



Dear Elene, Lars Erik and other Ledarhogskolan supporters,  
The year 2013 is leaning towards its end and it is amazing how many projects we were able to accomplish with your help. Since the last report we sent you we have taken another big step towards our major goal, which is to hand over the originally initiated programs by Vamos Adelante slowly but surely into Guatemalan hands.



We have done this 6 times before with very good results and all of these programs still run successfully and have even expanded. It obviously takes time and much patience to prepare this process and now the time came for our little Primary school in Santa Rosa, El Rodeo. Making projects long-term self sufficient is actually much more difficult than expanding.



Our school recently merged with the public El Rodeo Primary school, which has within the last 4 years really changed much to the better and has very good teachers but they lack space and were urgently looking for a solution, which we, after some rather tough but amicable meetings, were able to find. Right now we are still finalizing the paperwork but officially the children are already registered in the El Rodeo school but still received classes with us in



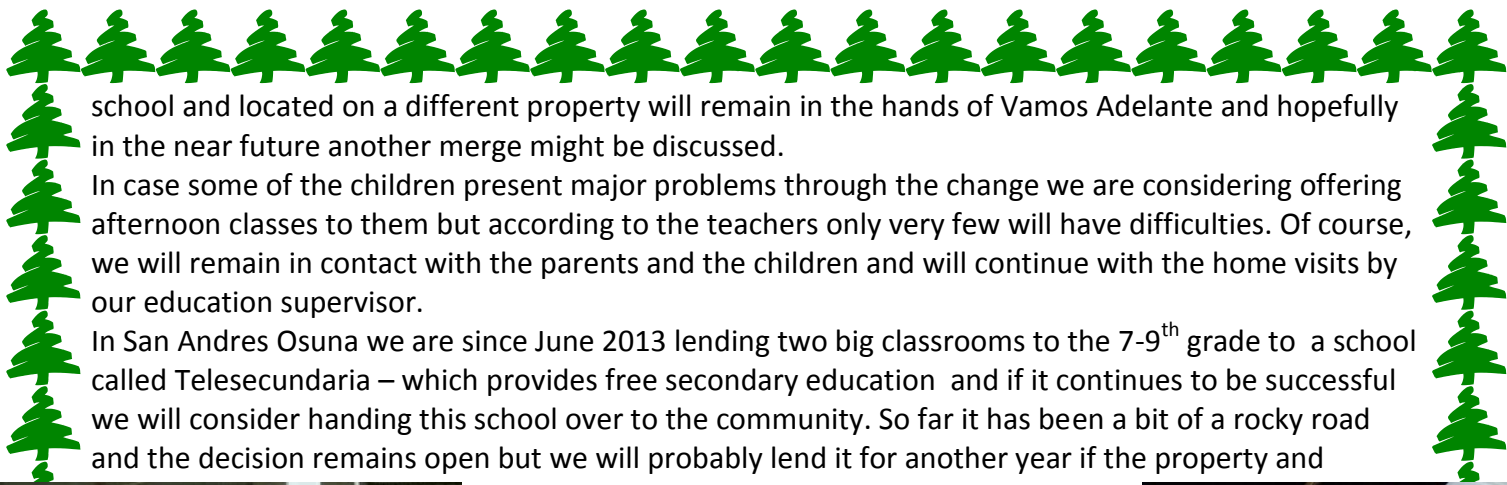
their classrooms by our teachers until the end of this school year. Once the big school vacation is over and classes start in January our primary students in this area, who of course will still keep their scholarship with us, will then be going to El Rodeo, which is close by and attend classes there. "Our" installations will probably be used for pre-school, we were told. The Ministry of Education and the community is very thankful and has in writing expressed to comply with our conditions to use the school for free education and to take good care of the building and property.



We started this little school for very poor children who were not attending school at all in the year 2003 on a small farm called Montijo where we after some years were asked to leave as the owners were about to sell it. Eventually we were able to transfer the school to Santa Rosa, El Rodeo and expanded the installations where we for a long time attended around 140-150 very poor students, most of them with problems. In 2013 the school offered Kindergarten up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade







school and located on a different property will remain in the hands of Vamos Adelante and hopefully in the near future another merge might be discussed.

In case some of the children present major problems through the change we are considering offering afternoon classes to them but according to the teachers only very few will have difficulties. Of course, we will remain in contact with the parents and the children and will continue with the home visits by our education supervisor.

In San Andres Osuna we are since June 2013 lending two big classrooms to the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade to a school called Telesecundaria – which provides free secondary education and if it continues to be successful we will consider handing this school over to the community. So far it has been a bit of a rocky road and the decision remains open but we will probably lend it for another year if the property and buildings remain clean and well kept.



In August a team of 4 Spanish dentists visited and helped us tremendously for one week in Zapote. They treated 302 patients and pulled 533 teeth which could not be saved any longer.



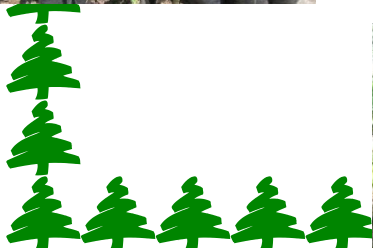
This year we were able to give out 140 wood saving stoves and 203 water filters thanks to generous donations and both make a tremendous positive change in the daily life. We see less burns, eye problems and respiratory problems and thanks to better water much less related medical issues and of course as less wood is being used it has a good impact on the environment.



Our health promoters re-introduced “Chaya” a plant that is highly nutritious but was forgotten for a long time and it has

been well received in our area. For months we walked around and showed the women where to find this plant and also planted over 1000 cuttings in different villages. Chaya grows fast and some are already 2

meters high. We of course also showed how to prepare it in different ways and where families use it nowadays several times a week we see much less malnutrition.







September 15<sup>th</sup> is the national Independence Day and is celebrated all over the country. All school children participate in different activities and practice for weeks for this particular day.



Clara, our health promoter in Santa Rosa, El Rodeo and surrounding farms decided to retire as she would like to dedicate more time to her family. She feels that she has done much in this area since July 1999 and that most families are living much better now compared to the time when she started helping. Our help nowadays is more needed in areas further inland and remote but we will still continue to help some families in the Santa Rosa area who still live in very poor conditions, especially elderly. The rainy season was not as bad as other years but crossing the rivers remained a daily challenge and sometimes it was simply not possible to pass for several days.



October and November are very important months as it is graduation time for the students. something one takes for granted, reaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade is considered very special and



Receiving education is not



much more of course if the student reaches the end of vocational training, college or university, this remains outstanding. We feel very proud that "our scholarship students have understood the importance of education since an early age and that their desire for a higher



education has grown each year.



In Ceylan where the Primary education is not very good we offered vacation classes in November for a month with much fun and activities as well as several snacks and a big lunch every day. Once the course was finished none of the children wanted to go home as they enjoyed it so much.







Many of the houses are in terrible shape especially the roofs after the rainy season and the acid ashes from the volcano Fuego, we were able to donate 945 tin sheets in November. Unfortunately the delivering truck got stuck in the river and lost half of the load which took hours to lift up again but finally we were able to distribute this wonderful donation.

The Canadian medical team Health for Humanity returned again for a week and came out to remote villages with us. They saw an average of 50 patients a day, many who had never seen a doctor before, mostly as they could not afford it



Thanks to Santa Claus and his special friends

we are able to celebrate Christmas with close to 5000 children and we would like to extend a very special thanks to everybody who collected bikes , soccer balls , dolls , stuffed animal, other toys, clothes, shoes

lots of other presents and thank you for sending the shipment ! The families are very grateful and happy that you are making this Christmas so special for them.



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The Vamos Adelante team wishes you:  
"Happy Holiday" and thank you for your trust and support





Hi Elene, Lars Erik and all Ledarhogskolan friends my name is Ingrid and I am going to continue informing you about your godchildren, perhaps Kira mentioned you something last time? Well as I told you my name is Ingrid I am 27 years old I am married and I have a baby boy named Rodrigo, for me it is going to be a pleasure continue updating you about the project and your godchildren. Let me tell you something about Jose Catalino, he is doing very well, at school Jose show us the big capacity he had, he won all the subject with good grades and his social skill is more developed than ever, Jose is more communicative and less afraid to talk with others. Sadly is not the same at home because his mother is continue treating him like a baby boy or worst like a disable person and he is not!. Some time ago Nina talked to him in a very friendly way; she asked Jose what he expects of the future and what he thinks about forming his own family. Since that day Jose realized he really can have an own family and in some way he realize he is normal (because he is) but his mother doesn't let him see it. I think that conversation means a lot to Jose and his attitude is changing little by little. His muscle spasm problem continues but Jose is learning how to handle it and he knows being less nervous feels better. Jose always has a huge smile and is really thankful with the support and help you are giving him, wants to send regards and lot of hugs. With Norma things are not good at all. Paty her mother decided to abandoned the house and together with Norma they left. We don't know where are they actually and we can't continue helping her. But let me tell you some time ago Paty came to us looking for help because she was feeling a terrible pain, fortunately our Canadian doctors were helping us during that time and they were able to made an emergency surgery to Paty, they took away the tumor she had. Once Paty decides to come back to stay we are going to consider to help Norma again. Now is time to say good bye to 2013 and to thank your help trough this year, the Vamos Adelante team send you the best wishes and hope you enjoy the Christmas time. From the deep of my heart I wish you the best and hope to receive news from you. Ingrid and the Vamos Adelante team!



Dear Elene, Lars Erik and  
Ledarhogskolan friends ,

Hello, this is Jose Catalino writing to you.

I am so happy these days because I passed all my final exams with good grades!!  
Since the middle of October we have school vacation and in January I am going  
to start in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

I want to tell you that I love you so much and I am very thankful  
because of the generous help you are sending me every month.

Hi

again this is Norma  
thanking you a lot for  
making my life and my  
easier and more enjoyable.  
that I love you so much and  
because of the generous  
send you many hugs and  
holidays.

family's a tad

I want to tell you  
I am very thankful  
help you sent me. I  
kisses on this

Feliz

y



Navidad

Prospero

Año 2014

Best wishes from our families to your family.