



Valle de los Angeles

ANNUAL REPORT AND CHRONICLE 2013

- **ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE AREA:**
 - Implementation of new automated accounting and resource administrative program (ERP)
- **KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM:**
 - Renovated Kitchen area in preparation for the initiation of INTECAP Bakery project
- **MEDICAL, DENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC AND HEALTH:**
 - A monthly donation allowed us to open a Psychological Clinic with Psychologist Manlio Soto
 - Implementation of Psychological tests to all the students.
 - Opening of the certification program for the teachers in the area of psychology,
 - New warehouse for medicine, clinical and dental material, with an inventory control
 - The children and personnel were treated for parasites
 - Rosa Contreras had surgery thanks to the collaboration and support of Adriana Lozano (school volunteer)
 - Jaquelin Meliza Pérez Acevedo, student of 3rd grade, was operated on by Dr. Landelino Constanza, plastic surgeon, who removed a mole from her neck.



- **SCHOOL AND TEACHERS:**
 - The American Guatemalan Institute (IGA) donated Q.296,337.55 in new text books
 - A new English Program using the Montessori Method was inaugurated in the Multiple Use Room
 - Implementation of Income automation
 - Computer training offered to the school personnel
 - A carton and paper recycling program begun in the School
 - Community Service: the trees were whitewashed by American School volunteers
 - Through a monthly donation, a physical education teacher was hired twice a week
 - Teachers Training: "Discipline and Corrective Measures" talk given by Gabriela Jimenez
 - LIGNUM Company donated playground games; located in front of the school.



- **Grand Opening of 11th grade in 2014:** On October 10th, Father Michael made the official announce to our 10th grade girls that in 2014, we will open a new grade- the 11th grade. This was authorized by the Ministry of Education. The announcement was a great surprise for the students who will now be able to continue to study at Valley of the Angels.



○ **DORMS:**

- The Architect Monica Espinoza decorated the dorms with very cute cartoon Franciscan friars
- In January we received a donation of 100 new mattresses
- In June we received a donation of window screens for the boys' dorm

○ **ELECTRIC ENERGY:**

- The school and the administrative offices' lights were changed to LED lights
- 14 solar panel heaters were donated to heat water in the dorms, sisters' and friars home, 300 gals each

○ **MAINTENANCE:**

- A perimeter closure was built for the new water filtration system, including electric installations and a channel to direct the pluvial water flow
- A garbage bin is being built with space for recycling in the entrance of the orphanage- donated by ITSA:



○ **OTHERS:**

- We received a third sister: In January, Sor Odalys, a nurse of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception was assigned to support our project
- Municipal Water: On June 11, 2013 we had a direct water pipe installed on behalf of the Municipality of Santa Catarina Pinula: "The day began with some heavy problems. We were out of water again because the well went dry but worse than that, the bathrooms were all backed up and overflowing. As we prayed in the chapel our morning prayer, we looked at each other as we read the words of the psalm "my soul is thirsting, my body pines for you like a dry weary land without water." Although I was praying hard for a solution to our continual water problem, I honestly felt discouraged. I had tried everything and was giving it all up to God, not really knowing what to do. Vicky later made a call to the municipality who responded in a miraculous way, arriving shortly after with the instructions to connect us to the city's water supply!!!! What an amazing and unexpected blessing!!! I cannot believe it really happened after 20 years of struggling with our well. At evening prayer while praying in thanksgiving, I opened the Bible to this exact verse: Wisdom 11: 7 "you gave them abundant water in an unhoped-for way" Can you believe that!!! I still can not believe I got this passage. Praise God for His Almighty Love and Care and most of all for his Divine Providence!" (Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM, General Director)
- Documentary in Channel 3 in the program "Nuestro Mundo" 15-Jul-13: A documentary about Valley of the Angels was aired with Fr. Michael Della Penna and Fr. Roberto Siguere interviewed live and answering questions about our institution.



- Containers received from Canada: During the year we received three more 40 foot containers donated by Canadian Food for Children (CFFC). We really thank all our friends and volunteers who make it possible for us to receive these containers, which are an enormous help for our institution, we want to give special thanks to Dr. Simone and Frankie Burg-Feret.



ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS OF THE CHILDREN:

- **Welcome to our Personnel, January 11, 2013:** A welcome lunch was given to the personnel where we had the chance to meet each other at the beginning of the new school year.



- **Postulant's Lunch, January 27, 2013:** There was a mass and a lunch to celebrate the entrance of 4 postulants to the Congregation of the Franciscans Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.



- **Field Trip to the Movies, February 12, 2013:** Cinépolis and Rotaract Las Américas Club invited the children to Oakland Mall, to watch the movie Monsters Inc. 3D. The invitation included the movies entrance, a drink and popcorn. This was an unforgettable experience for the children, they had a great time in the mall, using the escalator, and having a quick tour in the movie theatre!



- **Patch Adams and Smile Factory Visit, March 13, 2013:** Patch Adams and a group of foreign volunteers from Smile Factory played, danced and had a lot of fun with our children! Patch Adams received a diploma as well as Smile Factory. Patch Adams left his handprints on one wall of the clinic which we dedicated to him. Smile factory has come to visit almost every other Sunday.



- **Economical - Financial Festival BANGUAT, 19-Mar-13:** Our children participated in the Economical – Financial Festival organized by Banco de Guatemala. Our students had the chance of going to the bank and theatre where they learned about the economy, and then visited the Numismatic Museum of Banco de Guatemala.



- **Jonas Brothers Concert, 21-Mar-13:** Mrs. Lucy Erales and her family, invited a lucky student to go to the Jonas Brothers concert. They organized a raffle among the students from 5th grade to 10th grade and Andrea Julissa Esquivel Gálvez from 8th grade was the winner. An awesome night for her!!



- **Living Via Cruces, 22-Mar-13:** The students organized the very famous “Via Cruces” which is performed annually on the last Friday before Holy Week. The students recreate the Passion of Christ through different stations and make beautiful (alfombras) rugs, it was a very special morning for them and their families who had the opportunity to join them.



- **Activity organized by the men of the Rotary Club Eastern Guatemala, April 06, 2013:** The children participated in different games (for every age), in activities organized by the Scouts and ate a delicious lunch.



- **Open House El Pulté – Valley of the Angels, 13-Abr-13:** Along with the El Pulté, there was an Open House where members of the Equestrian Club El Pulté and friends of Valley of the Angels had the opportunity of meet and see our facilities. Our High School students toured our guests around the school, dorms, medical and dental clinic and the Church.



- **Field Trip to IRTRA Petapa, 18-Abr-13:** For the third consecutive year, the kids and the personnel of Valley of the Angels had a magical day filled with fun at IRTRA Mundo Petapa. Thank you very much to all the people that sponsored this activity, we could not organize this field trip every year without your help. The kids' entrance included: entrance to the park, unlimited games and lunch!!.



- **Art class with American School students, 2-May-13:** The American School students performed art activities with Valley of the Angels students and as a result of this class; they made a beautiful mural in the Multiple Use Room.



- **Stomp Festival in Centro Escolar Entrevalles, 3-Mayo-13:** The musical teacher from Educación Musical del Centro Escolar Entrevalles, Heidi de Gamarro, invited a group of 6 girls from Valley of the Angels to the Stomp Festival from Entrevalles students. It was a very nice and creative activity.

- **El Pulté Field Trip, 10-May-13:** Our kids had the opportunity of going to visit the Equestrian Club El Pulte and share with the youth that ride in the Club. They explained the kids some related topics about horses. They enjoyed a beautiful sunny day and gave a horse ride and had a delicious meal.



- **Crowning of Mary of the Angels, 13-May-13:** Mary was crowned by the 8th grade students.

- **Pentecost Sunday, 19-May-13:** On Pentecost the students did a special activity as part of Sunday Mass.



- **Corpus Christi, 30-May-13:** The kids prepared beautiful alfombras and altars in the Corpus Christi celebration.



- **Olympic Games at Domo, 25-May-13:** Mrs. Sofía Baldocchi de Iturbide invited our students to go to the Domo to see the Olympic games for gymnastics. It was a very nice experience for our kids.



- **"Soy tu Ángel" Program and a very special day at the beach with Veronica, 8-Jun-13:**

Patty de Luna, one of our volunteers who has been working hard with us for over three years, doing everything from organizing our bodegas to cleaning, cooking and teaching handicrafts, has now joined our newly formed "Soy tu Ángel" program. Patty has elected to reach out to 9 of our children. The program "Soy tu Ángel" seeks to build relationships between sponsors and the children, helping them to experience God's love in new ways. The program allows them to feel God's love in a concrete way, through the care of their sponsor. It shows them that God is watching over them. Sponsors like Patty are given all the essential information of the children, including birthdays, their favorite things and sizes so that they may share more closely in their lives and celebrate these special occasions together. Father Michael commented that: "Through these relationships, it is hoped that we can foster a mutually beneficial friendship based in Christ in which our children and the benefactors grow in faith and fraternity". This past Saturday Patty decided to invite three of the angels on a special trip. The excursion began with a McDonald's breakfast and a two hour ride to the beach. It was the first time for two of the girls which included Veronica age 14, Maria Jose age 16 and Celeste age 12. While all the girls had a wonderful day, Veronica was especially grateful. Veronica is a special girl in many ways who is quite courageous but who is often understandably pensive; as she is contemplating a life without sight. She suffers from a hereditary eye condition which will render her blind within a few years. She often paused and reflected as she played on the beach (today marked the second time she had ever seen the ocean). When asked about what she thought about her upcoming quince años celebration she explained that: "This means God gave me 15 years of life. It is a celebration of this gift of life, but also it is a new beginning. It is about hope as it means starting a new life that is better than your life before and looking forward to new positive things." When asked about what she looked forward to the most Veronica responded that she would like to help street children and be a teacher for the blind. For this reason we are choosing Veronica as our Angel of the month. If you are interested in being a part of the "Soy tu Ángel" program please contact mdellapenna@hotmail.com



- **Futbol Game between Cremas and Valley of the Angels, 11-Jun-13:** Our kids were invited to participate in an exciting friendly game with the sub 13 football team of Cremas in Roosevelt Field. We thank Andrés Murga from “Zapato Loco” for the donation of football shoes for our children.



- **Welcome to Father Roberto Siguere and farewell to Sor Mirna, 14-Jun-13:** There was a lunch to welcome Father Roberto Siguere and a farewell party for Sor Mirna, who after serving with love in Valley of the Angels was transferred to another mission.



- **Conference about Personal Hygiene, May 9, 2013 and June 27, 2013:** Father Michael Della Penna, Vicky de Díaz and Dr. Ana Isabel Argueta gave a talk about personal hygiene to the children. On June 27, Rita María Pace gave a practical class about personal hygiene. Thank you very much for your support Rita María!



- **Murals in the girl’s dorms, June 27, 2013:** Laura de Estrada, along with a group of volunteer children, decorated the girls’ dorms with beautiful murals. Thanks to Laura and everyone who helped in this beautiful activity and for the delicious meal!



- **Cultural and Sport Week, June 24-28, 2013:** During this week, the children had sporting activities, a mathematical rally, theatre, dance, painting, and cooking, all supported by volunteers.



- **Field Trip to the Zoo, June 25, 2013:** As part of the activities from Cultural and Sport Week, the kids had the chance to have a fun morning in the Zoo. The association of Alumnae of Monte María School took care of the children during the field trip. Thank you Sofía Baldocchi de Iturbide for the beautiful and fun invitation!!



- **Diagnostic Evaluations of Ministry of Education, July 9, 2013:** Our 10th graders participated in the national diagnostic evaluations.
- **Retreat for Teachers, 16-Jul-13:** Given by Max Pedroza, Catholic Author.
- **Game Activity at Hogar La Virgen de la Asunción, 16-Jul-13:** Our students were invited to play soccer and to compete in Athletic competitions at Hogar Virgen de la Asunción.



- **Visiting the Elderly Home, 19-Jul-13:** Our 10th graders visited the Elderly Home of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, as part of our outreach activities during 'Generosity' Month, which seek to help cultivate a spirit of "giving back"



- **Spiritual Retreat for the students from Valley of the Angels, 25, 26 y 27/Jul/13:** Given by Max Pedroza and his team.
- **Tribute to Rodolfo and René Abularach, 26-Jul-13:** René Abularach was honored for donating the land where the orphanage is located; unfortunately he could not join us. Rodolfo Abularach donated the three beautiful church paintings. He was present in the activity and enjoyed different acts that the children prepared for him and received thank you cards. Mrs. Sofía de Bolaños, the Benefactors Association president of Valley of the Angels, gave a plaque for each one of the brothers.



- **Collage Workshop, 31-Jul-13:** A Collage workshop was given by the American artist Ellen Colcord, through the Instituto Guatemalteco Americano –IGA. Thanks to IGA for the contact and for the donated material for the activity and thank you Ellen for sharing your creativity with our High School girls.



- **Louisiana Mission, August 2013:** During the month of August, a special delegation from the University of Louisiana Tech helped us with different activities and shared some unforgettable moments with our children.



- **“Asociación Nuestros Ahijados” missionaries visit, 5-Ago-13:** We were visited by 27 missionaries from the USA from “Asociación Nuestros Ahijados”. They requested a mass and shared with the children.

- **Baptisms and First Communions, 10-Ago-13:** Judy de Puenta and Cristina Puenta prepared 28 of our kids to receive their first communion; 16 kids were also baptized. Thanks to everybody who made that day possible, especially thank you Judy and Cristina for teaching the children with so much love.



- **Our Lady of Fatima and the Heralds of the Gospel Visit, 19-Ago-13:** A statue of Our lady of Fatima visited us thanks to the third order of the Heralds of the Gospel. Our students made a beautiful altar and we prayed the rosary like a big family.



- **Former students Lunch, 23-Ago-13:** There was an alumnae lunch given for the second year. In the picture Father Michael is with Karla, a former student.



- **Music Concert and party, 23-Ago-13:** The Erales family (Rodrigo, Sofia and Lucy) organized a concert for the students and party for all the children.



- **Confirmation Retreat, 27-Ago-13:** The students attended a full day retreat organized by their Confirmation teacher, Jandira Dacaret de Molina.



- **Praise and Worship Afternoon, 31-Ago-13:** A group of friends of the orphanage organized a beautiful activity for the children. They had a great praise activity where they had piñatas, music and dance.
- **5 kms. Race, 01-Sep-13:** Our Phys. Ed teacher, Amílcar, received an invitation for our kids to participate in the 5kms. Race, sponsored by the federation and London. Nine of our children, 4 boys and 5 girls participated very enthusiastically. They met the Guatemalan Olympic medalist, Erick Barrondo and they were very excited to have their picture taken with him.



- **Confirmations, 7-Sep-13:** 18 high school students received their confirmation on Saturday. The Eucharistic celebration was at 10:30 a.m. and was celebrated by Monsignor Gustavo Rodolfo Mendoza, along with Father Michael Della Penna and Father Roberto Siguere.



- **Donation of Pillows, 2-Oct-13:** The Monte María School alumnae donated 200 new pillows, which will be used by our children next year.



- **Saint Francis' Transitus, 3-Oct-13:** Celebration of Saint Francis' "Transitus" (his passing into eternal life). Our kids prepared and made a dramatization of the transitus and celebrated our dear Saint Francis of Assisi.



- **Blessing of the animals on the feast of Saint Francis, 4-Oct-13:** Following his love for animals, on October 4th, for the first time, the pets' blessing took place in the church "Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles".



- **Triple celebration, 5-Oct-13:** The 20th anniversary of Valley of The Angels (1993), San Francis of Assisi feast (4-Oct) and our founder's birthday, Padre Rocco Famiglietti -Papa Rocco- (6-Oct). The celebration started with Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. in the Church "Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles", and ended with a barbecue in the Multiple Use Room.





Osvaldo Ovalle received the “**San Francisco**” award and Lucero Ramírez received the “**Santa Clara**” award for their excellent behavior during the year and for practicing Franciscan values.



The award “**In Memoriam Padre Rocco**” was granted this year to: Gustavo Bolaños, Miriam Bolaños, Mónica Bolaños, Fernando and Teresa Bolaños, for personifying Father Rocco’s Franciscan vision who dedicated his life to giving the best to the poor. We are thankful for their gift of love, for always helping Valley of the Angels, for sharing these Franciscan values and for being an example of generosity, tenacity, integrity and love.

- **4Tiempos Group Visit, 8-Oct-13:** The Guatemalan group 4 Tiempos, promoters of “Guatemala wants Peace”, visited Valley of the Angels. They shared their music and their message of peace and donated two guitars to the orphanage.



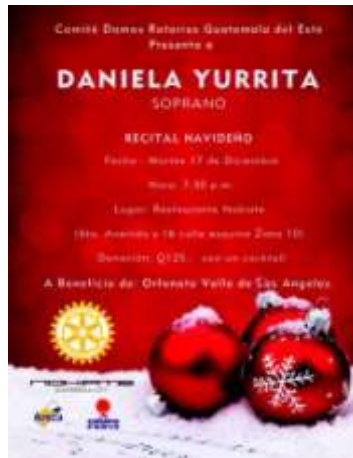
- **Nativity Scene and Christmas Party, 17-Oct-13:** Our children prayed before a beautiful nativity scene they created as part of the activities for our first Christmas Party that took place on October 17. We received a donation of 10 turkeys that were prepared by a volunteer. Jose, Rodolfo and Mayo from the El Pulté donated gifts for all the children, including footballs, backpacks and jumping ropes.



- **Walmart visited us, 16-Oct-13:** Walmart made a 200 bags donation of product for the kids and organized some activities. The bags of products were donated to the children and their families on the last day of school.



- **Christmas Recital and Raffle to Benefit Valley of Los Angeles, 17-Dec-13:** For the second consecutive year, the committee of the Ladies Rotary Club East Guatemala organized a motorcycle raffle and a Christmas Recital of the Guatemalan Soprano Daniela Yurrita for the benefit of the orphanage. The raffle took place during the recital. We are thankful for the unconditional support of the ladies that are part of said committee.



- **VOLUNTEERS:**

- **Arts and Crafts for 10th graders girls:** A group of volunteer ladies taught Arts and Crafts to our 10th graders, (they learned to do book marks, key chains, Christmas tree ornaments, etc.) Some of the products are being sold Sundays after mass.
- **Arts and Crafts for Junior High School:** Mrs. Marielos González de Paz taught Arts and Crafts to the kids from 4th, 5th and 6th grade.



- **Reading for 2nd and 3rd graders:** Mrs. Adriana Lozano and Mrs. Sofía Baldocchi de Iturbide supported our 2nd and 3rd graders in tutoring their reading.
- **Individual Time Work:** Mrs. Ximena Yurrita de Villanueva supported the 2nd graders with the pedagogic implementation of "individual time work that helps support the fulfillment of their work and class exercise potential"
- **Alumnae from Monte Maria School** supported us during the whole year, in the parents visit day, and through the teacher training programs in the pedagogic area.



- **Celebration of birthday kids each month:** Since August, on the first Sunday of the month, Patty Colom, her family and a group of friends have been donating our birthday kids of each month with birthday cakes.

- **Home Economics Course given by Juan Carlos Méndez:** The main objective is to teach the girls alternative marketable skills which can generate income. These valuable and practical skills can enhance their homes, teach them the values of honest and excellence work, as well as become a means to give something back to the Orphanage. The girls gain a sense of self esteem worthwhile producing products for use in the Valley. The products include: window cleaning liquid, disinfectant and floor scent, bathroom pine disinfectant, automobile shampoo, silicone, rug shampoo, hand soap, disinfectant gel alcohol, hair shampoo, hair conditioner, body splash, perfume, cologne, glycerin soap and nail polish remover.

