

Guardian Angel Education Fund [GAEF] Supporters



STUDENTS' CORNER...

From **Juan Carlos Suy Suy**, 1st year of Careers or 10th Grade: *I don't know what I would be doing without my scholarship. I would probably be in a gang or an alcoholic or someone without a future. Thanks to the scholarship, I will not have to go hungry and will have access to a stable and dignified job.*

From **Antonio Ordoñez**, 1st year of Careers or 10th Grade: *I want to be a good teacher and defend the rights of the indigenous in the towns and villages. I especially want to help my brothers and sisters to continue studying and to graduate. Then we will be able to enjoy a life with dignity and justice.* ■

S.O.S. / GAEF STUDENT ENRICHMENT WEEKEND...

S.O.S. / GAEF representatives, **Marta and Leo Mejía** from St. Ignatius of Loyola parish in Spring, Texas, visited briefly with some of our scholarship students on April 5, 2008.

"S.O.S./GAEF enables many Maya children to obtain a decent education," says

Marta. Simply stated, "The illiteracy rate in Guatemala is 69.9%. In Quiché, more than 70% are illiterate. While on mission with S.O.S., we interact with many of the Maya on a daily



Marta Mejía, pictured with GAEF students during April '08 retreat in Chichicastenango

basis. They are always embarrassed when they are asked to sign a paper and can only use their thumbprint as their signature. This lack of education leaves them very vulnerable. They cannot read a prescription for their child. They cannot read the doses that the child should take. If they are lucky enough that their child is in school, they cannot help with their homework. They

cannot read a legal document."

There are many children in Guatemala who would like to attend school but for financial reasons are unable. Even public schools have many costs. These costs include inscription fees, school uniforms, books, school shoes, and travel

costs. With these expenses, sending a child to school is far beyond the range of many indigenous families. Quite often, a family who cannot afford to send all their children to school will only send one child while the rest stay at home.

Thank you for your financial sacrifices and prayers. We hope you can continue to accompany them as they grow in knowledge, wisdom and confidence. ■

2008 HIGHLIGHTS...

S.O.S. representatives Ernest & Connie Braren and Leo & Marta Mejía traveled to Guatemala to meet with Caritas & Prosolki leaders who monitor GAEF students.



Ernest & Connie in a meeting with Prosolki leaders

25 more students will be added to the 2009 school year for a total of 75 students in the GAEF program.

'09 S.O.S./GAEF student enrollment:

- 22 students will enter 7th grade
- 5 students will enter 8th grade
- 9 students will enter 9th grade
- 22 students will enter 10th grade [or 1st year of a Career]
- 11 students will enter 11th grade
- 6 students will enter 12th grade

RESPONSE...

Thank you for your financial sacrifices and prayers for the children this past year and above all for making room in your heart for them. We hope you can continue to accompany them as they grow in knowledge, wisdom and confidence. At this time, we are in need of a response from you in regard to your support for the coming school year. Please indicate your wishes on the enclosed envelope and return it to us. May the Lord repay you by showering His choicest blessings upon you and your loved ones. ■