

El Hormiguero



BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.



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Family Orchards Preparing the soil to sow

By late February and early March we had together with the girls and boys of the Educational Program “Smiles in the Desert” the beautiful experience of visiting their homes to prepare the soil for the May sowing.

Monica’s dad had already prepared the soil. He only asked us to bring some manure to turn it over and to further enrich his soil.

We remembered how to prepare compost in a hole to feed the soil and for it to have more nutrients.

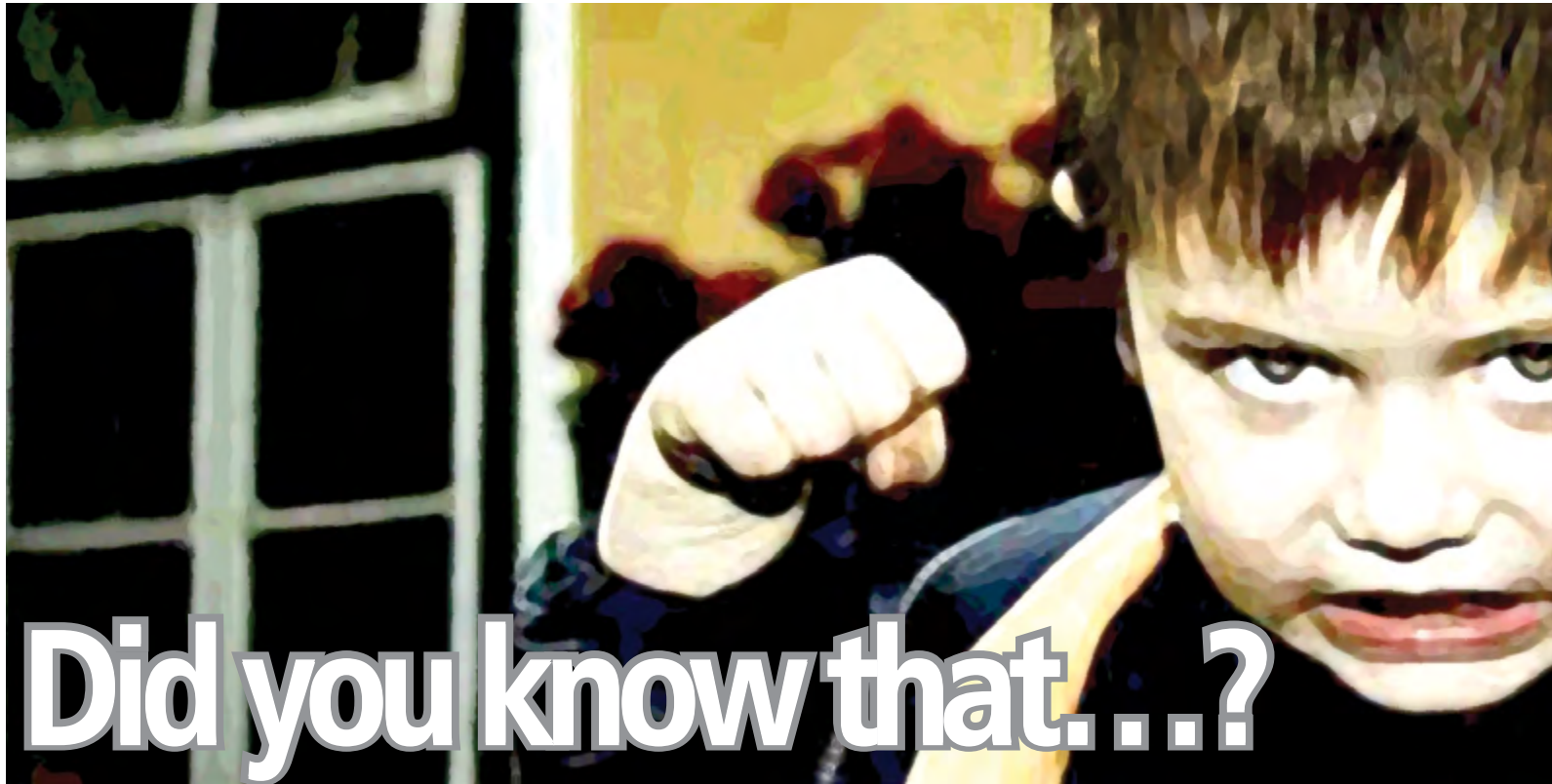
We enjoyed ourselves a

lot, both children and adults. Everybody worked. Everybody wanted the hoe and the shovel. Some brought their small shovels to turn the soil.

Under the current critical conditions of maquiladora layoffs, these orchards will support their nourishment and their economy.

We shall keep you informed in our next Bulletins, both about sowing and harvesting in this wonderful process of growth and transformation which children are witnessing in their own lives.





Did you know that...?

In Anapra from psychotherapeutic practice.

We have witnessed behavior phenomena which have become structured in people, resulting in disorders which affect the relationships and social life of children, our future adults. We are working on this reality with systemic psychotherapy, transforming these situations.

We will now talk about a very common phenomenon which is affecting the development of this community.

In this small article we share some observations and thoughts from our therapeutic practice in Anapra, on the factors we consider are favoring the rise of abusive men.

Abusers

When a mother comes to therapy saying her son has problems or is a problem, the underlying message is "I don't know what to do about my son".

After describing her situation we start our review and ask "What do you do when you instruct him to do something and he doesn't? When he doesn't want to eat? When he takes his sister's things and she gets mad at him?", for example. The answers are invariably "I tell him but he doesn't heed", "I tell his sister not to scold him", "He cries and I don't like to see him cry" "I ground him

but soon I realize he is already out" "I make him something else to eat, he can't be skipping meals" ... and countless similar answers.

After several sessions this mother finally says "the truth is, I don't know what to do about me" because she realizes the way she relates to her son is from her own unresolved issues, which are like an open wound.

What I mean is that we, humans, have the ability to "project", that is, to see outside ourselves, personal issues which we find difficult to see directly within us.

Thus, another interesting phenomenon worth researching is the fact that many mothers find it easier to see themselves reflected in their sons. Which leads to an identification of their own history but in the wrong character: their son.

So, feeling frustrated, defenseless, unprotected, or abandoned, the mother doesn't see all the resources her son has. Instead, she projects her own unmet needs and wants to solve and satisfy them in her son. Wrong.

So she starts to overprotect him, defend him and talk on his behalf, to do for the boy what he is capable of doing by himself. And so the child internalizes the message "I am powerful. My mother gives me her power. I control her. She does as I like". This is some sort of magic thinking which, when timely worked, can defuse the bomb of a future physical, sexual, or emotional abuser.

Because what an abuser seeks is to have control over those around him. He wants to continue to have the power his mother gave him, perhaps unknowingly.

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An abuser child knows he can do as he likes and he grows thinking that's what life is about.

The absence of firm directions and consequences to his actions empowers him, because his parents or the adults in charge of him have a hard time frustrating him and saying "No" when necessary.

Another element which originates an abusing child is the fact that male authority or father's authority does not exist, or is stumped for several reasons, and the mother, or the grandmother, or the aunt happen to be the ones with a direct relationship and authority over the child, all female figures.

The boys who are undergoing the process of becoming abusers suffer a lot, mostly because they perceive themselves as the adults while being just boys, and because they feel very frustrated when things don't turn out the way they say. This is when they jump from frustration to anger, to

either oral or physical aggression (tantrums).

They need limits and support with their out bursting emotions, but they don't receive that.

The key to defuse this destructive process in boys is definitely working with adults. If an adult becomes aware of her own life, her history, her unmet needs, and decides to work them on herself, she will be able to look at her son as an "other", and to accompany him while he grows, just like she is doing with herself.

These therapeutic and educational processes are the precious work we do at Las Hormigas with boys, girls, and the adults who are in charge of them. Now more than ever, Ciudad Juarez needs this work at the roots for things to start changing.

Thanks to each and every one of the donors who make this possible.



Chiapas Forum

From April 11 to 14, our collaborator Ma. Eugenia Hernandez Sanchez, member of the "Las Hormigas" support team, attended and participated as lecturer for the MUJER SALUD Y MIGRACION Forum in San

Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

Why was it important to attend this type of encounter promoted by Organizations from the Civil Society? Anapra is a large quarter with a high per-

centage of migrants from the states of the republic, it is a community which has lagged behind for years, where women have not received due health attention (physical, mental, and community health). We must

also remember it is located on the border with Nuevo Mexico and with Texas. We transcribe Maru's experience, where she shares the importance of this Forum:

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“... absence of health -including HIV- is related to the structural violence separating families and forcing them out of their towns and cities. It relates to the absence of medical services. We find it is important to talk about Women, Health and Migration because our position on health at Las Hormigas is a process of becoming aware of our body and of our person, since there is a social organization system which is unevenly structuring us, thus generating a stress which reflects in domestic violence within each family”

Thanks a lot to our collaborators in Formacion y Capacitacion A.C. (FOCA) who invited us to participate and to the other women in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Mexico, with whom we shared this learning.



Donation by Shujo

We are deeply thankful to the artist Saul “Shujo” Hernandez for donating to “Las Hormigas” AC 15% of his photographic exhibition.

KI PROJECT in Mexico City which will be open through December 10, 2010 appointments with Luisa from Casa Lula (Pachuca #171 Colonia Condesa, Mexico City) <http://www.kiproject.org/>

Ki Project: *“Is an emotion which has been with me all my life and which I just recently gathered the courage to start. The growth of a collective awareness for the communion of Human kind through plurality”*

Shujo ”

Thank you Saul for your sensitivity
and solidary spirit!

Welcome New Donors

- Maureen Niedermeyer
- Gabriela Ledezma P.
- Saúl (Shujo) Hernández
- Norman Saucedo
- Ma. Teresa Vázquez
- Rubén Parra

Las Hormigas
Comunidad en Desarrollo, A.C.

Las Hormigas Comunidad en Desarrollo A.C.
Calle Siluro #616, Colonia Puerto Anapra C.P. 32107
Tel. (656) 6 273472 Ciudad Juárez Chihuahua.
Email: nidodehormigas@yahoo.com.mx
Linabel Sarlat: linabels@yahoo.com.mx
Elvia Villescás: evspepa@yahoo.com

•Design: Jezrael Gutiérrez R. •E-mail: jezraelg@gmail.com

•Cel. (656) 286 0752