

# EL HORMIGUERO

BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

## THIS NUMBER

1) Therapeutic workshop and ritual for peace, Opening of "Las Abejas". 2) Support by the World Hands Project. 3) Children's day. 4) Visit from the Teresianas, Sexuality workshop for pre-adolescents.

## Therapeutic workshop and ritual for peace

Tuesday March, 4, was a day full of action. With the aim of strengthening the education of the children who come to the Educational Project "Smiles in the Desert" and to strengthen the work we do to prevent violence in Ciudad Juarez, we held two important activities on that same day.

The first, which took the whole morning, was a therapeutic workshop for the children and their parents, with Psychotherapist Dr. Roberto Dansie. It was a large group. Over 200 people: boys, girls, mothers and fathers.

The second activity was a ritual to ask for justice and peace in the land conflict which the inhabitants of Lomas del Poleo are still undergoing. Held by Dr. Dansie and the buddhist lama Suhita, the ceremony consisted on requesting from the superior power, however named by each, to protect and strengthen the community living in Lomas del Poleo, to continue their pacific resistance in the face of the violence and intimidation they are subject to almost every day. Back then, the violence and death which have taken their toll during these last months had not started yet.



The group of International Observers from different Organizations in the United States joined us during the ceremony:

La Raza Centro Legal (San Francisco), Amnesty International, National Lawyers Guild, "No More Deaths", International Civil Commission for the Observation of Human

Rights, Concilio Latino San Francisco Bay Area, labor Council for Latin American Advancement (San Francisco Chapter), Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (Sacramento Chapter), La Alianza Latino Americana, and Davis Religious Community for Sanctuary, to gather information and document the current situation the people are undergoing in Lomas del Poleo.

## Opening of "las abejas"

Monday March, 31, we celebrated the joy of seeing the small restaurant called "Las Abejas" (The Bees) "because we go there and work as a team to produce delicious, nourishing food, like bees do" come true. The background of this project is the service provided by these women with the small bus to take other women to the nearest supermarket to buy food

for their homes, and which had to be stopped because of the harassment they suffered by the ruta 10 license holders.

The goal of this project is women's economic autonomy. After the bus and the kitchen on wheels, we learned several things. The most important lesson was that women would not be able to work together and suc-

cessfully carry out a self-managing, economic autonomy project until they underwent a psychotherapeutic process which enabled them to close and heal the wounds which contaminate their lives and current relationships. Several donors were with us: Elvia Zarate, Veronica and David Ruiz, Erika and Cesar Villescas, and Father Pedro Urban. It was a true celebration.





# We completed the sexuality workshop for adult women

The process underwent with a group of 13 adult women was completed on April 30. Dr. Betty Duran from Universidad de Nuevo Mexico, who counseled us on evaluation instrument, Kathleen M. Thompson, responsible for the Two Should Know project, and the project Coordinator in the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Eric Hutson, were with us.

During the length of the workshop we were joined for some sessions by doctor and Psychotherapist Carlos Mendoza, nutriologist and Psychotherapist Ricardo Vargas, visual artist Sarahai Verdugo, and Dr. Elizabeth Duran.

## SOME TESTIMONIES BY THE WOMEN:

"I think it is amazing that at 44 I am finding out sex is good. I was taught not to touch myself, to think everything was bad. Seeing my vagina in a mirror released me from thinking it was something 'dirty' ".

Thanks to my classmates for showing their bare souls. I feel free of shame, of the feeling of sin which the church and society taught me, believing I was wrong".

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# Support by the world hands project

A group of volunteers from several cities in the United States was working at the "Las Abejas" premises from April 5 to 12 to protect the restaurant's weather with an environmental technique.

Under the blazing sun and sand storms they worked like strong, determined ants. The image shows the group with the restaurant women. Thanks a lot to each, for their great work and support.



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## Testimonies

*"I discovered unknown areas, I broke taboos. I love my essence" "I have seen them with love and respect; as my sisters, some as my mothers".*

*"Everything I saw and heard was clean and pure, from the heart; unlike before, when everything I heard about sex was dirty".*

*"I am excited and sad. This is the beginning of a new life to evolve and enjoy. May we be able today, tomorrow, and always, to be proud and confident".*

*"I never thought this workshop would instruct me and educate me. I learned to know and touch my body, I learned that sex is not bad, which is "making love" with my partner".*

*"I looked forward for Wednesdays every week to see the new things coming and to learn from my classmates".*

*"This has been a gift. I was expecting them to give us information, not to make us experience it. I thought making love was only making it with a man, not for myself".*

# Children's day

Tuesday April 29 we went with the children from the educational project "Smiles in the Desert" to the Chamizal park. Cecy, the project coordinator, prepared in detail every activity they would hold to celebrate their day.

The children prepared a surprise, too, and sang "Baby te quiero" for her. It was a lovely day for the children and also for the adults who joined them.





## Visit from the Teresianas

Wednesday April 30, we had the nice surprise of being visited by a group of teresianas sisters from Colegio Latinoamericano. Their general economist, Encarnacion Autor joined them. During their visit we confirmed the strength of the love we have had for each other many years of our life.

# Sexuality workshop for preadolescents

Wednesday May 14 we started the workshop called "Let's put sex in its place" addressed to preadolescents and adolescents from 10 to 14 years old. 45 preadolescents and adolescents attended the first day. We will be telling you about the fruit of this workshop on our new bulletin.



Thanks to our Donors from previous years who continue to support the Cause:

- » Pedro Urban
- » César y Erika Villescás
- » Augusto Flores Hijuelos
- » Alvaro Juanes Ancona
- » Asís Abraham
- » Manuel y Leonora Servin
- » Hands of Christ

» Lucy Muñoz

And welcome to the new donors to the Hormiga Network:

- w Rosalba Robles
- w Lucy Hinze
- w Lucía Hernández Luria