

EL HORMIGUERO

BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

THIS NUMBER:

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1. Do you know who "Las Hormigas" are?

"Las Hormigas" Comunidad en Desarrollo A.C. is a lawfully incorporated Organization of civil society. In the year 2000 the two founders (former nuns, after 20 and 23 years living in the teresiana Religious Community) arrived in Anapra- back when there was no pavement, tap water, phone lines, and it was deemed a Juarez "annex", although they didn't start their work as a Civil Association until 2002. The services they provide are preferably for the poor quarters in the periphery, Northwest to the city. They work to transform the violent, disharmonized social reality through several projects for psycho-educational development.

"We believe this is the only way to achieve the change our society needs, especially nowadays, because change comes from within, and not from without".

They work through psycho-therapeutic and educational processes which aim at providing the tools people need to awaken and realize the way they live, to make the decision and the changes they need and to become responsible for their actions. This work is slow because they want to reach the root of the human being, there where every girl or boy, every woman and every man discovers her/his true being, her/his worth, and makes the most important decisions in her/his life. Their contribution is a tough although beautiful and necessary bet, because they know and they are certain that human beings are capable of rebuilding and modifying themselves, of awakening their consciousness.



Do you know who "LAS HORMIGAS" are?

This is why what they offer in "Las Hormigas" is to accompany personal processes, because in order to rebuild one's life, awareness needs to be awakened, and this takes a lot of personal effort.

They work these psycho-educational human development processes in 4 Projects: "Smiles in the Desert":

An educational and therapeutic support project for girls and boys who, for different reasons, have learning and anger management difficulties. For the educational work they rely on the Montessori method, performed by Cecilia Hernandez Sanchez. In their psychotherapeutic work they follow Gestalt guidelines and bioenergetic physical exercises retrieved from the Mexican tradition of our

ancestors. They seek to develop cognitive abilities and autonomy in children, as well as healthy management of their anger, frustration, and limits. This therapeutic process also takes place with the adults the girl or they boy live with, because that environment is the place where they have learned to be who they are.

Human Development Psychotherapies and Workshops: therapeutic processes leading the person, couple, family, or group to learn how to look at and acknowledge the fears and suffering in their lives, and to the decision to create healthier relationships, which can be liberating for themselves and for others.

"Las Hormigas" House for Girls and Boys: A small daycare center

coordinated by Sol Chacon, specialized in Education, where they look after and feed nutritional, balanced foods, to 15 girls and boys aged 4 months to 5 years old, children of working mothers from Anapra and Lomas del Poleo. This is also a place where mothers learn about their children's care and feeding.

There is also an orchard and a farm to teach -especially girls and boys- how to sow and reproduce animals for family self-sustainability in these times of hardship where unemployment and economic crisis are knocking the doors of many families.

Reflection workshops on women's rights: reflection groups of women who want to learn and know their right to live free from violence and who are willing to awaken their consciousness to stop being victims and abusers of their own children.

The Center "Las Hormigas" Comunidad en Desarrollo A.C. is mostly supported by individual and institutional donations through what we have called the RED HORMIGA (Hormiga Network), which anyone willing to do something specific to contribute to change in the city can be a part of.

Currently the work Team is made up by 12 people and they provide their services from Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

For more information about their work, contact:

nidodehormigas@yahoo.com.mx and request delivery of their electronic Bulletins or visit their web site: www.lashormigascomunidad.org

Magical Night with Eugenio BidOne

To provide "Las Hormigas" with visibility in Ciudad Juárez, make their work known and invite more people to be a part of Red Hormiga as donors, on December 8 we organized a Magical Night together with an extraordinary team of collaborators.

With this event we intended to contribute to transform the fear of the citizens, in the face of the violence we currently experience in Ciudad Juárez, into hope and harmony through the music of the extraordinary saxophonist Eugenio Bid One, who generously donated his show. Close to 250 people gathered in that warm, solidary environment. THANKS! to all of them.

We were honored with the presence of the President of Fundacion Semillas, Carmen Gaitan. We would like to share some of the paragraphs of her wonderful speech:

LAS HORMIGAS, just like the ants, are meticulous and hard working, they work the land. Let me explain this: they came up with the idea of acquiring a piece of dry land and sow an orchard there with the kids. Could there ever be a better learning experience than sowing the seeds and watching the fruits by themselves? Through the cycle of nature, kids sow in their souls the cycle of creation. They teach it to them, they accompany them; those boys and girls are already different: they are the seeds for change.

This is why I believe in them.

A myopic society generates violence, indifference, discontent; on the other hand, a society with open eyes, heart and will, is a society heading for change, who believes that union makes visibility possible, together in front of the others we become concrete, almost invincible. Only by looking ahead can we show we are hiding nothing, that we want what we deserve for the mere fact of being born in this land: respect for our human



Carmen Gaitan Rojo
President
Sociedad Mexicana Pro Derechos de la Mujer (SEMILLAS)

We also thank our sponsors whose contribution enabled all the income of that night to be entirely for "Las Hormigas" A.C.:

rights. In Chihuahua we are not murderers, or drugdealers, we are not corrupt or shamblers, we don't want the rest of the country to point a finger at us calling us the most violent state. We can achieve this change by joining Organizations like LAS HORMIGAS.

I am with LAS HORMIGAS, this is now a life commitment because I want, together with them, my state to become better, for women and men to revive. I want to be proud of my state again, the state which my parents, my brothers, my aunt Carmela, taught me to venerate; admire its heroes, its landscapes beyond compare, its tarahumara people, Paquime, enjoy flour tortillas and pinole, sopaipillas,

blue skies in the desert, ants...

We have no choice but to educate ourselves, educate, educate, educate, the more words we are allowed to use, the freer we shall be. I decide to do whatever I please with my money, I know my donation changes the course in a woman's life, in her environment, her family, she empowers herself, she knows, she stands up for herself. Let's say tonight we all want change, let's do it hand in hand with LAS HORMIGAS, you will be different, by being donors you will know you are part of the education they give.

I give them my donation, I believe in them.

Will you join me? With your heart and your wallet?

Thank you very much.

- Industrial San Sebastián S.A. de C.V. de León Guanajuato
- Herrería Moderna
- Mega Radio Ciudad Juárez
- Del Río y Superette
- Reparto S.A. de C.V.
- Directorio de Ofertas
- El Diario de Juárez
- Centro Holístico y Spa Cristal
- REVLON Professional
- Art Studio. Fotografía y Video
- Guitarrista Iván.
- Particular anonimous donors
- And thanks to Rita, Maribel, and Gaby for their extraordinary effort in ticket sales.
- And to Gerardo Moran and Liz Carillo for their excellent conduction of the event.
- Each and every one of them made this Magical Night a reality.

Why do I donate to “Las Hormigas”?

We have known the “Las Hormigas” project ever since it was cooking in the minds of Elvia and Linabel. We have seen how, with a lot of effort, dedication, patience, teamwork, personal work, and most of all an attitude of devotion and looking after those most in need or those who are the most unprotected (not only economically, but socially and emotionally), it went from something they desired and expected so much to become a reality.

We wanted to become donors for “Las Hormigas A.C.” because we believe in this project, because we know that the work done in this Organization is a very noble work and especially done with the heart.

Because we feel we are part of this project even if we are not physically there. We know they could not go on working without economic support. Our way of collabor-



César and Érika Villescás

rating in a specific way is by economically supporting it, so that the opportunity for more people to profit from the services they provide can keep happening. We believe that what makes it possible for Organizations like

“Las Hormigas” to continue is the teamwork by those who work directly and those of us who are donors, with the only goal of giving support to dignify the person.

Because as citizens and as human beings we feel committed to do something for our city and to be solidary with the process occurring in this group of women who are part of “Las Hormigas”: providing girls, boys, and all those who approach seeking therapy, a sense of value and meaning to their lives different from what they are used to or what they have always seen.

We know the work we are doing from this corner of our city will reflect in our society, that is for sure.

This is why we continue to be donors, because we see that our economic investment is giving a lot of fruit.

We welcome new donors

- Ken y Luz Montenegro
- Alma García Márquez
- Jerry Brokish
- Niña Gabriela Fellingham Villescás
- Miguel Sarlat Flores
- Sara Catalina Pavón Flores
- José E. y Lila Brito Flores
- Gumersindo Pavón Flores
- Nina Gulloti
- Linabel Flores de Sarlat
- Beatriz Patrón
- Ma. Adela Menéndez
- Ofelia Urcelay
- Fidy Ávila
- Alma Rosa Rosado
- Ma. Teresa Peraza
- Elsy Noemí Acevedo
- Conchita Alayola
- Elsy Gómez Flores
- Melba Fernández Vargas



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...?



Anapra and Lomas del Poleo are the last quarters in Northwest Ciudad Juarez, on the border with El Paso TX and Park NM. Population around over 20 thousand inhabitants, around 80% of which come from the interior of the republic.

Of the over 60 streets there are in Anapra, only 6 are paved: the main avenue and five lateral streets where the public transportation route goes, leading to the Clinic and the Fire station.

Anapra is now connected to the highway which joins Juarez and San Jeronimo and leads to the international Santa Teresa bridge, New Mexico.

There is no drainage in the quarter; families use septic tanks and much of the used water ends up in the earth roads, creating sources of infection and quagmires.

By late 2008 the only government Clinic in the area opened, and it doesn't work 24 hours a day. The closest hospital is FEMAP, almost 8

km. away from Anapra.

There are 3 kindergartens in the area. There are only 2 official primary schools with morning and evening shifts in Anapra and 1 private religious primary school; there is one official primary school in Lomas de Poleo, and it risks being closed due to "insufficient teachers" and 1 private primary school. We have 1 official secondary school with the two shifts and recently a private highschool opened. There is overboarding and

demand for the basic levels, and thus many boys and girls have no place for this 2009-2010 school term.

There are over 10 different churches only in Anapra, 2 Christian boarding schools, and 1 Catholic parish with 2 chapels.

Anapra has no green areas, it only has one large piece of earth where football is played and an external park with two basketball courses, unfortunately with no street lighting.