



**Casa Hogar**  
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to what we hope is week one of an ongoing update from Casa Hogar Benito Juárez in Oaxaca Mexico. Today, the 16th of September, is Independence Day here in Mexico, and in my book the Mexicans win the prize for patriotism and cultural pride. Celebrations of Mexican history abound during the month of September, and today, are especially festive with remembrances of all that has taken place in order to make Mexico a free country. ¡VIVA MEXICO!

For all of us, life is very busy and hectic, and that is no less true for us here. In an attempt to be more closely related to all of you, we hope to start sending out a brief weekly update by email. Severe budget restraints prohibit us from sending out monthly newsletters as we have in times past, but emails are free! So if you know someone who might want to be kept in the loop about \*HOGAR HAPPENINGS\*, please send us their email address.

School started here on the 24th of August, and this year we have K to 6th grade classes right here on campus! What a zoo! But it is a zoo filled with happy kids who will be able to enjoy a normal school year with the required amount of classes instead of missing more than half a school year because of striking teachers. The school that we are affiliated with is from the new teachers union which was formed by teachers who really want to teach instead of by teachers who get bogged down in political problems and must go on strike to resolve them. Right now we have 4 teachers and a psychologist (who is filling in as the kindergarten teacher). Thankfully, teachers are trained here to teach 2 grades simultaneously, so having combined grades is not overwhelming them. And some of our kids with distinct capacities have been mainstreamed in with them, which has been a great thing. Kindergarten and 1st grade meet in our guest dining area, 2nd grade is in the library, 3rd and 4th grades are upstairs in our rec area, and 5th and 6th grades are out on the patio for the time being, patiently awaiting some kind of enclosed learning space. With 53 kids who live here along with 17 kids from our daycare program, things are BUSY.... And we have 10 youth in Junior High and 6 in High School, plus 3 who are in the University, as well as 5 kids with distinct capacities who go to a special school so that they can also receive physical therapy. So this year we have kids in 11 different schools.

We are presently without a driver, so Carol has been doing the majority of the school runs and shopping, which can amount to 9 hours daily, and Francisco and Bel are in the office 8 to 10 hours daily with part time help from Xu and Madai, and they still cannot get it all done. And each of our dorm parents either cooks or washes clothes or helps in the school, apart from their schooling, but we know that in ALL labor there is profit, so we go on our way rejoicing!

This year we have 18 new kids, so we are full up! We even had to purchase 4 sets of double-sized bunk beds in order to accommodate everyone...We are still in need of several school uniforms and shoes and tennis shoes, as well as books and school materials, both for the kids here in Oaxaca and also for the 26 kids up in Cuicatlan. Obviously, this is not a small undertaking, and we are glad to see how God is setting everything in His order.

We plan to post pictures starting next week, so stay tuned...Keep us in your prayers, and thanks for being a part of the Casa Hogar team! Until next week, ¡Que Dios les bendiga! With love from your Casa Hogar family

**Be sure to check out our web site frequently at: [www.casahogarbenitojuarez.org.mx](http://www.casahogarbenitojuarez.org.mx) and feel free to drop us an email.**

# Hogar Happenings