

CONTENTS

- **PROJECTS 2014**
Information p.1
- **CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET 2013**
Fundraising p.5
- **MEMBERSHIP EVENT 2014**
New members p.6
- **DONNA HART AWARD 2014**
Ángeles de Amor p.6
- **FIRST BREAKFAST OF AMIGOS**
To members and Empresas Amigas p.7
- **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2014**
Report 2013 p.9
- **EMPRESAS AMIGAS**
Growing p.10
- **THANKS TO DONORS 2013-2014**
p.10

Contents ■ Bea Álvarez

Review of content

■ Esteban Jiménez ■ Lucía Baráibar

Design ■ Bea Álvarez

Translation ■ Ana Lucía Aguirre

■ John Chávez ■ Ann Conway

PROJECTS 2014

Information

As you may recall, in the last newsletter, we described the 4 projects that Amigos is supporting this year. In the same publication, we identified the following 4 projects: Ángeles de Amor, A.C., Casa de las Flores, A.C., Mujeres Sembrando La Vida, and Asociación de Productores “La Jornada” A.C.

Here you will find more information about these 4 other projects.

FARM AND WORKSHOPS for people with disabilities ÁNGELES DE AMOR A.C.

Ángeles de Amor works with people with disabilities. Activities are aimed at improving their quality of life. People with disabilities lack attention from the State and in many instances are considered a burden to their families. In addition, their health and motor skills are neglected. This worsens their chances of achieving a certain level of self-sufficiency. The implementation of programs designed on their needs can help them become active citizens, improve their self-esteem and socioeconomic conditions and those of their families.

One goal of this project is to increase the likelihood of employment for adults with disabilities. It seeks to implement new trade workshops considering the potential of recipients of the project, and also based on the needs of the labor market in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.





Workshops focus on literacy, math, baking, cooking, and business management, which enable beneficiaries to improve their autonomy, provide financial support to their family or become micro-entrepreneurs. The project includes the creation of a health module for monitoring and improving the physical conditions of the beneficiaries.



AMIGOS' SUPPORT

The grant from Amigos includes the salary for a physiotherapist and employment training as well as materials related to the health module and physiotherapy classes. The grant also includes support for the construction of a small shop that will sell products made by the participants.



LA CASA DE LAS FLORES A.C.

The overall project of Casa de Las Flores is to provide a friendly space for children and adolescents who work in the streets of San Cristobal de Las Casas. The program provides the children and teens with a place where they can study, take a shower, and eat a nutritious meal. Casa de las Flores also offers academic classes (to finish primary or secondary



open schooling), literacy education, sex education, civic values training, counseling and referral in such cases of violence and exploitation, counseling and referral in such cases where physical and/or mental health is an issue.



AMIGOS' SUPPORT

The grant from Amigos provides the salary for one full time and one part time teacher.

MUJERES SEMBRANDO LA VIDA

This project targets children in Zinacantán who have learning problems in school. It provides remedial instruction in subjects such as Spanish, math, spelling, reading and writing. These children often lack support at home and/ or at school. Classes are taught in Tzotzil (their mother tongue) because teaching classes only in Spanish sometimes hampers understanding detailed explanations.

The space will have a youth group to provide confidence, capacities and educational support to children requesting support.





AMIGOS' SUPPORT

The grant from Amigos includes the purchase of chairs and tables and educational materials, as well as the salary of the facilitator for specific subjects.



ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES "LA JORNADA" A.C.

This collective of families is in the process of developing a farm to improve the food security and family income of the community of Viva Ley, a municipality of Frontera Comalapa in Chiapas. They will raise fish and chickens.

Economic disparity and loss of food security are the main reasons why the communities of Frontera Comalapa do not have adequate food for their families, leading to serious malnutrition and

poor health of children and the overall population.

Currently most of the population is used to eating foods high in fat and chemicals rather than nutritious food, thereby negatively impacting their health. The few farmers who still plant their own food are running out of productive land as a result of excessive use of chemical farming and the deteriorating health of the ecosystem.



AMIGOS' SUPPORT

The grant from Amigos will provide the collective with workshops on environmental education, workshops and materials to build and stock a productive fish pond of tilapia, build a small chicken farm and workshops on how to build chicken coops and raise healthy chickens for consumption and sale.



CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET 2013

Fundraising

On December 15 Amigos held our traditional Christmas Flea Market. This year it took place in front of City Hall, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

From 11 November to 13 December we invited members of Amigos and the community to make donations of clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, furniture, books, CDs, movies, etc. The response was very positive, and we received a lot of interesting donations.

For many days before the event, a team of volunteers received the donations, classified and labeled them, and prepared for the event.

Fortunately, we sold almost everything during the day of the market, especially when lowered the prices as the closing of the event approached.

This was our third flea market and its success was due to the many buyers and a large number of volunteers willing to help. It was a

festive day, where we could also raise funds, and promote participation and philanthropy among the people of San Cristóbal. The funds raised exceeded the previous year and will support the operating team of Amigos so that we can continue to give grants to worthy projects. Thanks to all.



MEMBERSHIP EVENT 2014

New members

Our 2014 Annual Membership Event was held on Saturday, January 18th, and was held at Casa Felipe Flores. Nancy Orr and the Membership Committee were responsible for organizing the event, including delicious food, drink, music and familiar faces.

Lucía Baráibar introduced the new projects funded in 2014. The director Esteban Jiménez Lobeira gave a few words on the work currently being undertaken by the operating team of Amigos, and Kiang Chong, a member of the Events Committee was the master of ceremonies for the raffle. Wines, books, meals at restaurants, and breakfast at Casa Felipe Flores were among the



gifts that were donated by our members and were won by those Amigos who renewed their membership at the event.

Members of the NGOs who received grants in 2014 also attended the event.

40 memberships, including renewals and new memberships were obtained that day. It definitely was a fun way to renew our commitment to our organization.



DONNA HART AWARD 2014

Ángeles de Amor

On February 20th the Donna Wilcox Hart Award was presented to Angeles de Amor at their site in the district of Cuxtitali, San Cristóbal. The event was attended by numerous members of Amigos of San Cristóbal and the first councilor of the City, Socorro Sarmiento, president of the municipal DIF, Dolores Pedrero, representatives of the Rotary Club, and the Association of Architects of the Mexican Association of Women Entrepreneurs of





San Cristóbal. Also in attendance were family and friends of the project's beneficiaries, youth and adults with disabilities.

The commemorative plaque was given to the project's director Doña Gloria Gutiérrez García by our president Lucía Baráibar and our director Esteban Jiménez. Lucia and Esteban spoke of Donna Hart and the reasons for the award to Angeles de Amor. The grant will enable Angeles to purchase physiotherapy equipment, art materials, and materials to construct a small tienda.

Following the presentation the boys and girls, beneficiaries of the project, danced and sang. The event concluded with refreshments and a screening of a video on the work carried out by this organization.

FIRST BREAKFAST OF AMIGOS

To members and Empresas Amigas

Our first Amigos Breakfast took place on April 3, 2014. The purpose was for Amigos members to join together and learn more about: projects that Amigos is funding this year; the Empresas Amigas organization which is collaborating with us; and our own Amigos activities.

The breakfast event took place at the Hotel Posada Real de Chiapas and there were more than





sixty attendees. Amigos members, business people, journalists, academics, artists, and volunteers joined together and all enjoyed a delicious breakfast.

"San Cristóbal is a cosmopolitan city that has become richer with the participation of a diversity of people, and something we all have in common is a love for this Chiapas region, and the desire to be part of implementing needed changes", commented Lucía Baráibar, President of Amigos.

"There is a popular saying: 'A strand of thread always breaks at its thinnest part', that is to say that when there are difficult times it is the most vulnerable that suffer most. Our society is like that thread and we should strengthen and fortify the thinner parts of the strand, so there will be more

equal opportunity for all, thus resulting in a healthier society. That is precisely the mission of Amigos de San Cristóbal", stated Lucía.

Esteban Jiménez, our Amigos Director, described the 8 projects funded by Amigos this year. Lizza Coutiño, of the Amigos Events Committee, announced some of the future events that Amigos is planning for its members, such as the Costume Party May 31 (tickets will be sold at Quinto Sol Joyería & Café Carajillo).

There were some new Amigos members attending, and we shared some ways that the attendees could identify and determine areas in which they might be able to volunteer and assist. Many attendees indicated they would be available to assist in various ways.

It is a source of great pleasure to see, day after day, that our family of partners is growing, thanks to all those who joined with us that day at the breakfast.

Thanks also to Nancy Orr and the Amigos Membership Committee, who were in charge of organizing this breakfast event.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2014

Report 2013

On April 10, 2014, in the afternoon, the Annual Membership Meeting of Amigos de San Cristobal took place in Las Tejas in the restaurant Plaza Real.

Approximately 60 people attended the event and learned about the activities and financial information of our organization during 2013, as well as the accomplishments achieved and the challenges for 2014.

Lucia Baráibar, the President, introduced the agenda and presented a summary of activities. Anita Smart, board member, translated the information.

Alma Silvia, Vice-president, introduced our new form of membership: "The Corporate Membership" and mentioned the 17 establishments that support this effort.

She also explained that Amigos has a close relationship with the media: "Throughout the year, a total of 7 interviews were held on the radio with Lic. Mercedes Diaz, with Guadalupe Ruiz Narváez, in the news of Hugo Robles and Alejandro Díaz and with Oscar Sánchez. We thank



them for their support and we give a special thanks to Mr. Francisco Narváez and SUPREMA RADIO for giving us the opportunity to reach out to people. We also were on the TV program "San Cristóbal hoy" with Lic. Fernando Santiago. In addition to the news media, Amigos also had fans in Facebook: 1,208 people follow our news and announcements in this social media".

Alma also introduced the people who are part of the different working committees in Amigos and pointed out how the volunteer teams strengthened their work during 2013.

Next, the director, Esteban Jiménez, presented the projects financed by Amigos in 2014, the financial report of expenses and income during 2013, the budget for 2014, and the challenges for this year.



Total income 2013	\$ 1,593,417.00
Total de expenses 2013	\$ 710,176.00
Balance	\$ 883,241.00

GOALS 2014		
COMMITTEES	2013	2014
MEMBERSHIPS	107 MEMBERS /17 EMPRESAS AMIGAS	120 MIEMBROS / 30 EMPRESAS AMIGAS
PROJECTS	8 PROJECTS- \$660 000.00	8 PROJECTS- \$660 000.00
DEVELOPMENT	2 GRANTS	2 GRANTS
COMUNICATION	7 INTERVIEWS / 1208 FANS FB	12 INTERVIEWS / 1300 FANS FB
EVENTS	1 EVENT \$ 24,304.00 RAISED	3 EVENTS \$75,000.00 RAISED



An important part of this Assembly was the election of the new Board of Directors for 2014/2015.

The Director also made the following comments: "We wish to thank the Board for the important work accomplished throughout the year. With their participation and vision, important decisions were made that enabled us to grow as an association. Special thanks to Nancy Orr, Ann Conway, Alma Silvia, Anita Smart, Israel Amézcua and Lucía Baráibar".

Ann Conway received special mention for her important work on the Projects Committee.

Alma Silvia introduced the new members of the Board of Directors for 2014: Lucía Baráibar Ruiz, President; Alma Silva, Vice President; Anita Smart, Margarita Rojas Nandayapa, John Chavez, Edmundo Ortiz Franco, Déborah Colvin, and Israel Amézcua Torrijos.

Finally, a special recognition was given by the President to the founders of Amigos, Nancy and David Orr who "have been dedicated to gathering friends in San Cristóbal and around the world to help improve the quality of life of many people living here. They have taught us much about the road to philanthropy, a way in which we are all rewarded with the satisfaction of seeing results".

At the end of the program, those present enjoyed cocktails and canapes, courtesy of our sponsor Restaurante Plaza Real. A special thanks to Coco Ruiz and Ernest Riedwyl for their welcome and generosity.

Also, special congratulations to the operational team, the NGOs that are implementing their projects in different fields, all members of the committees, our volunteers and all who in some way or another have collaborated with our organization. Special thanks to all of you. Without your work, our great effort would not be possible.



EMPRESAS AMIGAS

Growing

Since our last Amigos bulletin, we have added 5 new Empresas Amigas members: Instituto de Lenguas Jovel, Posada del Abuelito, La Paloma restaurant, La Pared bookstore, and Turismo Posada Real de Chiapas.

We send our gratitude to these establishments and also to the other 12 establishments who have been assisting since this initiative began:

Panóptico, Plaza Real restaurant, Quinto Sol Joyería, Quinto Sol Casa y Boutique, El Tacoletto restaurant, Comercial Huellas-Servicios 2000-Distribuidor Telcel, Cocoliche restaurante-bar-cabaret, Casa Felipe Flores-Hotel Boutique, Intervino, Oh La Lá pastelería francesa, Sna Maruch y Carmen Rión y La Joya Hotel-Boutique.



THANKS TO DONORS

2013 - 2014

Thanks also to all the donors who have partnered with Amigos during this last year:

Margaret Zerega
Robert Norum
Patricia Ferrer
Karen and Tom Aleto Elwell
Miriam and Robert Laughlin
William and Clare Brown
Kenneth Henderson
Thomas and Edna Mast
June Nash
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Anthony Howlett and Bernadette Powell
William Moore
Laurence and Ellen Stillpass
Ann Jablonski
Marsha Siegel
Manuel López Meigar

John Bross
Randie Bencannan
Stephen Silverman
Lori Benson
David Coulson
David and Nancy Orr
Duncan Black
Barnston-Koutsaftis Family
Foundation
Robert Norum
Susan Stark
Ruth Ladwing
Mark Harmon Art Studio
Lyn Pentecost
Beverly Graeme
Margarita Jones
Mark Pretty
Gardenia Araoz
Lilian Wood
Kathleen y Kraig Kemper
Cisco Dietz
Agustín Baráibar and Maluye
Coutiño
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Jane and John Malarkey

Suzanne Ruta
Patty Gagnon
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Upholt
Donador Anónimo
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Hahn Air Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Margaret Bridgforth
John and Mary Sather
Rena and Jack Thompson
Karen Howitt
Dale and Allen Hermann
Mary Kew
Robert Lipman
John R. Woods Foundation
Donación anónima de San
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Donación anónima
Susan and Gene McNary