

CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND NEWSLETTER

Website: centralmexicoyouthfund.org

Helping young Mexicans get a quality education and lead productive lives

Helping Through the Pandemic



Despite the pandemic, our partners in Mexico continue to provide services and hope to their beneficiaries. At Niños y Niñas, this means not only a special program to teach math to the kids as described in our previous newsletter, but also gifts for *El Día de Reyes Magos* (Three Kings Day) in early January, when Mexican children receive their holiday presents.

Your donations to the Central Mexico Youth Fund allow us to support our network of vetted partners, four of which are highlighted in this newsletter. There are various ways to make a donation:

- Visit our website centralmexicoyouthfund.org and click “donate” to use PayPal or your credit card.
- Send funds with a checking account using Zelle to centralmexicoyouthfund@gmail.com.
- Mail a check to Central Mexico Youth Fund, 3062 Summit Sky Blvd, Eugene, OR 97405.
- If you wish to make a contribution from a retirement account as part of a required minimum distribution or make a gift of appreciated stock, contact us for details.

We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Central Mexico Youth Fund

Serving Internal Migrants

Our newest partner, Yo'on Ixim (“heart of corn” in the Tsotsil Maya language), is located in Puebla. Their primary goal is to aid the large number of indigenous migrant families and children from southern Mexico who have moved to Puebla. These families have relocated from some of the poorest places in the country that lack basic services to find better educational and work opportunities in a large city. Many of these people can be seen trying to earn a meager living by selling candy at busy traffic intersections in Puebla.



Yo'on Ixim offers these families a chance to achieve a decent life. They accomplish their objectives through programs and activities that focus on education, health, employment and affordable housing. Yo'on Ixim offers many of its services in the Tsotsil Maya language to help those migrants who are not fluent in Spanish. Some examples of their upcoming programs include:

- An informational workshop about how to identify and deal with the challenges that new arrivals face when living in a big city.
- Health and hygienic practices for children and families.
- Training in work skills for those seeking employment as tailors or electricians.

We appreciate your support that allows us to finance these and other educational programs that make a real difference in the lives of these children and families.



Ongoing Care at Hogares Providencia



Our partner Hogares Providencia operates three residences in Querétaro that serve 35 children and teenagers who have been removed from their family homes due to abuse or neglect. The staff provides round the clock attention and care to these vulnerable kids and strives to bring stability to their lives by offering activities and emotional support.



These can include the type of activities most of us take for granted, such as celebrating birthdays or going to the neighborhood pool, and special programs like pet therapy. We are able to help our partners offer opportunities like these thanks to your generous support!



Central Mexico Youth Fund

SUMMER 2021

In His Own Words

Ernesto is a beneficiary of our partner El Puente de Esperanza. He is studying engineering at the Technological University of Querétaro (whose acronym is UTEQ in Spanish). The following is an excerpt from a profile he recently wrote.



I left my home in Tolimán to enroll at the university in Querétaro. I was the only one in my family of five kids who continued studying after high school. My parents let me do it, but they couldn't give me any support and I knew that I had to take care of things by myself.

I learned about El Puente de Esperanza through a charitable foundation that helped me in Tolimán with college prep classes. I went to the interview, completed the documentation and they accepted me. But I decided not to enter the program at El Puente. I was in the city and living alone for the first time. I wanted to have the experience of independence and freedom!

I found a reasonably low rent, a place I shared with some friends. I began to work nights in a factory, but I couldn't survive by sleeping only two hours a day, working all night and studying during the day. After quitting there, I began looking for work everywhere - pharmacies, restaurants, cafes, stores. I went to class in the mornings and in the afternoon I handed out dozens of resumes. Nobody offered me work. It became clear to me that my plans for the university may have been a serious mistake.

One afternoon, after getting some unambiguous "no's" in two pharmacies downtown, I was looking for other places to leave the resumes I was carrying when a voice called me from the other side of the street. "Hey kid, please come here and give me a hand!" It was a mechanic who needed help holding up a part on which he was making a repair and he was alone in the workshop. I helped him. He gave a quick glance at the wrinkled pages of my resume and asked me, "Do you want to come and work for me?" The following day I began to work there, helping him every day from 3pm to 7pm. After a few months, he had to let me go because the finances of the workshop were not going well.

It was then that I decided to go back to El Puente. "If they don't accept me, it means that I'm finished with my university plans. I'll go back to Tolimán and work in the fields with my brother." But El Puente accepted me for the second time. It's now been a year and a half that I've been living at El Puente. My school performance has improved incredibly since I've been living here. I recently graduated as an Advanced University Technician and now am continuing my studies to get an engineering degree.