



## FUNDACION PARA EL EMPODERAMIENTO PERSONAL

### June 2014 Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our Foundation newsletter. I hope this message finds you well, and that summer has blessed the part of the world you are currently enjoying.

As we have all become settled in to our day to day lives with our families and in our communities, I am so pleased to share that the progress with Fundacion Para El Empoderamiento Personal has continued in Cañadas. Hugo is currently working with 54 women who are participating in the women's group programs. Each group alternates every week between a self-esteem workshop, and working on their life plan. This process is proving to help the women immensely to open their minds, hearts and spirits.



Every second week the women are invited to join the Foundation for an optional hour for themselves. So far the women have participated in balloon decorations and jewelry making. The women have enjoyed this escape, and we are so please with the number of women taking the time to spend on themselves.



Hugo has employed our 'giving back' program. All women that participate in any of the programs offered are required to donate 1 hour every 2 weeks to The Foundation. This can be done by either cleaning the community center, or caring for the children while the other women are in their group meetings.

This has been a wonderful way for the women to take ownership of the Foundation as their own, as well as reaffirm that this journey will be a collective partnership between all of us. We have found that some women are coming more than their required amount as they have found the facility a safe refuge for their personal development. Hugo always has great company, and has learned even more so how much women really never stopped chattering!!



We are so pleased to share that formal education will be offered to the people of Cañadas starting the end of June. Hugo was able to meet and build a relationship with the woman who oversees adult education in our jurisdiction. INEA, the government body who provides adult education, will begin offering classes to anyone in the community of Cañadas. INEA will provide the program, materials and teachers for both primaria and secundaria school. We are providing a space for INEA so this project can be accomplished. We were also able to participate in the selection process for the teacher so that the principals of INEA's goals in Cañadas coincided with those of The Foundation. As part of our requirements as a Not for Profit Organization, we are not able to personally provide formalized education. By building this relationship with INEA, the education part that is desperately needed for many of the participants in The Foundation will be provided, and will also allow others from the community who wish to further their education exposure to Fundación Para El Empoderamiento Personal.

On a more administrative note, we are currently in the process of becoming a Registered Charity in Canada. Out of all the delays we experienced in Mexico with internet, bank accounts etc. we were so fortunate to have an amazing lawyer and accountant to make registering the charity in Mexico so quick and simple. Canada will be a slower go, but we are happy to share it is processing!

What's next?

In 37 sleeps (I know we are adults, but don't pretend you don't count the sleeps until get to go back to Puerto Vallarta!) I am so thrilled to be going back to Cañadas. Initially our plan was to provide a break for the women in July while we profiled the teenagers, but with the overwhelming positive response in both numbers of women and their personal growth, we have decided to continue with them and profile the teenagers tentatively in August.

Of the women who are currently full time participants in The Foundation, we have 67 children from the ages 5-13. Each child will receive 2 weeks with 2.5 hours a day that will be filled by the combination of educational activities, crafts, games and sports. This will provide the children a healthy way to spend their time while away from school, our mothers a reward for the hard work they are invested so far, as well as a perfect opportunity for us to really understand the children we will be developing programming for. I have deemed this year an "experimental" summer camp, as it will be Hugo and myself providing this fun adventure. Once The Foundation becomes more established this is an opportunity where we would like to involve many volunteers to grow and expand the summer camp experience.

This summer will also be spent developing programming details and locating the proper resources to launch programs such as English, Computers, Homework Club, etc. for the Fall. Along with the programming itself, we will need to establish how this will function in the facility we currently have. Coinciding with the development of these programs, in July we will be in the active pursuit of finding land to purchase to build a proper community center in Cañadas. As we anticipated, the response from the community has been bountiful, but even quicker than forecasted. To accomplish everything needed we will require the proper space to achieve this. We ask that you keep us in your prayers while we embark on the next step of building the foundation for The Foundation.

Thank you everyone for your support and interest in this project. Our July newsletter will come a little later next month as I am inviting the women of The Foundation to share their stories of their journeys so far. I am looking forward to reconnecting with the women, and even more so sharing their stories with you.

God Bless, enjoy a wonderful start to your summer.

