



# NEWSLETTER | LAS ALAS

enero de 2010 | vol. 10 no. 1 | [www.casadelosangeles.org](http://www.casadelosangeles.org)

## Our Mission

Casa de los Angeles is a community of caring people who gather to nurture children, serving the needs of the less fortunate, treating each person with dignity and respect as they work to make a better life for themselves. It is located in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, and was founded on September 18, 2000.

Celebrating  
Ten Years in  
2010

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Join us on **FACEBOOK**.

## Los Reyes Magos

What is better than a King?  
Three Kings!!!!



On January 6 we celebrate Los Reyes Magos. These are the Kings who bring presents to all the good little boys and girls of Mexico. This year our Kings had the help of the generous people of **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church** of Fredericksburg, Texas; as well as **Trev & Donna Jo Sparks** of McAllen, Texas; **The Christian Brother Community of St. Marys College**, Moraga, California, and **Amy Leonard** of Wakefield, Rhode Island who connected Casa de los Angeles with Hasbro. We are ever grateful! Now, the challenge to all of us is to be kind and generous to all those we love (and probably those who are a pain in the neck too!) all year long!!

## Volunteers from Germany

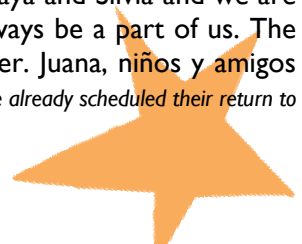


*Silvia, Luisa and Maya*

Our first days in Casa de los Angeles were quite exciting and also a bit difficult. We never worked with children at that age before and now we even had to do it in a different language. First we didn't understand a word they said and didn't know what to do first or next and for what we were there for. The Center seems to run very well without us. But after a few days we totally knew what we were there for . . . to participate in this fabulous project, to give attention and to get it back. To give love and joy to the children and get it back. To support the whole team of Casa de los Angeles and just be a part of that peaceful place which really does make the world a better place - because it exists. After a week the children got used to us and got to know us better, the German "voluntarias" how they called us the first time. What were our expectations? That they'll love us just when we are entering the room? Maybe. Maybe we thought so and maybe we would have never had imagined that the work will be that hard sometimes. The kids are full of energy, they like to play all the time ("caballito") and you always have to pay attention that they don't hurt themselves or hit each other. But if you get involved and just start doing instead of thinking you'll see it works. Just give them a smile even if you don't understand what they are saying, sometimes it is just important to be there and to listen. The employees and Donna are always around, ready to help and trying to make your stay as nice as it could possibly be.

It is a different world out there in San Miguel de Allende, el corazón de México, and it is wonderful to feel it. It is Lovely. It is Passionate. It is Peaceful.

Now we are not just the "voluntarias" anymore. We are Luisa, Maya and Silvia and we are a part of Casa de los Angeles - and Casa de los Angeles will always be a part of us. The good times we have experienced are locked in our hearts. Forever. Juana, niños y amigos we'll come back soon! (Editor's Note: Our wonderful German volunteers have already scheduled their return to us in March!)



## Ten is a Beautiful Number

*What do you need, Señora? What if I come to live in your town? How can I help?* That's pretty much how Casa de los Angeles got it's start ten years ago . . . asking questions. The answer that about 100 single working moms gave was, "I need someplace for my children to be while I'm at work, because right now I lock them in my house and my 5 year old takes care of my 2 year old."

On September 18, 2000 the trek was made to San Miguel de Allende to start a center for children of single working mothers who could not afford daycare. That little seed of an idea has grown to be so much more.

In ten years Casa de los Angeles has:

- ◇ Graduated 263 children.
- ◇ Served breakfast and lunch on 4920 days.
- ◇ Cared for 1179 children.
- ◇ Gone on 331 field trips.
- ◇ Enjoyed 7 summer camps for 348 children ages 6 to 12.
- ◇ Supported 13 women as they return to school.
- ◇ Welcomed 1097 volunteers.
- ◇ Broken 102 piñatas at 43 fiestas.
- ◇ Provided medical care to all of our families.
- ◇ Built 9 houses, 11 bathrooms, one apartment building, two community centers and one clinic.
- ◇ Changed lots and lots of diapers!



That is what can be measured. But, Casa de los Angeles can also say that it has helped

- ◇ Mothers know that they are not alone.
- ◇ Mothers realize they are worthy of the help they receive because they are a part of the solution.
- ◇ Children learn and be well prepared to start school.
- ◇ Raise the self-esteem, in both children and mothers.
- ◇ Families work together to change the status quo.

Off all the statistics, of all the numbers, 10 is certainly a beautiful one. Ten years of caring for those in need. Ten years of welcoming families and children to the community of Casa de los Angeles. It is an honor and a privilege for all of us to be a part of the work being done here. As our director says practically every day, "Casa de los Angeles is not a building. It is all of us . . . mothers, children, staff, volunteers, doctors, nurses, donors, board members. We are all Casa de los Angeles. We are all a part of something very special!"

You are invited to join in all of the celebrations we will have this year to mark our tenth anniversary. Thank you to everyone who has supported us as volunteers and donors in these ten years.

## You are invited to dinner!

Save the date!! Plans are underway for our Tenth Anniversary Dinner to be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook, Illinois. The dinner committee is working hard on planning for the extravaganza . . . tasting meals for the menu (yummy), gathering items for our auction, nominating those who will be honored in a special way, and brainstorming Chicago activities for those who may be traveling from a distance. You can go to <http://casadelosangeles.org/dinner/> for more information.

