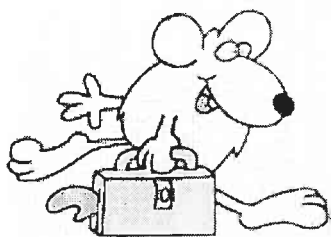


## VAMOS ADELANTE FOUNDATION



Director: Nina Jorgensen  
Courier Address to Guatemala:  
444 Brickell Ave.  
Suite # 53-8570  
Miami, FL 331 31, USA

VamosAdelante@conexion.com.gt  
www.vamosadelante.org

Address in Guatemala:  
5 Calle Oriente #6  
San Juan del Obispo  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Tel/Fax: +502 832 2992



Dear Lars and friends,

We thought you might like to see some recent photos of our activities here in Guatemala, which you have been generously supporting with your donations.

First off, there was our big wheelchair distribution last month. For several months now, Vamos Adelante has been preparing to distribute a container more than 280 free wheelchairs to poor people from all over the country. It was our job to identify and invite the people who were most in need of a chair, and we activated our network of contacts all across Guatemala to find the recipients.

The chairs themselves were donated by the Wheelchair Foundation and transported to Guatemala for free by the American Airlines "Airline Ambassadors". Your contribution ensured that the wheelchair recipients who were coming from far-flung parts of the country (Coban, Momostenango, etc.) were able to come to our handover ceremony in Guatemala City, where they received their chair from the hands of the Guatemalan First Lady, Wendy Berger. Wendy (pictured left with our team) acted as a patron for the event through her non-profit organisation SOSEP.



Some of the wheelchair recipients had been waiting for months or even years to receive their wheelchair, so the event was very exciting and emotional for them. They arrived with their families, often being carried on their shoulders, and were amazed to meet with other recipients (many had never seen another disabled person before).

Our team worked very hard to prepare for this day— especially our colleague Amarilis (in grey t-shirt on above picture), who runs our computer school for the disabled in Guatemala City .



The computer school in Guatemala City itself also continues to grow and establish a reputation as a great network for disability projects.

Between 30-60 students complete the basic IT courses each year, and the school continues to extend its horizons: since August, students have had unlimited internet connection on four computers, and the most advanced ones (including Amarilis herself) have been progressed to internet and web design activities. Nicki, one of our volunteers who has a professional background in communications management, has been visiting the school to give some in-depth workshops, and the students have been soaking up the information like sponges.



Their motivation is obvious and extends beyond mere computer skills to a genuine desire for learning and improving their job market skills. After losing their volunteer English teacher (who returned to the US in July), for example, the students simply decided to continue their lessons with a donated English workbook. Amarilis, herself a beginner at English (albeit one with particularly good pronunciation skills), leads the group in reading and vocabulary exercises, so that they can keep up their skills until a new English teacher is found.

About half a dozen poor students at the school receive a scholarship from the project to complete their high school education. Unfortunately, Flori (the student you have been supporting over the past year) has decided to quit school after this year and will not pursue her ambitions to go to university. We are very saddened by this, especially since Flori has broken almost all contact with Amarilis and her other friends at the school, and seems to hide from the real world in her church. Though we have been trying to win back her motivation for months, we have had to accept that this is ultimately Flori's decision and that there are many others who would love to have the opportunity of the scholarship she has abandoned.





Besides our disability projects, we are naturally very busy with our main health and education initiatives in the rural villages.

Since we're in the middle of the rainy season, we have been working hard to improve families' homes and especially roofs. Dozens of particularly poor families -like the one pictured here- have received new tin sheets to fortify their houses against the rains or build new homes entirely.



We've also been busy tending to our godfamilies in various villages, which has become a bit harder due to the current security situation. Numerous robberies and violent attacks in our operational area have forced us to temporarily freeze our work in certain areas, and work increasingly out of our main headquarters in Guadalupe El Zapote (pictured left).

Your own godfamily, Doña Julia and her children, has not been affected by any of these events since they live in the relatively secure area of La Reina, where our health promoter Clara has continued with her work normally.

By way of this new photo for which they posed last week, Doña Julia and her children send you -their 'padrino'- many greetings and thanks for your continued support.

We hope you enjoy this short update on your Guatemala projects,

Best wishes from the whole  
Vamos Adelante Team

