

CENTRAL MEXICO YOUTH FUND

SUMMER 2023

Website: centralmexicyouthfund.org

Reconnecting With Our Partners

Juliet and Charles traveled to Querétaro and Puebla in February and visited all of our partner organizations. They saw first-hand how your donations to the Central Mexico Youth Fund support the continuing efforts of these groups to provide educational opportunities and ongoing assistance for the young people and families in their care.



There are several ways to donate:

- Go to centralmexicyouthfund.org and click "donate" to use PayPal or your credit card. If you wish to direct your donation to a specific partner, a drop-down menu allows you to indicate your choice.
- Send funds using Zelle from your online checking directly to our account at centralmexicyouthfund@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, please contact us for details.

We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so a donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. GuideStar has awarded us a silver seal of approval in acknowledgement of our transparency.

Lunch at Hogares Providencia

During their recent trip to Querétaro, Juliet and Charles had lunch with some of the kids living at Hogares Providencia and met with the dedicated staff. This organization offers a home and care to 47 girls and boys who live in one of the three houses operated by the group. These children face difficult family circumstances and have been placed at Hogares Providencia by the local social service agency.



What does it take to provide for the beneficiaries? In 2022, Hogares Providencia prepared more than 50,000 breakfasts, lunches and dinners; offered 940 hours of psychological counseling; used 188 pairs of shoes; and needed 282 sets of clothing!

Going beyond the numbers, the staff strives to bring stability to the lives of these vulnerable kids by offering activities and emotional support. These activities range from equine therapy, trips to museums and swimming pools, camping, and celebrating *quinceañeras* (15th birthday party) -- an important life event for girls in Mexico.

We appreciate your donations that allow us to continue supporting the work of Hogares Providencia.

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Helping Internal Migrants

Yo'on Ixim ("heart of corn" in the Mayan Tsostil language) is located in Puebla and serves the families and children of internal migrants who have moved to that city from their home villages of Chiapas in southern Mexico. They face many obstacles in adapting to life in the big city and Yo'on Ixim offers educational and occupational skills to help them adapt and thrive there.



The group's most recent project, *Volando a la Ciudad* (Fleeing to the City), focused on helping children process and express their experiences as migrants within their own country. Over 100 Tsostil child street workers participated in workshops and courses created to help them express their emotions and tell their stories through art, theater and music. Pottery, paintings and photography by the children will be shown in a gallery exhibition.

Grants from foundations supplemented by your donations funded this activity as well as continuing education for Yo'on Ixim teachers and staff, including courses in psychological emergency response. We are grateful for your support that makes these efforts possible!



El Puente and Peace Corps

The links between our partner El Puente de Esperanza and the Peace Corps go back more than 25 years to the founding of the group. Conchita Walker, who passed away last year, was a Peace Corps volunteer who moved to Mexico after completing her service. The values that inspired her to create the programs that became El Puente de Esperanza are rooted in the goals of the Peace Corps.

Conchita understood the critical importance of education to changing lives. "There is no greater gift for a child to have than an opportunity to get an education," she once wrote, "it is the only true way out of poverty." Her experience in the Peace Corps inspired her to develop a tutorial program in Querétaro that helped young people complete their school assignments, learn social skills, and adapt to city life.

Conchita embodied the goal of promoting the understanding of Americans by the efforts she made on behalf of young Mexicans. She lived a life of privilege in her childhood but used her good fortune to improve the lives of others. Finally, the organization that today is El Puente de Esperanza allows Americans to know and participate in the growth of young Mexicans.

The association between El Puente and Peace Corps continues to this day. Our Board of Directors are all former Peace Corps Mexico volunteers and El Puente recently hosted a visit by the current Director of Peace Corps Mexico, Matt Colburn, seen below at left.

