

EL HORMIGUERO

BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

THIS ISSUE

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Celebrating our 5th anniversary

On Friday March 20, while heaven stopped raining and embraced us with love, we celebrated the 5th Anniversary of our work in the current Center.

That day, our conversations included "Have the chairs and tables we rented arrived yet?... we mustn't forget to pick the fruit beverages; will the sound equipment work well?... Carmen Gaytan's plane is about to land and we will be late to the airport!... we shall miss father Urban, our main donor..."

But everything was ready, just like we were, the 11-member team who had been organized for days like ants, getting ready for the event.

The main goal that night was to share and thank our current donors for their commitment and support to our work.

We introduced the history of Las Hormigas, from the onset, with photos in a beautiful video designed by Marco Lujan, and we accounted for the use of the money which the donors have invested in the Organization, so that new friends may join the Ant Network to promote social chan-



Carmen Gaitán
Vicepresident of 'Semillas'
Foundation

ge through personal work.

We deeply thank Carmen Gaytan from the board of directors of the "Semillas" Foundation - her warm gesture in traveling from Mexico City to participate as a magisterial speaker, inviting the attending audience to invest socially and materialize their good wishes, "to put their heart in their wallet and not the wallet in their heart" to quote writer Sabina Berman. Also our friends from the "Cristal" Holistic Center, who lent us their beautiful garden, Toño Cavazos who donated the whole dinner and the latin american group "El Cantaro" for their heartfelt music.

We were glad to meet Miriam and Ana, two professional women who were donors for months and whom we



With César and Érika Villescas first donors of the Hormiga web

hadn't met personally yet; we were also glad to greet the priest Stan Martinka - one of our main promoters-Erika and Cesar, Manuel and Leonora, two young couples who have supported us for 4 and 3 years with their monthly donations; Celina, our dear donor who traveled all the way from Merida to attend the celebration, Sofy and Lucy, women from Anapra who have participated with Hormigas in Workshops and Therapies, people from other Organizations who were with us from the very beginning, whose experience and friendship have been an impulse to us: Tere Almada, Manuel and Marta,

don Fernando, Ivonne and Petrita, Simon and Karina; psychotherapist friends with whom we have shared personal growth experiences to better serve our patients in Anapra, our families, and very close friends.

With their support and collaboration we shall continue to work underground - like ants - for people to be able to transform their lives and to push social change from the last outskirting community in North-West Ciudad Juarez.

To all: donors, friends, family, for their support and love during these five years:

iTHANKS A LOT!



A new experience



A pregnant... cow? Hens? An orchard? What is this new project they came up with at Las Hormigas?

Weren't they into human development, Education? What are the animals and a cultivating field for? (Comment by a lady who has known Las Hormigas from the onset).

Yes. We are in human development through psychotherapy and workshops, and educational support through the Montessori Method.

Nevertheless, thanks to the wealth and reflection we have found in some therapist friends, we confirmed how decisive it is to keep working in developing and channeling the energy of children, their sensitivity, creativity and perception, using the House land for this

purpose; and at the same time, to supplement this development with the learning experiences brought by the orchard and the animals, towards self-sustainability, especially during these times of crisis, when their parents are losing their jobs because the maquiladoras are closing. Learning that the earth can give them the food they need: vegetables, fruits, corn, and that animals such as hens and cows can also provide them with food such as milk and eggs; and learning to process the products for the same to be turned into, for example, cheese - that is also very important and educational.

This is why on March 19, thanks to father Pedro Urban's support and from Rigoberto Delgado, representing Organizacion Heifer from El Paso Texas, we re-

ceived in the Boys and Girls House land a beautiful cow we named "Clara". She was pregnant, and on April 15, at 5:30 in the afternoon she gave birth to "Bella", a very nice calf who does nothing but playing and eating.

In February we started with 5 hens. A few weeks later the rooster came in. Today we already have nine chicken, and the hens lay eggs every day. The orchard already produced coriander and we are about to harvest potatoes, onions, squash, and a little corn.

It is important for girls and boys to have the tools to have access to formal education, but it is also important for them to have access to their own means of support in a natural, healthy way, thus helping them and the land to last and balance each other.



The girls and boys house



By early January we received the first four boys, whose mothers work and had no one to take care of them. Aydee and Guadalupe were very excited to greet them. Omar, a 5-month old baby, Daniel, a 11-month baby, Rubi and Juanita, who are one year and six months, and a year old, respectively.

Today they are nine, divided in the two rooms in the House: babies and preschoolers. When the number of children increased, the team also grew. Hortensia Quiñones came in to support Guadalupe in the babies room. Gudelia Mateo, who is in the kitchen, and Marcos Gandarilla, a watchman. He and Ramon are in charge of the orchard and the animals.

The House team is receiving pedagogical counseling by the Montessori Guide Cecilia Hernandez, who coordinates the educational Project Smiles in the Desert.

During this first stage the maximum number of children will be 14.

They are in the Hose from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Preschoolers follow an educational program to develop human, social, and environmental skills. They have two nutritional, balanced meals, and are carefully taken care of.

Some of the comments by their mothers are:

"Omar is very regular now. He used to have constipation. It's probably the vegetable paps which I didn't give him"

"My son doesn't cry all the time. All he used to want was to be held in arms. He can understand me when I talk to him and is happier".



We welcome the new donors of the Hormiga web

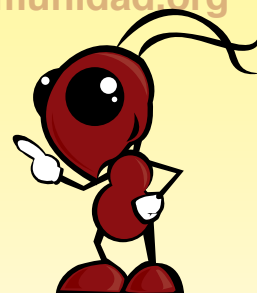
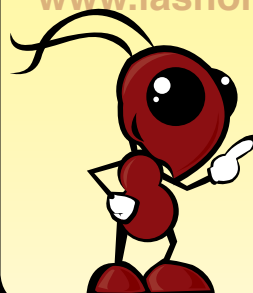
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WE ARE UPDATING
OUR WEBSITE

the new direction is:

www.lashormigascomunidad.org
www.lashormigascomunidad.org
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“Let us place **sex** where it belongs”

By late 2008 a group of women who participated in the Sexuality Workshop “Let us put sex where it belongs” supported by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, set up a street exhibition in the neighborhood, to share with the community what they learned, through cloths designed by themselves.

It was a very interesting experience because a lot of women, men, and children, approached to ask what that was, providing a chance to share.

The comments were very favorable. One father profited from the exhibition and talked to his son, asking questions to one of the women who attended the workshop.

“Hey, you should do this more often. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about these things with our children”. He said, and was very happy when he went back home.

