

EL HORMIGUERO

BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

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Elvia and Emilienne



Mr. Alvaro Juanes, first donor from Mérida

Acknowledgment to Donors in Merida

On the 5th Anniversary of Las Hormigas, we held on June 19 in Merida an event to acknowledge our donors from this beautiful, warm land, for their support and generosity, and to make known the work we do, as well as to invite new donors to become part of the Hormiga Network.

The atmosphere was so warm you could almost touch the love with your hands. Celiina Sarlat de Segovia thanked the audience for accepting the invitation to accompany us that night. And she very deeply shared with the audience what her eyes had witnessed about the birth of Las Hormigas arising from Elvia and Linabel's dreams.

During the event we were

honored to have the company of the Executive Director of Fundacion Semillas (Sociedad Mexicana Pro Derechos de la Mujer AC), Emilienne de Leon Aulina, who spoke from her heart inviting the audience to:

"... close your eyes for a moment and imagine a desert, sand, and high temperatures in that desert land; see the houses and hovels, unpaved streets, no water or sewage, no transportation or proper electric services. A desert filled with poverty and families who don't have the essential resources to survive. More than 22,000 people live there.

And standing there, you can also see the border. The

cyclone fence which separates Mexico from the United States; see the highways, the great buildings in El Paso, Texas. The prosperity of the first world in front of the misery, separated only by a cyclone fence; the possibility of a prosperous future in front of the reality of a situation where the marginalization and absence of opportunities prevail.

In this visualization, come back to the desert, and right in the middle of what you just saw and which probably made you feel desolation, sadness, impotence, imagine a very modest, pretty construction, the same color of the sand, see Centro Comunitario Las Hormigas emerging as

an oasis in the middle of that desert, offering the families in Rancho Anapra and Lomas de Poleo an opportunity to move ahead, to know they are valuable people, that they can become better, and that life is worth living.

This is what Las Hormigas represents: a place for families and people to reconstruct themselves, a place of education for boys and girls who would otherwise be unable to go to school; Las Hormigas also represents a place where people can organize to create and make art, play, party, produce food and sell it, and at the same time to heal their souls.

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Being there with las hormigas gives us hope back, makes us know that this other Juarez which cannot be seen but which does exist has possibilities, and it deserves to develop differently.

There would be many other things I could tell you about Las Hormigas, but I am running out of time and just like at the beginning I asked you to close your eyes, I am now asking you to open your eyes and to open your

heart as well.

As one of our dear donors, Sabina Berman, says: don't put your heart in your wallet: put your wallet in your heart; if the cause is just, then it is worth it. We can all support, never mind the distance from Merida to Juarez, las hormigas are our bridge and we can support them. Put, then, your wallet in your heart, take your checkbook and donate to Las Hormigas, the cause is well worth it".

Thanks to each of the donors in Merida, who generously really make it possible for us to do all we do.

Thanks to Emilienne for caring, for her presence, her support and company from Semillas.

Thanks to the Sarlat Flores brothers and their spouses. Celina and Fernando, Javier and Marisol, Carmen and Jorge, Patricio, Miguel and Cecilia, who with their solidary love made it possible to cele-

brate this event.

Thanks to all the people from Yucatan who accompany us this wonderful night, and who with their donations in kind facilitated this event.

Thanks to the new donors who, as of this night, are members of the Hormiga Network.

Thank you very much!!!

Closing Summer Camp

»By **Cecilia Hernández**,
Montessori Guide
»**Camp Coordinator**

As part of the teaching work with children we offer a summer camp during 4 weeks; by the end of the regular cycle of the Sonrisas en el Desierto 2008-2009 project.

This year, our experience in planning a camp where the main goal was to have fun, be together and work out, was very special. The idea was brought to provide children a chance to learn and practice different physical disciplines such as yoga, kung-fu, pantomime, dance, and soccer, besides manual activities. We also went on an excursion to Central park and the Chamizal park, as well as guided tours to our farm. Besides being in touch with nature and animals, we had therapeutic sessions there.

One of the ends was for children to learn by experiencing and spending time together.



The results were: happy, motivated, active, children, respectful towards their environment. We invited parents to give their children a chance to continue participating in this type of camps, where children, besides being educated to respect their environment and others, are being given the seeds of solidarity and the awareness of the great internal strength within them.



Interview with Project beneficiaries

In order to inform you about the results achieved in each of the projects, we literally transcribe the experience of people from Anapra and Lomas del Poleo when they come to Las Hormigas. In our next issue we shall be interviewing direct and indirect beneficiaries of the educational Project "Smiles in the Desert" and the Flower Therapy "Bach Flowers" project.

■ Psychotherapy Project

How have you benefited from coming to therapy?

- **It has helped me realize why I act the way I do.** The reason for my anger, my outbursts, my sadness. Being able to say I'm sorry.
- **I came here because I couldn't find the way out,** there was no solution for the problems with my husband, and I wanted to come because I wanted to discover how to handle the situation. And in time we have indeed improved. Therapy opens my mind, my heart, and I am able to solve my problems.
- **I am learning to care for myself,** not to hurt myself or hurt others with my faces, my tantrums, my anger. Being able to calmly say whether I want or not something, but without offending others.
- **I have learned to command respect** from my spouse and children. They used to be disrespectful with me.
- **Now things have changed** because I state my worth;

if I don't do it myself, no one else will.

• **I came looking for help** because I had a lot of stress in my brain and now I feel calmer. The situation in the city, all that, is a big stress for me, all the violence, the ugly things.

• **I feel I am healthier.** Also, I have found out I did not receive love when I was a kid, hugging, and I used to think that was ok, that the way we were raised was normal. But now I realize that love is necessary.

■ Casa de Niños Project

Which positive changes do you see in your child ever since you started to bring him/her to the Day Care Center?

He has more discipline and is more independent. He is learning what it's like to be together with other children.

I see he is more mature.

What do you like best about the Day Care Center?

My son is more confident.

I like the atmosphere.

They are very well cared-for.

She learns something every day.

My son is confident to stay.

I like the way they care for children, the food they give them, and the music they play for them.

The food they receive.

Have you experienced any changes ever since you bring your child to the Day Care Center?

I am a little more patient with her.

I can relax at work, I don't worry about my son.

We welcome the new donors of the Hormiga web

- » Guadalupe Segovia Sosa
- » Betina Torres Cámara
- » Alejandro Castillo López
- » Lili Margarita Fernández Llanes
- » Emilienne de León Aulina
- » Miriam Brito
- » Ma. Guadalupe Barrera Sarlat
- » Beatriz Patrón Salazar
- » Mimi Sarlat Sarlat
- » Rocio León Sarlat
- » Mercedes Sarlat Corrales
- » Rosa María Holder Sarlat

IMPORTANT NEWS:

To facilitate making donations, we inform you can make yours through periodic discounts to a Visa or Master Card credit card.

Those who are interested, please contact us at "nidodehormigas@yahoo.com.mx" or "linabels@yahoo.com.mx" to deliver the authorization form for the amount you decide.



»Margarita Monárrez Fragoso
Donor

Why did you donate to Las Hormigas?

»Margarita Monárrez Fragoso.

I am a Las Hormigas, Comunidad en Desarrollo donor because I have seen the way they benefit and offer the chances, the possibility for a vulnerable sector of our society which has no access to opportunities to make the best of their resources and have a better life.

People who go to Las Hormigas get several chances to develop their strengths, and be the actors in their well-being through therapies and education.

Learning to discover their potential by regaining their self-esteem, facing their fears and emotions, and realizing they can achieve things with the wonderful choice offered by this community where there are no limitations, and where those who want and who need help in improving their lives will always find a place.



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Welcome: Gudelia, Hortensia, Verónica, Patricia y Lourdes

Our team is growing. And although Gudelia Mateo and Hortensia Quiñones joined us months ago, undertaking the children's food and the babies areas, he had not yet welcomed them in our Bulletin.

Movements and growth continued through June, July, and August, since those were the months where we welcomed 3 new colleagues who joined the "Las Hormigas" team: Patricia Baltierrez in the Center cleaning area, Veronica Gomez as assistant to the babies area, and Lourdes Rodarte, with whom we will open the administrative and accounting department.

The arrival of these new partners means we are re-

newing and strengthening in this stage of growth, 5 years after the date when we were born, enabling us to offer more professionalism and quality in our work, before the realities which Anapra and Ciudad Juarez make us face.

With Paty, Veronica, Lourdes, and the rest of the team we renew the commitment which moved us from the first day we visited this area and felt called by it to make our contribution, small as it may be, and offer our ant work for people to find strength and meaning in their lives; to rebuild themselves, to evolve and be the seeds of light and transformation in these marginalized communities of the desert in Juarez.



Verónica Gómez



Patricia Baltierrez



Gudelia Mateo



Hortensia Quiñones



Lourdes Rodarte