

# CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND NEWSLETTER

Website: [centralmexicoyouthfund.org](http://centralmexicoyouthfund.org)

Helping young Mexicans get a quality education and lead productive lives

## Donors in Texas Make a Difference

We applaud the fundraising success of supporters in the Dallas-Fort Worth area! A group of local women and their friends have sponsored a series of luncheons to help the work of Hogares Providencia, our partner in Querétaro that cares for boys and girls who have experienced abandonment or abuse. The ladies in Texas have raised more than \$15,000 this year and continue their efforts on behalf of these children.

Thanks to the generosity of all of our donors, we are able to assist our partners in paying the various expenses they incur for the young people they support, such as school fees, university tuition, and more.

You can make a secure, on-line donation using PayPal or your credit card on the "donate" page of our website at [centralmexicoyouthfund.org](http://centralmexicoyouthfund.org) or you can send a check to:

*Central Mexico Youth Fund*

*3062 Summit Sky Blvd*

*Eugene, OR 97405*

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



## Summer School Program

The beneficiaries of El Puente de Esperanza are thankful for the opportunities they have been given to continue their studies. They show their gratitude by returning to one of their home communities each year and offering a summer school program for the children there.

This year the program took place in San Ildefonso Tultepec in the southern part of Querétaro State. It's home to 3,000 residents, most of whom are indigenous and speak both Spanish and Otomí. About 50 children from the town took part in the 10-day program, which included classes in science, chess, educational games, and physical education.

Thanks to your support, the Central Mexico Youth Fund was able to fund the cost of class materials, transportation, food, and school supplies provided as gifts to the kids who participated. The local community provided a venue for the event and lodging.



Central Mexico Youth Fund





## El Puente Beneficiary Gets Teaching Degree

Anita is a young woman who has been a beneficiary of our partner El Puente de Esperanza for the past eight years and recently completed her studies at the Marist Teacher's College in Querétaro. She received a degree in Elementary Education and is now teaching in a primary school.

"When I was deciding to pursue teaching as a career," she writes, "I had only a minimal understanding of its responsibilities. I used to think it was only about a transfer of knowledge, but during the coursework I discovered that teaching is difficult because children are developing their personalities and the teacher has to guide them and create frameworks the child needs to acquire competencies for life."

Anita adds that El Puente de Esperanza "has great significance in my development as a person. At the beginning it supported me as I entered high school. Then thanks to El Puente, I received a scholarship at the Marist Teacher's College. Now I find myself at a great moment in my life. I'm doing things that I never could have imagined."

Congratulations to Anita and all the young people who through their hard work -- and a little help from friends like you! -- are achieving their goals for a good education and a better life for themselves and their communities.

## Speech Therapy Helps Kids Succeed in School

We announced in our last newsletter that we received a generous grant from the Elmo Foundation of Charlottesville, Virginia, to support our activities. Those funds have now been provided to our partner organizations for various purposes. In the case of Niños y Niños, the gift will be used to hire a speech therapist to help the children who attend their preschool program.

The issue being addressed is that even though the children are born and raised in Mexico, they speak indigenous languages at home and some have problems correctly producing the sounds of the Spanish language.

As a result, their participation in the classroom suffers and academic progress lags. In addition, they may feel marginalized at school and have problems with their social development. By enhancing their language skills, our hope is to improve their achievement at school and prevent their dropping out before completing high school.

The speech therapist hired by Niños y Niños will evaluate the children attending the preschool program and select 20 who would most benefit from her attention. She will develop an educational program for each child and work individually with them for about 60 minutes at least twice a week. The kids will be assessed in a few months to determine the effectiveness of this effort.

