



'Snack Time!'

Introduction

We are writing to you to update you on events since our last report in February of this year. As usual we have had a few setbacks but a lot of progress to tell you about. We hope you enjoy this report and also our website at www.educationforthechildren.com which we try to update regularly.

Schools

Both the primary school and our new secondary school are operating normally with high attendance and encouraging interim results. The school year finishes on October 31st and we are confident again of a high pass rate. We are particularly pleased with our secondary school. As we predicted, the results of our older students have dramatically improved due to the higher level of attention from our teachers and smaller class sizes.

As the demand is huge we intend to gradually increase the intake to the secondary school. At present we have three years of 25 students in each year. In January 2008 we will have two classes in 1st grade and carry that forward for the next two years, so that by January 2010 we will double the school intake to 150 students (50 per year).

The increased cost next year is minimal as we have space, but in 2009 we will have to pay for an extension. Hopefully by then we will have sufficient funds.

Administration

Our increased numbers and activity this year, (we have 266 children in education as opposed to 193 in 2006) has consequently increased our administrative burden. As a result we welcome our second full time administrator in Nottingham, Krisztina Hidasi, who joined us on 3rd September 2007 and will work alongside Emma Denman and our volunteers.

Social Issues

In February, we told you about the challenging social conditions in Jocotenango and the surrounding area, and we highlighted a couple of families who urgently needed help. We would like to update you on the progress of those families and draw your attention to a couple of other children, who we believe, are in great need of the foundation's support.

The children of the late Aurelia Higueros de Leon continue to be cared for by the foundation. Since our last report, we have moved them to a two room with a bathroom section of a house nearer to the school, and all the children are in our psychological programme - more later. Our ultimate intention is to place them in our first 'safe house' - again more about this later.



'Before'



'After'

The family of five children pictured above, who were suffering from abuse are still with their new foster family and have improved beyond recognition. They are happy, have gained weight, and their school marks have risen dramatically. The abusive father tried to re-gain custody and the case was heard in court on 3rd July this year. The foundation was given full indefinite custody of all five children on a very emotional day. We have built two new rooms for the foster family and provide all the necessary funds on a weekly basis.

Another one of our students, Reina Alejandra Lemus de Paz tragically became orphaned this summer. The foundation has taken responsibility for her, and we have placed her in the same house as the de Leon family. Alejandra will also move to our first 'safe house'.

One of our teenage girls suffered a physical attack in March of this year. She had been living in a small house with her family. The attacker was the landlord. We moved the family well away from this house, and with generous donations from both Danny Murphy and Kevin McMenamain, we built a new two bedroom home with a bathroom.

Cristian Galindo Monroy

In July of this year, one of the little boys within the foundation, Cristian aged 5, was sadly diagnosed with 'Aplastic Anaemia'. 'Aplastic Anaemia' is a rare and potentially life threatening disease where there is a failure of the bone marrow to produce sufficient blood cells for the circulation. The whole family are very close to the foundation, his mum and grandmother work in the secondary school kitchen, he has a brother in 2nd grade, Luis Enrique, and a sister in 1st grade, Shirley.

It is a very sad story and although we are principally an educational foundation we are also a caring foundation and publically state that we try to help in all social areas such as health. This is something we could not walk away from and therefore we have committed to help Cristian. He is currently undergoing medical treatment and we are hopeful his health will improve. Should this not be the case, we have been told the only other option is a bone marrow transplant. This operation is not possible in Guatemala and the best solution would be for him to travel to Cuba, where the cost of the operation is approximately £22,500.00 plus other expenses. We did also look into the USA, however the costs were far more and could be anything between £50,000.00 and £100,000.00 plus additional costs. We will keep you updated on Cristian's progress.

Safe House

In our last report, we first told you of our need to provide a safe house with foster parents to take the most vulnerable of our children. We have mentioned above the needs of Alejandra and the three children from the de Leon family. In addition we have Maria Guadalupe Quique Hernández, who was recently forced from her home by her step father, and is currently living with her godmother. We also have two teenage boys, Juan Carlos and Walter, who may have to leave their home - they are orphaned but currently living with an older brother.

Our belief is that the 'safe house' must be small enough to have the feel of a normal house and not the feel of an institution.

In June we purchased a plot of land in San Isidro for £5,300.00. In September we instructed our architect to commence building and we hope to have it ready for occupation by February 2008. The cost of the building is capped at £22,500.00 and we hope to bring it in at a saving to this amount. The seven children mentioned above will be looked after here by an accredited foster family.

Psychology

All of our children have now been seen and appraised in this initiative. We have identified 27 children who urgently require a structured programme of help. These children are now seen each week by a qualified psychologist in sympathetic surroundings. As you would imagine, progress is slow and a lot of patience is required, but a start has been made and the children are beginning to work through and understand some of their issues.

Dangerous Living Conditions

In February, we told you of the need to move some of our families from either dangerous hillside areas susceptible to mudslide, or extremely unhygienic or unhealthy conditions. Sadly, apart from the two houses we have built mentioned above, we have been unable to do as much as we would have liked due to insufficient funds. We shall continue to attempt to raise funding for this but aren't risk the longevity of our educational programme. The cost of moving a family and building a dry safe house is approximately £3,000.00. We currently have fifteen urgent cases.



'Evelyn's House in Vista Hermosa'

Stove Update

In February we told you of our stove initiative. We have made significant progress and have raised donations for 74 stoves so far. We still need to raise at least a further 28 donations to complete the initiative. The cost of each stove is £80.00.

So far we have installed 22 new stoves and the results are unbelievable. The houses with new stoves are almost smoke free and the families are very happy and proud of their new cookers! Our progress in installing the stoves has been slower than first anticipated, this is due to the preferences and differing cooking methods of our families. Originally we believed that the ONIL stove would be perfect for every family, but our experience showed that it was too small for some of our bigger families. A suitable alternative has been found but has delayed some of the installations. We hope to have installed all of the stoves by the end of this year and will, as promised, send photographs to all of our generous donors.



'Jeni's House Old Stove'



'New Stove'

Adult Classes

The majority of the parents of our children do not read and write. Many are also young and unprepared for parenting. We have started a regular weekly class for parents where we try to address both of these issues. The classes are well attended, and although progress is slow, it helps the relationships between the parents and children and reinforces the family's decision to enrol their children in education.

Sponsorship Programme

As you know, this dedicated programme is the bedrock of our funding and without it we could not contemplate expansion. As stated above, we currently have 266 children in our educational programme and 235 of them have dedicated sponsors. This leaves us with only 31 without dedicated sponsors. However, we will be increasing our intake by 50 children in January 2008. We already have 9 reservations for the young prepas (aged 6), therefore we need to attract sponsors for a further 72 children in total so that we can be secure in our funding. If you can help us attract support please let us know.

We are also trying to get all of our teachers sponsored to cover the cost of their salaries. This is obviously a lot more expensive, with an average salary of £2,400.00 per annum (£200.00 per month). We currently have 9 teachers in our primary school, 5 of which are already sponsored and 8 more in our secondary school. Again if you think you can help us attract support please let us know.

Scholarship 2008

We are attempting a new initiative for 2008. We have rewarded our two best senior graduating students with a 'gap year' opportunity to study and work in England. In February 2008, Luis and Carlos will come to Nottingham for almost a year. They will live with a host family, study English in the mornings, and help out in the foundation in the afternoons. We hope that many of you will meet them and that the experience will be rewarding for both of them. Their grades are exceptional so we know they will make the most of their time here and make us all very proud.

Visits to Guatemala

Since our last report in February, we have made four visits in March, May, June and July/August. Our next visit is scheduled for late October to witness the school graduations. May and July were scheduled visits to monitor progress and consolidate future plans. March was an emergency visit to deal with the serious assault mentioned earlier.

June was a short action packed visit to introduce Shaun Wright-Phillips and his family to the foundation and let them see our work first hand. Shaun along with his mum Sharon, his auntie Dionne, and his step mum Debbie as well as his brother and sister Stacey and Bobbi-Lee were all incredibly moved by the reception they received and the impact they made. As a result Shaun has agreed to become an ambassador to the foundation and has already started to raise funds to advance our work. We are delighted to have him and his family on board and look forward to a long term relationship. Chelsea TV has already aired a 30 minute TV programme made around the visit and we are beginning to attract significant support.



'Shaun with Shirley, Fatima, Eduardo & Pablo'

Fundraising Events

Since our February report, we have held a number of events and also received generous help detailed below;

On 2nd April 2007 we held our first gala dinner at the Mansion House in Dublin. A fantastic night was organised by Tommy Johnson, Eimear Gannon, Neill Hughes and Micky McElligott and was also heavily supported by Celtic Football Club who sent players and managers past and present. We managed to raise approximately £22,000.00, and with Neill and Micky's help we hope to make this an annual event.

On 18th June 2007 our annual golf day was again organised by Tommy Johnson. He received great help from Beeston Fields Golf Club and Colin Tunnicliffe and we raised just over £6,000.00.

Matt Denman and Mark Wakeling outrageously rode the exact route of the Tour de France to raise funds for the foundation. These 'supermen' completed the tour in the same number of days as the pros without the drugs!! And managed to raise just under £11,000.00, a great effort!!

On Sunday 26th August Shaun Wright-Phillips, Wayne Bridge, Mark Bright, Mitchell Thomas and around fifteen friends took part in a Harley Davidson bike ride from London to Brighton, on to Southampton and then back to London. In fantastic weather they raised approximately £11,000.00 for the foundation. We would especially like to thank Dionne Wright and Lynne Domingue for all their hard work in organising this event.

On 16th September this year, Tommy Johnson and Jason Campbell ran the Robin Hood half marathon. Together they raised approximately £3,000.00.

On 5th October 2007, our long term supporters 'Le Tournoi' of Jersey featuring John Hanley and Fitzy (a loyal Morton fan) organised a Pro Celebrity Golf Day at Les Mielles Golf Club in St Helier. Again we hope to make this an annual event. In our first year we raised approximately £2,500.00 and established great contacts for the future.

Since our last report in February, we have also had tremendous help from many other people who have raised money. We would like to thank the following people for their kind support and generosity towards our children in Guatemala;

James Keane

Malcolm Webber & The H & T Charitable Trust

Ashley Horobin & RAM Consulting

Malky Mackay, Andrew Rolls, Richard Collinge, Alec Chamberlain, Jay Demerit,

Aidy Boothroyd, Martin Pert & James Chambers from Watford Football Club

David & Debbie Evans

Kevin Mason & Carbonark Films Ltd.

Fyffes plc

Jenny Hills & Johnson Matthey

Dawn & Ian Luckhurst

Kris Cunningham & Fernwood School

Karen & Stuart Oliff

Marie Ayre & Woodfarm High School

Keith Berry & St Alphege Seasalter Church

We have two further events planned for the remainder of this year;

On Thursday 8th November, Shaun Wright-Phillips along with Dionne Wright and Lynne Domingue has arranged a star studded event at Flawless Jewellers of New Bond Street. The majority of the Chelsea squad will attend together with a celebrity guest list. We wish them all the luck in the world as they try to help us reach new supporters.

On Friday 16th November, we hold our fifth annual dinner dance at the Hilton, East Midlands. Tommy Johnson and Emma Denman are organising this event again and each table is priced at £500.00 for 10 people, they are going fast! For more details please call Tommy or Emma on 0115 852 6688.

Future Plans

Simply maintaining our two schools and the other social initiatives would be rewarding enough itself. We must take care not to damage or risk what we have by reckless expansion. Please be assured that we will only expand when we are confident of our guaranteed income – mainly from our dedicated sponsorship programme.

Whilst adhering to the above, we are ever aware of the huge need and the continued inequality in our world. For every child we help in Guatemala there are another 100 we don't. Our immediate future hopes and aspirations are centred on three areas.

1. **New schools** – the local education authority are clearly happy with our progress and desperate that we extend our activities. They have identified the areas of most need close to our present schools. We can only expand our schools if we can attract both the capital to create these schools, and the regular funding of sufficient dedicated child sponsors to maintain the annual expenditure. Each school costs approximately £130,000.00 to build and equip and approximately £60,000.00 per annum to run.

We are currently trying to attract support to open two new schools, a primary and a secondary in the village of Parramos.

2. **Re-housing** – Earlier in our report we told you of our failure to attract sufficient funds to move the families in most need. This year we have been lucky in that so far, all this year's hurricanes have missed our area – two came very close! We may not be so lucky next year. We need to re-house fifteen families at the cost of £3,000.00 per family.
3. **Safe house** – As stated earlier, we are in the process of building and staffing our first safe house for vulnerable children. The house will be ready by February 2008. We already have seven children waiting to live there and that is in addition to the five we have placed in a foster home. It seems reasonable to assume that this house will be full by the time it is built and that the demand will grow. We would like to plan ahead for the obvious need and build a second safe house. If we base our budget on our first house, we will need approximately £30,000.00.

Summary

It seems appropriate at this stage to thank each and every one of you for all the help and support we receive. This is your Foundation and however hard we work we can do nothing without your kind support and generosity.

We hope you have found our latest report informative and are supportive of how we are spending your donations. We encourage anyone who would like to visit the project in Guatemala and indeed it looks like eleven will make the trip in late October.

For those of you, who generously sponsor children please try to write now and again. We can't emphasise how special the children feel when they receive a letter, card or small gift from their "padrino" or "madrina". We have added some questions at the end of this report which you may want to include in your letters.

We are conscious that we may not have answered all of your questions. Please feel free to call or email any of the people listed at the end of the report.

Once again on behalf of the beautiful and deserving children of Guatemala, thank you for your continued support. As always we believe;

"ONLY THROUGH EDUCATION CAN WE BREAK THE POVERTY CYCLE"

David McKee (Chairman & Trustee)
Kevin McMenamain (Trustee)
Emma Denman (Charity Co-ordinator in UK)
Krisztina Hidasi (Charity Administrator in UK)

Tommy Johnson (Fund Raiser)
Trisha Braisby
Emily Chennery

You can contact all of the above people on enquiries@eftc.org.uk or Tel: 0115 8526688



'The Pamal family in one of the new rooms we have recently built'