

El Hormiguero

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BULLETIN FOR LAS HORMIGAS COMUNIDAD EN DESARROLLO A.C.

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Visit to Nanabi

BY CECILIA HERNANDEZ S.
MONTESSORI GUIDE

In March we met Nanabi, a natural size sculpture of a cow elephant created by the South-African artist Andres Botha, which brought to our city the message that we all must encourage love for nature and care for the resources we have.

During our visit to Nanabi, the children admi-

red this enormous cow elephant, which is a little over four meters high and weighs over a ton, brought from South Africa to our city. Like a living being and not a work of art, Nomkhubulwane the cow elephant, which is the name of the piece made in 2009 with discarded tires, was waiting for children and adults at the esplanade of Paso del Norte Cultural Center, where we went to meet her.

Ever since we arrived, Nanabi captivated us, so much so that the kids couldn't stop touching it and talking to her like it was real. "See Nanabi, how big she is! She is so pretty!" were the words of some of the children who saw her upon arriving to the esplanade.

It was very significant to be able to share the message of love and respect to our mother earth and to those who live on

it. It was a wonderful learning experience, especially for those of us working at Anapra, a desert area filled with throw-outs, especially plastic bags. In a few months we will materialize an environmental campaign in Anapra, where girls and boys will participate, counseled and accompanied by Doctor Ana Cordova from Colegio de la Frontera Norte, a friend and donor for "Las Hormigas" A.C.



Therapeutic workshop for mothers

The months of March, April, and May we held a training and growth workshop for the mothers of the girls and boys who come to the psycho-educational project called "Smiles in the Desert".

The workshop's main goal was for them to start realizing and questioning the way they accompany their children's growth every time they treat them violently or they avoid setting limits for them.

On the last day we asked them to write a letter as if dictated by their child, telling them what he/she was going to be like within 10 years if they continued to educate them with fear and without firmness and if they did not modify certain habits which were encouraging further aggressiveness in them.

We share some pieces of those letters:

"Mother, because you fight so

much with my father, because you didn't solve your problems, my destiny was so miserable. You ruined my life because you didn't pay any attention to us. Because you were never able to realize I was not doing well at school. Because you did not scold me when I took something which belonged to someone else... all this I did to get your attention".

"Mother, today I am a violent man, I don't have the courage to face life. Because you made everything so easy for me, not requiring my effort, now I don't hesitate to take other people's belongings and show no love for no one, not even for you or my brothers and sisters".

"Mother, because of the way you treated me, because you solved everything for me, today I spend my life from one job to another, waiting to

find someone to do de work for me, because I was never taught how to make an effort. You went along with my tantrums and in your desire to be left in peace there was always someone who would do my homework for me; now I am a failure".

"Mother, because you didn't fix your relationship issues, today I am frustrated, resented, angry at you, insecure, I am not a happy young man. I yell, I am grumpy, sluggish, there is a lot of pain in my heart, I am a tramp and very rude. Worst of all is that I behave like you with the people around me".

"Mother, because you didn't talk your problems through with my father, today life has been very difficult to me, full of problems I have brought on to me, because of all the things I

learned with you every day. You taught me to get what I wanted the easy way, without any effort, to take things anywhere I wanted and whenever I wanted".

"Mother, because of you I am a working man, but I work for my addiction. I sought in other people what you didn't give me".

"Mother, because of the way you treated me and because you didn't fix your relationship issues, today I am disrespectful and careless. Today I yell my way out and hit others to get their attention, to be listened. I have no respect for authority".

The hope this workshop brought to the heart of every mother was big, and so was their decision to continue in the path of self-knowledge and personal work.



Bottling Workshop

On May 26 was the closing of the training workshop for mothers with the Bottling Workshop.

Thanks to the support by Rita Ruvalcaba, a dear friend of Las Hormigas and therapist at Centro Holístico and Spa Cristal, we had the first Bottling Workshop at the Daycare center kitchen, to learn how to cook foods to be kept and eventually used when needed.

For over two years now we have been aware in "Las Hormigas" of the importance of reinforcing in girls, boys, and their families, their self-sustainability, because the economic outlook is becoming harder every day for all, and wages are



not enough to fulfill all their needs.

Women brought jalapeño and serrano chilis, carrots, onions, garlic, sweet pepper, beet, and sweet potato. We decided to bottle only jalape-

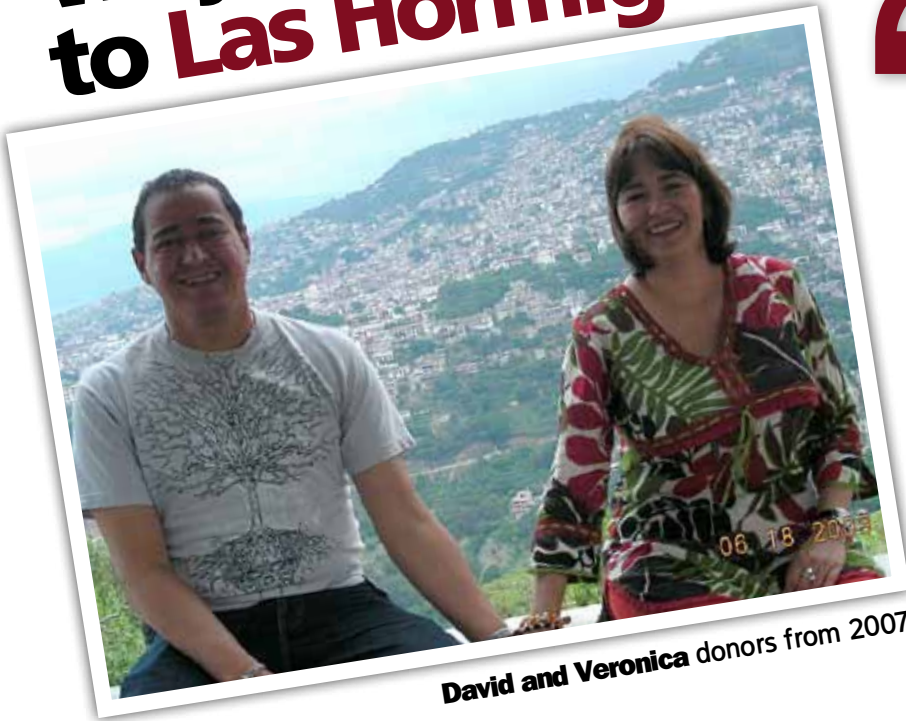
ño chili for all, and we took the basics to be able to prepare the rest at home, with any other foods. From the onset, we all participated as a team: we cut onion, chili, and garlic. Then, we fried them,

while the water where they would eventually be boiled with vinegar was heated.

It was a beautiful opportunity to learn, but also to be with each other and for women to share other abilities they have and which they want the others to profit from, such as teaching each other manual works and how to make cheese from Clara's milk (the cow we have at the farm).

3 hours later, every woman took her bottle of pickled chili, although some of them said it was so delicious they would be eating it very soon. We undertook to repeat the workshop in July, about which we will tell you in our next Bulletin.

Why we donate to Las Hormigas



David and Veronica donors from 2007



My wife Veronica and I contribute to Las Hormigas because God has given us more than we need.

And when God gives more than we need it's not for us to treasure, it is for us to share, and to share with the people who need the most, and who often don't even have the basic things they need to survive.

Besides, God put in our way an Association as beautiful as Las Hormigas so that we can contribute with our grain of sand to the noble work they do.

Thank you and God bless you.



"Spread the word" Campaign

Dear Donors:

In this space we will share with you some of the especially urgent needs so that you may spread the word about them for someone to be solidary with the work performed in Las Hormigas.

SPREAD THE WORD!

At the Farm...

To feed the cow, the calf, the bull, the hens, the roosters and ducks, we need every month:

- 60 bales of fresh alfalfa (\$4,200.00 pesos)
- 3 40-kg corn sacks and
- 40 Kg. of crecimiento (\$1,600.00 pesos)

Total: \$5,800.00 pesos

Thanks for your collaboration!!!

Welcome to the Hormiga Donors Network:

Miguel Zarate

Guillermina Herrera Rendon

Margarita Rendon Ayestaran

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