

Hi Phil,

Rushing to get all projects completed before returning home.

I will give you our second report as follows:

Our 30 inch gas range was not large enough to take care of cooking for 65 kids and 10 adults a day, as the small burners couldn't handle cooking with 14 inch wide bottom pans, as it took too long to cook the food. We now have a four burner stove with larger burners that took care of this problem. We tiled the back and now the cook has a cleaner kitchen and can get the food done quicker for all the kids. We kept the old stove in case we need the oven. Here they rarely use the ovens to cook with. We serve two snacks a day and two lunches a day, so the kitchen is a popular place.

We are in the process of putting up 120 feet of metal roof extensions, to extend out another five feet with guttering. This will cover the existing sidewalk and soon to be put in more sidewalks, so the kids and teachers don't get wet during the rainy season, when they come and go from their classrooms. We also built a roof for our future new restrooms. We built and moved into the room for the 2 year olds another set of triple beds or six beds. We also put in a small table five-gallon water holder that provides room temperature and heated water for filling baby bottles and bathing. We moved a ceiling fan to help reduce heat caused by metal roofing for the two year olds.

We had built 12 baby foam mattresses with removable impervious zipper covers. These will add to our already existing beds. We just finish rebuilding the bathing area for the babies in the nursery. We have space for 12 babies and most of the time they are full. We have one person plus volunteers that take care of the babies.

We prepared a small room for our psychologist with carpet, desk and small table and chair for children she helps. We guess about half the children are from single parent homes. Children come from all kinds of home backgrounds and a few children don't want to go home with their mothers when they come to pick them up. The psychologist gives counseling to both the children and parents. She is from the university and is a volunteer.

We also added, in addition to our doctor who gives pregnancy testing and pregnancy care free service; we rented space to a medical doctor who shares the same space. He charges about \$3.00 for a consultation. We are now in the process

of putting in a dental clinic for the poor. At the present we have two dental chairs that were donated by the local Red Cross and we are in the process of obtaining the other requirements to enable us to offer this service.



We just completed doing maintenance on all our playground equipment that really get used a lot during the year, so now they should be in good shape for another year. Last year we built a popular playhouse and this year we had to repair the roof that weathered and opened up cracks, replace some of the plastic windows and replace the solid wood table and benches with plywood. The kids jump on top of the table and benches and really give them rough treatment. The playhouse is really popular with the kids and they try to get all the kids inside they can.

We had to repaint our popular metal car that had two steering wheels for the front seat and since the steering wheels are popular with the kids, who love to spin the wheels, we added two more for the back seats, so more kids can now spin the wheels.

We have fixed up one room for storage and added a secure toolbox for the tools we use. Those who want to volunteer doing woodwork, painting, etc have tools available here to do their work.

I believe we have the oldest and largest day care center now in the city of about 150,000 and the Quetzaltenango department has about 300,000, which covers several cities and communities. Our charges vary of nothing for some and others pay per month, per child, about \$6.25, \$9.37 and \$12.50. This includes for each child, two snacks per day and one lunch, and medical attention from doctors and personal care from the staff.

They are able to provide this low cost service due to the rental income we have developed on the property. For a child's acceptance at the institution, they must be shown to be from a low-income parent.

We try to rent out the two exterior sides of the property that face the street that we have converted into rental income, and this provides most of the funds for paying for the services for the children and the employees.

Casa del Niño is about 78 years old and is located next to a large market, so property is in demand in this area. The board of directors is all volunteers and some months we do not break even, but we are getting near to reaching this goal, with the number of students we now have. When we first arrived 8 years ago we saw only one employee here and three children and the place was in shambles.

Rotarians and others have enabled this institution to grow and provide the services for children of low-income parents for many years and for many years to come.

Just a few personal comments about living here: Had a bout of illness like Bud Sills and Phil Coats had, so they can give you the details. Here in the mornings the temperature is around 43° to 51° at about 6 a.m. and by noon it can be around 81° and then around 3 p.m. it starts to cool off and around 5 p.m. it can be in the 60's and when the kids get ready to be picked up they have their coats on again. With these temperature fluctuations you see a lot of sniffles.

The employees are very friendly to each other and when they arrive each day they give a hug to each other, which is part of the culture. The large Cathedral, which sets in the center of town, is cold in the early mornings and you have to have your coat on. Going to church is much different here. One morning I noticed an Indian lady with an American flag being used as a shawl, a man using a Chicago Bulls jacket with a glaring picture of a raging bull and next to me was a small mother sitting on a stool, you have to sit on stools when you come late, and she was nursing her baby with no cover-up, as is the custom with most of the Indians here.



I am only six feet tall, but I could see over the heads of almost everyone in church as the people here are very small. Having been coming to Latin America for the past 60 years these things are not unusual for me, but they would probably be for

most of you. Thanks for your support of helping many poor people here.

I will be returning on April 1st and should you wish to write or have any questions you can reach me at spanishted@hotmail.com

Have a nice day.

Ted