

CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND NEWSLETTER

Website: centralmexicoyouthfund.org

Helping young Mexicans get a quality education and lead productive lives

Celebrating Their Special Day

Our partner Hogares Providencia provides a home in Querétaro to 46 children and adolescents who have been separated from their families because of abuse or neglect. As one way of helping these vulnerable kids feel valued and develop in a healthy way, the group honors the milestones that are part of Mexican life and culture. One important rite of passage for young women is the *quinceañera*, the festive observance of their 15th birthday. Five of the beneficiaries celebrated that event recently.

Your support helps us make these and similar occasions a reality for the kids in the care of our partners. You can make a secure, on-line donation using PayPal or your credit card on the "donate" page of our website at centralmexicoyouthfund.org or you can send a check to:

Central Mexico Youth Fund
3062 Summit Sky Blvd
Eugene, OR 97405

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.



Moni's Story in Her Own Words

I arrived in Querétaro when I was 16 and now I'm 26, so I've been

living in the El Puente house for 10 years. In my last year of high school I had to decide what to study afterwards and the aptitude tests they gave us in school and at the house pointed me to scientific careers in medicine and at the same time manual skills because I was good at precision work. Leaving mass one Sunday, I was chatting with a woman and told her that I was thinking of studying dentistry (since it combined medical and manual skills) and it turned out that she was a dentist. She told me that a friend of hers, also a dentist, was looking for a dental assistant and that she had already mentioned me to her friend. The next day I had an interview with the other doctor and began to work right away. "I ask you only that you please stay here for at least one year," was the first thing the doctor said to me on my first day of work.

Today it's been six years working in her office! There have been years of lots of work and quick meals en route between my university and the doctor's office, years of studying for exams late at night or on the bus, years full of training and challenges. In August, I began my professional internship and for the first time in six years I left the doctor who has taught me so much and El Puente's house that took me in as a teenager and sees me leave now as a professional woman. I'll do my internship in my hometown. I left there as a girl in high school and now I'll return as almost a dentist!





Summer School

Every summer, the young beneficiaries of our partner El Puente de Esperanza return to one of their hometowns and offer a summer school program to the children there. Their goal is to strengthen the ties between the students of El Puente and the communities where they grew up. In July 2019, the program took place in the town of Los Trigos, located in the municipality of Colón in Querétaro State. Situated at an altitude of 8,400 feet, Los Trigos has a population of about 300 inhabitants. Sixty-five children from Los Trigos and the surrounding area attended the summer school program.

The students of El Puente organized and managed various activities such as science, robotics and ecology classes, chess workshops, dance and physical education, and educational games for the younger children. A dental checkup for all participants was provided by Moni, an El Puente beneficiary profiled in this newsletter.



Living Their Values

Stephanie Daffer and Bob Michels are a married couple who have made a strong commitment to helping young Mexicans develop their potential. They purchased a condo in downtown Querétaro ten years ago and spend three months of the year there when not teaching. Stephanie and Bob were introduced to our partner El Puente de Esperanza several years ago and sponsored Beto, one of the resident students. They later connected with our partner Hogares Providencia and began sponsoring a second student, Nathalie. They have been so pleased with their “godchildren” that they decided to contribute more money and become more active in both organizations. They plan to expand their involvement with both groups once they retire from their university jobs.

Stephanie did her undergraduate studies at the University of New Mexico and then earned a master’s degree in Spanish from the University of Texas. She has worked in information technology, Visa International, and consulted with companies in Mexico, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico. Stephanie is currently teaching Spanish at Santa Clara University. Bob has an undergraduate degree in elementary teaching and a master’s degree in secondary teaching and K-12 administration. He retired from public education 19 years ago and now lectures at Santa Clara University in education and counseling psychology. Bob advises therapists who work with incarcerated youth and adults, substance abuse, human trafficking, gangs and teenage parenthood.



We are grateful to Stephanie and Bob for the time they devote to the kids they sponsor and for their generous financial support of our partner organizations.