them

the seed of the old Mexicans. And that just like corn holds within all the information about its size, shape, and color, that is, all the information about what they are, the same thing happens with us. We hold all the information about who we are, as individuals and as people. We carry within respect for life, the dignity of people, solidarity, community work, courage, loyalty, honorability, truth, honesty, respect, and sensitivity towards the universe, towards what is sacred, to spirituality as the path to transcendence.

At Las Hormigas we seek for girls and boys to discover this face of their own, and their true heart. We are certain that by cultivating them, violence in Juarez will turn into harmony and peace.

Pictures speak louder than words. May you enjoy them.



Washing the corn to make the dough



The dough is ready to make tortillas.



The final product of the effort.



Workshops for **women**

In October and November we held a cycle of Workshops for adult women called "I take care of my children and my partner... and who takes care of me?" The goal was for them to realize the lessons they have interiorized about their role of taking care of all, neglecting their personal needs, their emotions, their body, and often, their own health. The time to reflect was very important, sharing their experiences, knowing they are accompanied by a group in solidarity, relearning to care for themselves and value themselves as human beings. We thank Blanca, Claudia, Berta, Rosa, Herminia, Griselda, Guadalupe, Elisa, Lucy, Tere, Sandra, Veronica, Ericka, and Norma for their lives and for their desire to transform.



Women do activities where they learned to value themselves as human beings.



"An orchard in MY FAMILY"

The experience we had at Las Hormigas with the abundant harvest in summer, thanks to months of soil preparation with compost and manure, provided us more enthusiasm to continue calling the families to have their own family orchard. The first step is for the family

to want the orchard and to set a date to start preparation. Afterwards, we call the houses and, together with that family, we remove the sand from the place appointed for sowing, we remove dirt, herbs, iron, cans, etc. We are prepared with 20 sacks of manure which Ossiell,

our companion from Las Hormigas, prepares beforehand. From that moment on, the family continues to feed the soil with manure during the following weeks.

The experience has been different and nurturing with each family; we get to know each member, they share a

little more about their life, we share with the father whom we hadn't met, etc. In every case we can say that their visit has been a true party.

We hope these families will take care of their land to be able to have a good harvest in summer. We will keep you posted.



First we prepare the ground.



Ready, just have to feed with compost after planting.

FANDANGO at Las Hormigas

In December we had the joy of being visited by a group called "Fandango Fronterizo" made up by young people from Chihuahua, Veracruz, and the United States. Their goal is to collaborate to peace in Juarez with a small seed of love through music and marionettes. They worked with the girls, the boys, and some mothers, teaching them from creating a story to be told, to elaborating the marionettes to give life to the characters in

it. It was a beautiful encounter, since they played their jaranas and sung to the children, they told them to dance on a stage, and finally to stage the stories they had created. Their contact is puppetundergrounddc@gmail.com Thanks to the young men and women of Fandango Fronterizo for making their contribution for Ciudad Juarez to recover peace and harmony!



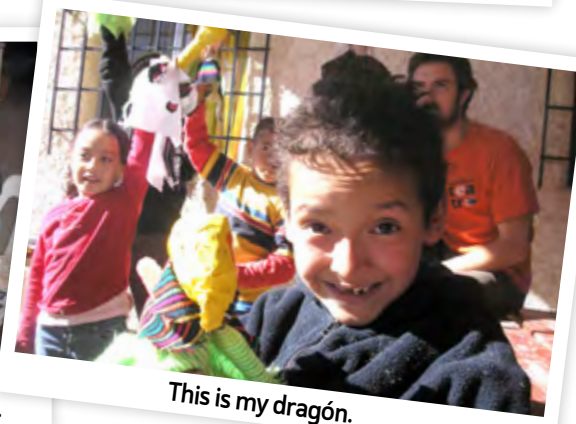
The music group "Fandango Fronterizo" during his performance.



The kids showing the creations.



They use various materials to make the puppets.



This is my dragón.

Welcome new female and male donors of the Hormiga Network:

- Paloma García Monárrez • Arturo Chacón • Judi Diehi.
- Guadalupe de Anda

And we thank all the donors who renewed their generous commitment for this 2011. May your donation multiply a hundred-fold to you.

Remember you can make your donation to the name of Las Hormigas Comunidad en Desarrollo A.C. as follows:

In Mexico: number 165 043 073 in BANORTE
In the United States: number 842368136 in CHASE BANK
Delivering a check to P.O. Box 1805, El Paso TX 79949 USA
or through our web page using Pay Pal



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