

# AMIGUITOS 2010 Annual Report to our Sponsors

February 2011

## A LOOK BACK AT AMIGUITOS IN 2010

### ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We would like to thank you all so very much for helping us complete our third full year of Amiguitos operations in Mexico. We always seem to have a lot of challenges, but enjoy overcoming them.

~In September of 2010, we had a visit from Hurricane Karl, which struck Veracruz head on and damaged the homes of many students and their families. Our relief operations, with the help of the Laguna teens, spent 3 months' operating funds in 3 days. Fortunately, we had your support to help the people get back on their feet.

~To keep kids from going to school hungry, we feed a daily meal. We were able to serve over 27,600 meals to children in our daily feeding program.

~Helping to keep the kids healthy, we provided monthly checks and medicine for the students.

~In Pénjamo, the Amiguitos program, under the direction of Maria Elena Arredondo, supported an orphanage of severely abused children this year.

And in 2011, we expect more challenges, and adventures. But we know that with the wonderful support of people like you, we can meet these challenges. Thank you again.

Curtis Wait  
-Executive Director



### 2010 Amiguitos by the numbers:

- 27,600 meals served
- 1023 kid patients seen
- 472 adult patients seen
- 4962 free prescriptions
- 30 students fees paid
- 2 work trips to Veracruz
- 35 volunteers traveled to Veracruz
- 114 students in programs (Veracruz, Mexico)



Laguna Teens' Bakery

## NEW TO AMIGUITOS IN 2010

We managed to accomplish some of the plans we had for 2010 in Veracruz, thanks to the Laguna teens, volunteers and sponsors!

~Opened a 2nd Amiguitos Center in Veracruz : the Tarimoya Center.

~Had our first student to attend University and another 3 students that are in high school. (Most kids drop out after 8th grade.)

~The Laguna Teens started a bakery and we have our first student in Culinary School.

~Created weekly computer, Spanish, English and math classes for the parents in the Laguna neighborhood.

We have some more plans for the coming year. Check them out on page 3.

# A FEW REFLECTIONS ON VERACRUZ...

## “YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, YOU ARE A WORK OF ART.”

The word that comes to mind when I remember this trip to Veracruz is, "FACES".

Being with Ellen O'Grady, who did portraits of individuals, inspired me to look into each face as an artist might.

I was moved by the intimacy of Ellen looking into a young boy's eyes as he sat perfectly still, gazing back at her. I remember the grin when he finally saw her artistic creation of his face. What validation, which says to me, "You are beautiful, you are a work of art. This is how I see you." The image I carry from this trip is one of respect, of looking at one-another deeply, and creating art out of a life, a face, a person. I

come away with images in my mind of an older man who wanted me to take his picture, a young girl skipping rope, a toddler smiling as someone picked him up and put him on his shoulders. I remember the strained look of a father, wait-



Ali with one of the many faces she met in Veracruz.

ing at the medical clinic with his mother and small children, the relieved look of a grandmother collecting anti-parasite medication for her grandson, the worried look of a mother, entertaining new friends in her home, with no food to serve, but the dirt floor carefully swept... Each person a depth of stories, a treasure, a gift.

Thank you, Curtis, for making this possible!

Ali Lufkin  
-June & December Volunteer

## “IT WAS ALMOST LIKE ANOTHER PLANET.”

Nothing could have prepared me for this experience. I was in shock for the first couple of days, just taking in the living conditions. I had heard about slums, but never seen one firsthand. The smells, the people, the dogs... It was almost like another planet. When I got to know Goldi and the kids at the community center, I was impressed

by their resilience. They were bubbling with happiness, especially about the little things, and eager to learn English. It was hard for me to imagine myself being happy in their situation. Interacting with them made me better appreciate life for what it is. During the construction, I felt like I was making a difference. The amount of sweat was unbeliev-



able! It's reassuring that a group of people who hardly know each other can work together and accomplish something under challenging conditions.

Taylor Pierce  
- June Volunteer

## “IT'S SUCH AN AWESOME FREEDOM”

My chance to go with Amiguitos to Veracruz has inspired me to continue mission work. I have chosen to support one of the kids from the La Laguna neighborhood and hope to return with Amiguitos in the future.

I was touched by the good-hearted people we met. They were genuine, caring and happy to have us there. It's such an awesome

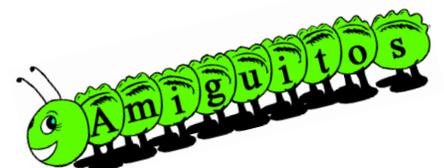


freedom to be just who you are with these beautiful people.

I would recommend, if you get the opportunity, going to Veracruz with the folks of

Amiguitos. It WILL change your outlook on life!

Meg Sinner-June Volunteer



## HERE'S TO 2011 AND OUR HOPES & PLANS!

At the end of each year, we like to look forward to the next year. We want to share some of these plans with you.

~Open another center in Veracruz with possible room for a community garden and raising animals to help with our feeding programs.

~Partner with TOMS Shoes to provide 35,000 pairs of school shoes to the children.

~Open permanent Laguna center with community clean water system

~Encouraging more groups to come to Veracruz for work trips.

~Finding more partners to share in our sponsoring of students needs for: daily food, homework help,

school fees, and uniforms. (We have quite a few new students who need sponsors.)

And of course, we want to continue all the great work that is going on in Mexico.

~The Laguna Teens Bakery

~Tarimoya Center

~Adult Programs

~Response to health needs, including outbreaks of disease.

~Supporting the Péñjamo programs

~Supporting the Laguna Mother's sewing projects.



## A VERY SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO:

Amiguitos could NEVER accomplish all the wonderful things each year without help. Many thanks to:

~ALL our visiting volunteers & sponsors

~Goldi Santana Mera

~Maria Elena Montoya de Arredondo

~Saúl Suárez Salazar

~Ellen O'Grady - an artist with a heart for teaching

~The teens (*chamacos*) of Laguna

~ Youth of St. Joseph, Lakewood, CO

~Nativity church, Phoenix AZ

~The Peace & Justice Center in Phoenix, AZ

~Good folks in Leadville, CO for their donation of a pickup truck

~Blessings International for providing the medicines at good prices

And many more!

Thank you for all your support!



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*AMIGUITOS (EIN # 26-3394832) is a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and was formed by people of various faith backgrounds in order to work together and help vulnerable children and families, especially in Southern Mexico.*

*And, because when you donate you are helping Amiguitos reduce hunger and poverty, your gifts are tax deductible. Checks to "Amiguitos" can be sent to: Amiguitos; 228 S Jefferson Ave; Louisville CO 80027 USA or credit card donations can be made on our website: [www.AMIGUITOS.net](http://www.AMIGUITOS.net)*