



CHILD AID

SPRING 2008



Brighter  
Futures

“

The library is so important! These books and the work we do here help our children immensely for the future. It stimulates their imaginations.

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## Elba: A Light Shines Brightly

When you first see Elba, nothing would strike you about this shy unassuming woman. But when you see her reading with the children you see a brightly burning light and a passion come to life.

As one of our volunteers observed in a note “this woman is awesome!” and the hundreds of children who she reaches would certainly second that opinion. As the children’s librarian at Pedro Molina, a former military base turned school, Elba carefully selects age appropriate books for each group of children she reads with. She plans carefully how she will involve the children’s thinking, compassion, excitement and lives with each book she chooses. It is a powerful thing to see the joy and excitement that she brings to each group. Elba notes simply “I love to read.” But it is much more than this. Elba has a passion for sharing this love.

“The library is *so important!* These books and the work we do here help our children immensely for the future. It stimulates their imaginations. They learn new vocabulary. It makes them think.

I ask questions as we go along and get them involved in the story. For example, can they help a character find something in a picture, or solve a problem. Or if someone in the story feels sad, what can the other do to help them. They enjoy it, and they love the fact that I enjoy it too – the pleasure of reading together.”

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# Director's Note : A Father's Tears of Thankfulness



Jorge waiting for his turn to share at the Parents' School.

On Saturday February 2, 2008, in Oaxaca, Mexico, parents filed in to a public school auditorium. Though all were from very poor backgrounds, for this meeting, they were dressed in their best clothes, a visual sign of respect, seriousness and gratitude for this event. This was to be the first meeting of the Parents School of CORAL. All of the participants were parents and relatives of hearing impaired children who were now receiving services from CORAL. This meeting was just one of the comprehensive hearing rehabilitative services that CORAL offers to children and adults in Oaxaca.

After welcoming and preliminary introductions, two sets of parents went to the stage to share their experience with other parents. First one mother gave a simple and eloquent discussion of the hard work, joy and support she experienced as her daughter learned to hear and speak for the first time in her young life. Next her husband, Jorge, spoke. Jorge was dressed in his best sport shirt and sport pants but his battered shoes told a different story of his likely everyday dress. Jorge began by

telling of his deep love for his daughter and what he hoped and wanted for her like all parents. This was all Jorge could get out through his mounting tears and emotions. Though he struggled valiantly to continue, he was simply too overwhelmed and closed with a choking "gracias CORAL."

Through many tears the other parents gave him a supportive round of applause for sharing the feelings they all felt for their own children. I felt privileged to be in this room, on this day, at this time to see the power and importance of the work CORAL is doing and the support they are giving to these children and their parents. Without CORAL and without your support there would literally be nothing for these parents and the children they love so fully. Without your support, Jorge would likely still be crying but not with tears of thankfulness, thank you all! ♪

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## Elba Cont...

*continued from page 1*

It seems so simple, yet before Elba the children had no such opportunity to "read together." Education consisted of largely copying from black boards. For over 560 children each week, Elba has broken this pattern of rote learning and helped to bring their passion to learn to life. It was only the support of our donors that allowed us to employ Elba and bring her love of reading to these children. On behalf of the students at Pedro Molina and on behalf of Elba, we thank you for letting her share her passion. ♪



# Profile in Hope



Lillian Aracely Sipac Xajpot is a 17 year old young woman from the Department of Chimaltenango. Because her family is very poor this bright young woman's education was about to end at 3rd grade. Fortunately for her and her people she received a scholarship to Socorro, a boarding school for bright indigenous young women from impoverished families where Child Aid provides scholarships and professional assistance.

"My father is a campesino [agricultural laborer] and my mother looks after the house – she can't find a job. I am the oldest of four. I was sad and also very joyful to leave home to come here because I want to learn. I was sad to leave my parents and they were sad to see me go but they want the best for me. They want me to have a better life than they did.



My dream is to study medicine and become someone of standing in society, someone important in the world. Because we are indigenous, we are often discriminated against and put down and disregarded. So I want to become an important person – for our people's sake.

There are 17 girls in my dorm from all over the country. We live together and learn from each other our different customs and a bit of each other's [Mayan] languages. I love it here. The teaching is very good and I get to know a lot about different cultures and traditions from all over Guatemala."

Child Aid along with its partner PROBIGUA has for years provided scholarships and books to students at Socorro and expanded this support to include teaching of classes in active reading to the young women, many of whom will become teachers. We feel honored to partner with this superb school and its mission. ♀

# A Request to Share

I am sure many of you can put your tax rebate to good use to pay a few bills or buy something that otherwise might not be in your budget. We do not want to intrude on these matters. What we would like you to consider is, if you happen to get that item on sale or happen to be fortunate enough to have something left over after the bills are paid, that you consider a donation to help the children in Guatemala and Mexico. These families have no discretionary income and their resources go to basic survival.

You, our supporters, have been tremendous in giving to help the children have the opportunity for a brighter future. Please understand this generosity is truly appreciated and we only ask that if you have a bit left over from your rebate that you consider helping us give even more children a chance for a better life through reading and education, an investment that will pay large dividends. ♀



A recent CEDIN graduate with her homemade diploma.

# Child Aid's Board is Given a Gift

In November 2007, Child Aid's Board held its annual meeting in Guatemala. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the Board to see first hand the growing partnerships Child Aid is forging with communities in Guatemala. The schedule was a busy one with lengthy Board meetings mixed in with site visits to rural communities. For trips to rural communities we were able to use one of PROBIGUA's bibliobuses for what were some long, hot rides. All would agree, however, that the rides were well worth it. At the end of each ride, the group received the wonderful gift of getting to spend time with groups of energized children who had the joy of active reading or music brought in to their lives.



Founder Richard Carroll & Eduardo the head of Melotto School.

This is one of those times when words are wholly inadequate to describe the emotional impact of seeing what can happen when children are given a chance. Suffice it to say that happiness and dreams realized were the watch words of the day.

All Board members generously covered their own expenses, giving, as usual, not just of their valuable time but of their personal resources. This commitment by our Board is just another part of our drive to keep overhead low and rely upon the caring work of volunteers to provide technical and organizational support to our Guatemalan partners. ♪



Board Member Holly Jimison learning the finer points of Clifford the Big Red Dog

# One World: A Growing Group of Partners



Lloyd Bernhardt and his wife Kim Schacht of Ethical Bean with Rick and Silvia Garcia

Child Aid has been very fortunate to receive support from a growing number of businesses, churches and other entities. These entities recognize that we are all part of one world and that our world is best served by helping to assure that each child has a chance in life. We wish to deeply thank them for their caring and thoughtful support and we would invite other businesses to join us in working to create a brighter future for all children. We can promise your support will be efficiently and effectively used.

- British Columbia Library Association-Libraries Across Borders
- Charles Schwab • Ethical Bean Coffee Company • The Fremont Group • Good Shepherd United Church of Christ • Hocks Corporation • HP Employee Charitable Giving Program
- International Book Project • ISHK/Hoopoe Books • Jim's Organic Coffee • Mannington Mills, Inc. • MaxBermuda • Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- OPTCO • Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing • PEG Partners, Inc. • Portland State University • Project Hotshots, Inc. • Pura Vida • Richco, Inc. • St. Paul Church and School • Wieden + Kennedy
- WillaKenzie Estate ♪

# Margarita's Story

Margarita has been the cleaning person at CEDIN for the last 10 years. Her husband, Fernando, works 12 hour shifts in a factory drying maize. Margarita is illiterate and her husband can barely read. Both Margarita and Fernando dream of more for their children. However, even with all their hard work, they would never have been able to send their three children to school and this would have been a shame.

Anna Gisella, the oldest, is a Becas student and is such an exceptional hard working student that she will be given a scholarship to continue her studies past high school. Maria Roxanna her second child graduated from CEDIN as the best student and has received a medal from the municipality recognizing her as an exceptional student. When asked what she wants to be Roxanna states without missing a beat "I'll be a doctor." Fernando her youngest, now in fifth grade is also a graduate of CEDIN and a Becas student, he too is doing exceptionally well at school.

Margarita and Fernando know first hand what preparation at a preschool like CEDIN can do for children and she only wishes more children from poor families could have this opportunity. "They do such good things here. I want more children to be able to come and get this headstart in life."

These three children are just a few among the literally hundreds of children that have been given a chance for a brighter future through the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff at CEDIN and the Scholarship (Becas) Program that allows these promising young minds to continue on with their schooling. This is education that is truly transforming lives. ♫



# Let the Music Ring Out !



The idea of having the opportunity to learn to read music or play a musical instrument was unheard of for the scholarship students in El Tejar. But thanks to the generous support of David Lamotte, Peg Partners and LEAF, the unheard of became beautiful music.

During what is the long school break for Guatemalan students, the FUNDIT Becas (Scholarship) Program students were for the first time able to have the joy of learning to play music. Generous support allowed the purchase of recorders and music and the hiring of a teacher to run the program. Classes were held in the cafeteria at CEDIN and the response and excitement of the kids was overwhelming.

We were privileged to hear a fine concert starting with the younger children with soprano recorders and moving on up to the older children and a large group concert with the inclusion of Altos and a Bass recorder.

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# What Do You Do With 30,000+ Books?



It has been a banner year for book donations at Child Aid. We were fortunate enough to receive two large donations of books from the International Book Project and one smaller though wonderful one from Hoopoe Books. However, receiving books is just the beginning of what is a long and at times expensive process. Not only is shipping expensive but meandering your way through what often seems a maze of road blocks set up by shipping agents and customs people can be a bit frustrating to say the least. Then, once the books are finally out of customs, there is transport out of Guatemala City to Chimaltenango and inventory at the warehouse. Eventually,

after countless hours of work, the truly fun part begins, getting the books to the libraries and schools where they can be used to open and feed young minds that are eager to learn.

Our in country folks and partners, especially Rigoberto Zamora and PROBIGUA, have provided yeoman work to move towards this final result. As result of these donations

- classrooms will actually have textbooks to use,
- libraries will have excellent literary anthologies for new young readers
- libraries will have enough books to be able to lend books out, and
- children's corners will have their own books for young children.

In addition, we received back packs full of school supplies from Project Hotshots that will be given to teachers who attend training sessions so they can, many for the first time, have supplies to use in their classrooms.

This is another example of how Child Aid leverages the funds it receives from our supporters to maximize the impact in the communities we partner with. ♪

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## Music Cont...

*continued from page 5*

Assisting the teacher was Stephanie an 18 year old music student. Stephanie is one of our former scholarship students who has now gone on to study to be a music teacher. When her school is in session Stephanie must get up at 4 in the morning to catch a bus to Guatemala City for her classes. She is a dedicated and caring young woman who is giving back to her community and is grateful for the support that she received. "I love working with children, because they are so expressive and creative and they enjoy it so much." It was clear the children loved it too and took great pride in their accomplishment. ♪



# Featured Volunteer: Kati Plukk

It is not often we get a volunteer from Estonia and that is where Kati Plukk is from. Kati has so far spent most of her life studying with a degree in theology and a qualification to teach religious education in Estonia. Feeling she needed a break from academia, Kati looked to volunteer outside of Europe and through a friend of a friend ended up in Guatemala volunteering at first with Camino Seguro for a year. Looking for a change and partly because she had learned to love libraries through her librarian mother, she fortunately found Child Aid. Kati now works with the Child Aid team in Guatemala, helping our partner PROBIGUA and working on community library projects.



Kati recently joined with other intrepid volunteers for a lengthy cataloguing project. Kati, Kristen, Norma and Francis Sack and Edith Schestauber from the United States took up residence in Chicacao, a rather remote municipality, to catalogue all the old and new books and generally organize this wonderful little community library. Kati says she enjoys the ‘family’ feeling of Child Aid and is very happy with her choice and we are also happy that Kati chose Child Aid. Now if we could just get Kati to smile a bit more. ✨

“ These individuals come from many states and countries and give of themselves unselfishly, some for a day or two during a vacation, others for months or even a year. ”

## Help Us Be More Efficient

We ask for e-mails for several reasons:

- It saves on the rising cost of mailings, ensuring that even more money can go to programs.
- It allows us to keep you up to date through our e-newsletter.
- It allows us to make you aware of special needs and circumstances.

So, please help us by providing your e-mail addresses, when possible. We promise we will not inundate you with constant pleas but will keep you informed, thank you! ✨

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# What is Child Aid ?

**C**hild Aid helps poor children by establishing partnerships with grassroots community organizations in Latin America working to remove barriers to their children's health and education. These community organizations have identified crucial needs and developed strategies for positive change. They lack the financial and technical resources and the experience in organization building that Child Aid provides. After helping a local group sustain itself and grow, Child Aid moves on to assist somewhere else. In this way, we're helping to create organizations that have a lasting and measurable impact... Building brighter futures for the children of Latin America.



## Child Aid Affiliated Organization



**CHILD AID**

**Centro Oaxaqueño de Rehabilitación de Audición y Lenguaje, A.C. (CORAL)**  
Oaxaca, Mexico  
Kathleen Maloney, Coordinator

**Fundación para Desarrollo Integral de El Tejar (FUNDIT)**  
El Tejar, Guatemala  
Silvia García Pérez, Director

**Proyecto Bibliotecas Guatemala (PROBIGUA)**  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Rigoberto Zamora Charuc, Director

**Building Brighter Futures for the Children of Latin America**  
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