

H.O.M.E. Update

by Sr. Marie Ahern

We braced ourselves for winter...we wondered if we had the stamina to get through it...we cut and split cords and cords of firewood and kindling...and then...lo and behold...the God of winter smiled on us and left the scene in early to mid January. In terms of global warming, this doesn't bode well, but in terms of costs and physical energy for survival, we were grateful. It's been a lengthy, pleasant Spring and all seems fairly stable around here.

It's 9am and we are up in the Shelter Office ("The Pit"). Marvelous aromas are floating up from the Office Kitchen. Bonnie, Jackie and I let out a cheer- we know it's Twila's creation. Every couple of weeks Twila Greene (Maine Office co-director) comes in with that "urge to cook" look in her eye and the word (and aroma) travels fast. Ginger bread- cinnamon buns- toll house cookies- and more. Body and Spirit are fed...more smiles are seen...more work is done. Ah, the power of the toll house cookie!

H.O.M.E. turned 40 years old on May 13th and the work goes on. Scripture says, "The poor you will have with you always." But that does not stop us from trying to help everyone who comes our way- to empower the poor- to develop skills- to build community- to fight the systems that oppress people. We will never stop.

There have not been many staff changes or adjustments this past year. To mention a few: Judy Norwood is now in the Leather Shop and Mary Mahoney is in charge of all recycling and the Bargain Barn. Lisa Bigelow has resigned from Daycare. Melissa Bounapane is now working in the Market Stand. Sheila Holtz is working in Stitchery on weekends. Leola Dean is running the Craft Store on weekends. Byron Espana is working in the Woodshop making cabinets and doors for the houses under construction. Jason Cromeenes is working on general maintenance and Destiney Cromeenes is working in Daycare. Margaret DiRivera is our representative with Emmaus International and recently returned from a meeting in Uruguay. The rest of the staff is the same, getting along, working hard, and basically keeping everything together.

Now, about our super 40th Annual Meeting on April 15th. Big turnout, lots of food, our elders coming back to celebrate with us: Phil Gray, Virgie Betts, Velma MacDonald, and Jo Barry - all octogenarians - all very significant in making H.O.M.E. what it is today.

" But let us remember that Christ became a person of his people, of his time; he lived as a jew; he labored as a worker of Nazareth, and ever since, he is made flesh in all people. If many have moved away from the church, it is precisely because the church has been a little alienated from humanity. But a church would feel as its own, all that is human, and would wish to incarnate within itself the sorrow, hope and anguish, of all who suffer and rejoice, that church would be Christ loved and awaited, Christ present. And that depends on us."

- Archbishop Oscar Romero
3 December 1978

Lucy was our guest speaker. Not only was Lucy the original inspiration starting H.O.M.E., but also for 40 years has never let us forget our basic mission: to serve first those who suffer most. Lucy's message was loud and clear, from her reflections on her own life as one of eleven children in a very poor family.

When her father died, Gram Poulin raised that family with love and hard work. For the kids, school was a vacation from work, gardening, haying, cutting firewood. Lucy then reminisced about the many courageous women she has known over the years who have struggled to raise their children and provide.

On a lighter note, she then insisted on playing two of her favorite songs: " Bony Fingers" and " Making the Best of a Bad Situation". With humor, these songs get the message across about the struggles of the poor. Country music, tells it like it is. It does not speak in abstractions.

I wage you readers to download these songs and enjoy. The meeting was a great success. Be well. Come neighbor with us this summer!



h.o.m.e. 2010 Photo Calendar

b&w photos of h.o.m.e.....\$4.00

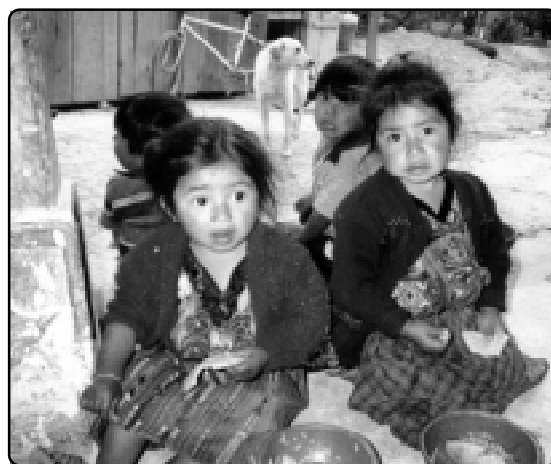
2010 photo calendar

Guatemala Mission Trips

Join us for a Mission Trip To Guatemala

" Helping others help themselves "

If you are interested in helping the mission of Emmaus San Juan, or if you would like to attend the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program, please check the appropriate box and return to h.o.m.e., inc.



Children from the village of San Juan Comalapa

Trips are planned for June and October of 2010



From left: Miguel Tuc Tuc, Jose Cupertino, Lucy Poulin and Eduardo share a meal in Guatemala in 2009.

- Please send me an application for the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program
- Please send me more brochures to pass along to my community
- Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Relief Fund (Amount: \$_____)
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- I would like to volunteer to educate others about Emmaus San Juan

All donations are tax-deductible

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