

VAMOS ADELANTE FOUNDATION



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Dear Elene, Lars-Erik and Ledarhogskolan Friends,

Recently we had the pleasure of meeting your godchildren, Jose Catalino and Norma Candelaria. "We" that is Susanne from Germany and Sophie from Canada and we're the new volunteers of the Vamos Adelante Project. First we set out for El Rodeo to visit Jose Catalino. After a rather rough ride on a chickenbus we met Clara. She is the promoter that works in the area and knows the families very well. Clara is especially close with Joses family, as they've been receiving the food box for two years now. The way they talked to Clara and us showed a great level of openness and trust. They shared many of their intimate

problems with us, without holding anything back. Being volunteers for only a limited amount of time, it is very important that we can profit from the strong relationship the promoters have built up over the years.

Jose Catalino is a really beautiful boy, although he was a bit shy in front of the camera as well as talking to us. Maybe this is still due to his remaining speech impediment, even though it improved a lot over the past years. The boy passed first grade and is now in second grade. He learns a lot with his classmates, but some problems remain, as some of the kids pick on him because of his disability. But Jose Catalino is a tough boy who knows to defend himself and luckily has a lot of support from his family.



Here you can see him with his mother, with Clara the promoter (in the Vamos Adelante shirt) and three of his siblings. Next to Jose stands William Alexander who is ten years old and has a scholarship with the Vamos Adelante Project. In the front of the picture are his sister Flor de Maria (8 years) and his little brother Daniel (5 years). Missing on this picture is his older sister Evelin Madeleine (15 years). She is causing some problems for the family right now, because she is in a rebellious age and left home to live with her boyfriend. Her parents are really worried about her getting pregnant or contracting a disease. We all hope that they can convince her to come home soon.

Norma Candelaria Chopen Jimenez was visited in her village El Nispero by Gladys, another social worker of the Vamos Adelante Team. El Nispero is very hard to reach, there is no bus going, let alone access to an asphalt road. Due to this bad infrastructure El Nispero is one of the poorest villages in the area. On the picture below you can see a girl carrying a huge pot of water on her head. Everyday activities, that we do not even have to think about, is hard work in a village like El Nispero.

Norma Candelarias family is very poor too, but thanks to the food box Norma Candelaria receives, she has improved a lot in the last months. Recently she had a bad flu so she lost a bit of weight, but she is better now and as you can see on the pictures, she is still alright.



She can walk fine and is an active little girl that likes to play with cars and play football with her 7 year old uncle Alejandro. The father left the family a year ago and leaves no money for the children. Also in the house live her mother, her grandparents, her little brother Luis and 9 aunts and uncles.

Norma is very close with Estela 14 and they share a bed and eat together. Norma loves eating, no matter what comes on the table, which is not surprising for a child that experienced shortage of food. She can eat by herself and enjoys drinking the water that her mother boiled, so that all the micro-organisms get killed. This is very important for all the families that form part of the project, because if families don't boil their water (or prepare it

with chlorine) the kids get terrible diarrhea and loose weight quickly. Therefore Vamos Adelante controls frequently, if all the families live up to this rule. Estela pretty much takes care of Norma as mother Pati is rather retarded but this is not appreciated very much by the girl, who hates being bathed and usually cries a lot, when she has to. Luckily the family isn't very impressed by this and so Norma is always nice and clean when we drop by.

Norma is a cared for little girl but has developed slowly and needs therapy which we will start after the rainy season. She loves to run around (especially barefoot) and explore everything. Live surely doesn't get boring for the family with such a little energetic girl in their midst!



With this report of your godchild we would like to update you on other important parts of our project.

The most urgent topic for the time being is the situation in public schools, which gets worse by the month. Up till now children missed already about 10 weeks of class, due to teachers strikes and extra vacations. Lots of children are in danger of failing their grade, because they still have to sit the same exams, whether or not they received education.

Therefore the project has launched already three after school programs this year, where children can learn what they should normally learn in school.

This picture shows the opening of a library in Osuna, where more than 120 children study



in the afternoon. In case the situation at public schools isn't changing for the better in the near future, the Vamos Adelante Project is planning on opening more libraries and schools that actually deliver education.

On the picture to the right you can see Dr. Renee, "our" pediatrician. As usual she has a lot to do and she handles her tasks with great passion and love. During this year the project already had to organize two dangerous heart surgeries. We're happy to say that one operation was a success and the boy is recovering very well. The girl in the picture will be operated in Unicar clinic in the capital in October but first she has to gain some weight as she presently is too weak for surgery.

On this picture you can see the leg of Anderson, a baby of two months age. It shows very drastic the effects of malnutrition on babies. Thankfully we were able to help Anderson by bringing him to a special clinic for malnourished children. He is now much better and has a normal weight.

Still the malnourishment of children remains a big problem and we are grateful for all the help we receive.

The most important thing left to be said is a big thank you from Jose and Norma. Your help makes the life of these kids a bit easier and shows them that they are not left all alone. Thank you so much from the Vamos Adelante Team with Nina, Sophine and Susanne

