



Forix Foundation

Final Report

May, 2012

Project: **Maestra Luz** – “**a light toward future success**” – funding for the salary of a teacher/tutor to work on homework and special learning needs for children living at Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza, a shelter for children ages birth through teens in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico. -

Project Reporting Dates: From June 2011 through May 2012

Project Leader: Christine Amo – Board President

Project Summary – In June 2011, Forix Foundation generously supported our work at Children’s Shelter of Hope Foundation with a grant to pay the salary of Maestra Luz for one year in order to support educational opportunities for the school-age children living at a shelter in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Maestra Luz works daily in the afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 with a group of 10 to 12 children currently enrolled in third through middle school grades, and also with some of the other children with specific learning issues. In addition, she works with some computer instruction and special art projects with a few of the older children once their homework is completed. Maestra Luz has been at the Refugio for many years and is particularly talented in working with some of the more challenging teenagers.

Progress – Maestra Luz worked through the summer months with all of the school-age children to keep their skills fresh and to prepare them for the beginning of the new school year in mid-August. Due to another donation, we were able to hire a second teacher/tutor in August and split the children into two groups for homework activities. After the holiday break most of the elementary school-age children were enrolled at a different school and shifted to a morning session. At that time Maestra Luz and Francis (the other tutor) decided to trade roles, allowing Maestra Luz to begin working with the older children again. She and Francis have been working with the children on homework, remedial, and enrichment activities since January in the afternoons from about 1:00 PM to about 5:00 PM. Since the Middle School students return to RISE about 3:00, Maestra Luz has been helping them as well. Also, beginning in March we were able to hire a 2 hour/3 days per week computer instructor and Maestra Luz has been assisting him as time allows.



Budget – Because of this grant from Forix Foundation, Children’s Shelter of Hope Foundation has included as a part of our monthly contribution for basic expenses to RISE since June 2011. Because the exchange rate has been favorable to the US dollar, we also give Maestra Luz 1000 pesos extra to purchase needed school supplies at the beginning of the school year in August. The funds from this grant were sufficient to adequately cover Maestra Luz’s salary through May 2012.

Milestones/ Issues – The hiring of a second teacher/tutor in August was very helpful in making homework and learning activities at RISE more productive and successful. Maestra Luz and Francis work closely with our wonderful psychologist, Bety, on meeting the individual needs of the children. The only “issue” that came up was the change of schools and homework schedules with the children in January. Both tutors were very flexible with this change and took this opportunity to switch groups so that Maestra Luz could work with the older and sometimes more difficult children. She has known most of these children for many years and relates well to them all.

Opinion – It has been an interesting, challenging “season” in Puerto Vallarta and for our foundation this past six months with the change in the governing board leadership at RISE; major drops in funds from fundraising activities, visitors, and general donations; and a shift in our partnership with a Canadian foundation devoted to the

children at RISE. Thanks to dedicated employees, such as Maestra Luz, the children have not been affected by these challenges. They continue to grow, learn, and develop, and are a joy to all of us who love them.

THANK YOU AGAIN for your interest and support of our work with children and families living in the Bay of Banderas area of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. I hope that we will be able to work together on another project again very soon!



Chris Amo
President of Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation
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