

CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND NEWSLETTER

Website: centralmexicoyouthfund.org

Helping young Mexicans get a quality education and lead productive lives

Your Donations Made 2015 a Great Year

Thanks to your generous gifts, the CMYF was able to raise \$50,000 for our partner organizations in 2015! Your donations were used by our partners for all kinds of expenses: school fees, university tuition, educational supplies, household products, groceries, computers and internet costs, and more.

We're also pleased to announce that we recently received a generous grant from the Elmo Foundation of Charlottesville, Virginia, that will allow us to help our partners obtain needed items and services postponed until now. We'll tell you more details in a future newsletter.

You can make a secure, on-line donation using PayPal or your credit card on the "donate" page of our website: 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.



Visiting our Partners in Mexico

Board members Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith spent part of the past winter in Querétaro, Mexico, and visited with all of our partner organizations while there. The students of **El Puente de Esperanza**, which offers a residence in Querétaro and pays the high school fees, university tuition, and living expenses for academically promising young students, organized a dinner in the patio of their group house. They wanted to thank Juliet and Charles and all of our donors for the opportunities they have been given to further their education.

We also enjoyed the company of the kids and staff of **Hogares Providencia**, which operates three residences in Querétaro to care for boys and girls who come from families that live in extreme poverty or have experienced abandonment or abuse. The children are thriving there, as evidenced by the demonstration of their folk dancing and singing skills as described on the next page.

Juliet and Charles also met with the director of **Niños y Niñas**, a group that provides pre-school tutoring programs to children from indigenous communities who otherwise would be selling candy in the streets, and then toured the facility to meet some of the teachers and students getting additional instruction.

The director of **Cadena de Ayuda**, which provides a residence and living expenses to young adults from rural areas who have received university scholarships to study in Querétaro, updated Juliet and Charles on his efforts. We later met with a recent beneficiary who has received a scholarship to study abroad, as featured on the following page.



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Cadena Beneficiary Studies Down Under

Spring 2016

Edgardo is a young man with a bright future thanks in part to the support he received from Cadena de Ayuda, one of our partners in Querétaro. His story demonstrates how someone can achieve great things with determination and a little help from friends. Edgardo is one of seven siblings and his mother works as a household servant. While attending high school, he washed cars to save some money for his university expenses, which are modest in Mexico compared to the U.S., but it still wasn't enough. He came to the attention of David Peterson, the director of Cadena de Ayuda, who offered Edgardo assistance in paying his tuition and fees at the University of Querétaro.



Edgardo majored in information technology there and also participated in the student government. After graduating, he got a job with the Querétaro State Government and helped organize international conferences, but his real goal was to continue his studies abroad. He applied to a program that would allow him to study and work in Australia and, after several anxious months of waiting, learned in January that he had been accepted. He is now living in Brisbane and, in his words, feels like he has landed on another planet!

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Kids of Hogares Providencia Show their Talents

Juliet and Charles were pleased to have been invited to join the staff and children of Hogares Providencia for a meeting and group lunch. It was a great opportunity to better understand our partner organization, which provides a home to children who have suffered abandonment or neglect and have been referred to the group by the local family services agency. Not only did we meet the children living there, but we also got to know some of the *tíos* and *tías* (aunts and uncles), the title given to the adult mentors who provide ongoing supervision in the three residences operated by Hogares Providencia.

Afterwards, the kids wanted to show their folk dancing and singing skills. Of course, all children enjoy such activities, but they are especially important to develop a sense of community in kids like these who live apart from their families in a group home. A volunteer dance teacher instructed the students and they have participated in various regional competitions. We are proud to support the work of this fine organization!

