



Open Windows
Foundation

OW Library and Learning Center

News

January and February 2010

A new year at Open Windows!

Dear friends, we once again would like to wish you all a prosperous new year and we hope that so far these first two months have been filled with success.

We want to tell you that since the end of December up to our current date, we have not only been entering new books into the library data base, but we have been re-cataloging every book so that it is now easier for us to find books and themes that we need when we need them! We still have many books to re-format into the system, but we have already seen how much this new system is facilitating our work here with students.

In the month of February we re-opened formally to the public, and since then the attendance of the youth has been constant. We had 2,361 visits in that first month, which not only is a joy for us to see but keeps us motivated to work harder each day.

We have been pleasantly surprised with some children that in the past were not coming constantly to the library, and now are after more than a year. They have bettered themselves and they continue doing so; like the case of Franklin, an 8 year old boy in 2nd grade. Last year his mother brought him to the library because she wanted him to have help with his homework, because at home he did not work well. He was a rambunctious boy, distracted, who only looked at the books and never read them, sometimes even breaking down in tears. This year he has come full circle, and is one of the first to arrive when we open. He then immediately finds a book and reads, he enthusiastically finishes his homework and is one of the last children to leave the library. This is the main goal of Open Windows, to foment the habit of reading in children, and to open their minds so they can become better students.



We like to read!



“He who
cultivates the
habit of reading,
allows his mind
to remain open
to new
knowledge”

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Youth Program

The first week of February also saw the beginning of the youth program once again, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (starting in March the group will be held on Thursday instead of Friday). The attendance of the program has been around 12 adolescents that come to receive clases in English, life skills, arts and crafts, as well as time for reading to continue fomenting this habit in the students, that of which is not stimulated frequently in this culture. This is a brand new program of only 3 months, and we have high hopes of increasing the number of youth that come over time.



We apply
art
techniques!



Sharing and
learning!



Learning new programs.



Doing activities.



Learning how to use Computers.

For the students, studying gives them the opportunity to improve their economic condition...

Activities

The themes that we worked on with the children in February were: development of the motor and perceptive abilities, friendship and love, living beings, and more. With these themes we tried to integrate the units that the students receive in school and to reinforce them with practical, interactive and easy to understand activities.

In the computer lab children are receiving classes in the morning and the afternoon that are incorporating interactive methods. Adults receive classes during free time in the mornings.

Scholarship students

This year we have been able to give 46 students in middle and high school scholarships so that they are able to keep studying and develop skills necessary to have more successful lives. Studying allows them a crucial means to be able to break out of the lower economic conditions that they grew up in.

THANK YOU to the donors that have made these scholarships possible, even though there is still so much help that needs to be given.

At the beginning of this school year each student received a back pack, school supplies, and everything else necessary for their studies, thanks to organizations such as The Messenger (Karin).

Selvin Acutá is also now benefiting from a scholarship thanks to the Mandelson family.

Heart Surgery

During the medical visit conducted by Doctor Dion last October, he detected a problem in the heart of one young girl, Andrea Maria. He sent her to heart specialists and they diagnosed her with a heart problem, and after more doctors visits it was determined that she would need surgery. Now she is recuperating after the surgery was successfully completed by UNICAR (Unit of Cardiovascular surgery). Thank you to Dr. Dion for also helping to cover some of the costs of her surgery.

In hopes of Getting Ahead

Saira is a 13 year old adolescent who would like to keep studying, but her single mother is of a low economic condition and does not have a job, and therefore is unable to give her daughter this opportunity. She also has four other children whom she has to put through school. Saira, with a strong desire to continue studying, has done everything necessary to register for middle school. She has good grades and is very dedicated to finishing her homework. Nevertheless, studying in Guatemala is not easy, and even though they say that education is free, a great deal of money is needed to pay for school supplies, uniforms, and other necessary expenditures during the course of the school year. Saira was very sad because she was not able to take those costs into account and her mother can not pay for them. She is now a scholarship student at Open Windows, and even though we have not yet found a patron to pay for her education, we are currently paying for her to give her this important opportunity. If you would like to be her patron, please contact us through one of our addresses.



Taking advantage of resources!



We always learn something new!



Thank you for the backpacks!



Selvin says Thank you!!



Andrea Maria before the surgery.

January and February 2010

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How can you help?

\$ 4.00 Will pay for the learning center for one month for one child

\$ 10.00 Pays for one new book for the library

\$ 100.00 Allows the library to buy art and educational materials for afternoon activities for one month.

\$ 350.00 Is enough to pay one teacher a monthly salary.

\$ 500.00 Is enough for a scholarship that will allow one middle school student to continue studying.

www.openwindowsfoundation.com

Miscellaneous

Meeting with parents

On Tuesday, February 16th, we held a meeting for all of the parents who have children attending the library. We discussed programs we are offering this year as well as informed them of Dr. Dion's upcoming visit. We also discussed the fundamental importance of supporting their children with their homework and their continued studies.

We brought to their attention the new **Alarm System** that we have recently installed to further secure the building, we want to make sure that all of the equipment and materials we use are safe to insure that we are able to continue providing opportunities for learning for this community.

Donations

Thanks to:

Kristin, for books and materials donated to the library.
Latoya and Marland, for the sports equipment, puzzles, and other materials they enthusiastically donated to the children of the library.

Maree, for the school supplies donated to the library.

Jennifer, for the vitamins and tooth brushes.

Paula, for the school supplies, toys, and clothing.

Thank you to everyone who has donated money so that we are able to keep this center open and functioning successfully!

Volunteers

Since January we have had the help of Edward, a volunteer who will be with us for more than three months. He has been very supportive cataloging books, acting as coach of the soccer team, and helping out with the Youth Group in the evenings.

Thanks to Kristin for the week she was here to demonstrate better math teaching methods to the teachers, as well as pass on material and worksheets to improve the mathematical education of the children.



Meeting with parents.



Kristin sharing with the children.



Thank you for the sports equipment!