

Winter 2005

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Welcome to our second quarterly eNewsletter! World Education & Development Fund is entering its third year, and it looks to be a promising one, thanks to your support. Below are articles about two Mano Amiga (Helping Hand) schools with whom World Fund is partnered, and an article about a Mano Amiga alumnus.

To help us with our campaign to raise funds for 1,000 student scholarships, Gary Clemons, a partner at Mercator Asset Management, will be running his fourth marathon on 6 March in Napa Valley. He is seeking sponsors for his run and donating all proceeds to World Education & Development Fund. We will be sending out all the details later this week. We, and the children at our partner schools in Latin America, are so very appreciative of Gary's generosity in this endeavor!

We have received a number of inquiries as to whether it would be possible to visit a Mano Amiga school or our other partner program, Tertio Millennio, in Sao Paulo. Yes. We would love to arrange these visits. If you plan to travel to Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela or El Salvador, just let us know a few weeks in advance. Visiting a school is truly an unforgettable experience. We would love to include your photos on our web site, too.

As always, thank you for your interest and support. Please know that your generosity is truly changing lives.

Warmest regards,

Luanne Zurlo

MANO AMIGA ALUMNUS CAME BACK TO HELP

At Monterrey, Mexico Mano Amiga alumnus returns to school as an administrator.

My name is **Hugo Alejandro Cantú Guajardo** and I want to share my story with you.

I was privileged to have the opportunity of enrolling in the Santa Catarina Mano Amiga Institute in 1984, to attend 4th Grade. There I completed elementary school, middle school and high school with honors.

Life drove me to apply for a scholarship to attend ITESM for preparatory education. Also with a scholarship, I completed college in ITESM with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

After college, I was granted the opportunity to work in the Mano Amiga Institute of Santa Catarina as General Manager. I joined the Institution in 1996 helping out and administrating the school.

Currently I am about to graduate with a Master's degree in Organizational Development from UDEM University and I am looking forward to continue collaborating with this fabulous project called Mano Amiga.

A SPOTLIGHT ON MANO AMIGA SANTIAGO, CHILE

Mano Amiga de Recoleta, Santiago receives generous donation of a classroom of computers.

Mano Amiga de Recoleta, one of World Education & Development Fund's partner schools, located on the road between the airport and downtown Santiago, Chile, recently sent us the following update:

- The new school year starts in March in Chile and Mano Amiga de Recoleta will matriculate 900 students, representing a 12% increase from last year.
 - Mano Amiga de Recoleta has improved its scores on nationwide administered achievement tests over the last few years; the vast majority of its students attend university or professional or technical training programs upon graduation.
 - A local corporation, Matadero y Frigorifico lo Valledor, donated 12 renovated computers to equip a second computer lab at the school.
 - Families from one of Santiago's elite private schools, Colegio Cumbres, have begun providing boxes of food for Mano Amiga de Recoleta's most needy families.
 - An APODERADO from Colegio Everest de Santiago, another elite private school, each year donates a new computer to the Mano Amiga de Recoleta student who demonstrates the greatest improvement of grades during the year. Last month, Francisco Cea (MEDIO) won the 2004 computer prize.
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SPOTLIGHTS ON MANO AMIGA CHALCO

Mano Amiga Chalco's new auditorium, funded with the help of WEDF, will receive its first class of graduates this spring.

Mano Amiga Chalco is one of World Education & Development Fund's partner schools. The school received a US\$100,000 grant from WEDF to fund the construction of an auditorium on the school's grounds. The first class of students who began their studies at Mano Amiga Chalco as first graders will graduate this spring. The graduation ceremony will be held in the new auditorium on July 12th, 2005.

Mano Amiga Chalco was founded in 1992 and is located in the Municipality of Valle de Chalco Solidaridad, about one hour from downtown Mexico City. Chalco is one of the many new neighborhoods that have sprung up outside of Mexico City in recent years. These neighborhoods often are referred to as the 'poverty belt'. Many of Chalco's citizens do not have access to basic public utilities, such as water and electricity. In one of Chalco's neighborhoods, located near a garbage dump, homes are constructed of cardboard. There are few schools and medical centers to serve this community.



Little girl traveling along with recently donated computers at Mano Amiga Chalco.

Mano Amiga Chalco is a top-level school serving 940 pre-K through high school students. As with all Mano Amiga schools, Chalco also offers literacy, counseling and job training classes to parents and other adults in the neighboring community. Each year, approximately 100 new students from the neighborhood are accepted into the school. Typically, lines span around the block during the annual admissions process.

Mano Amiga Chalco is lead by its indefatigable director, Lilia Garelli, who has been a key driver of Mano Amiga's Chalco's development from its founding thirteen years

ago. Mano Amiga's Board of Directors is lead by the tireless efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Dulce and Valentin Martinez Gama, both of whom attended World Education & Development Fund's gala dinner last June.



Director Lilia Garelli, Dulce Martínez Gama and Anne Fernandez at the Computer Room in Mano Amiga Chalco.

Thanks to Citigroup Private Bank of Mexico, Mano Amiga Chalco students learn computer skills in a computer lab equipped with 25 computers. In addition to donating the computers, a Citigroup technician set up the lab.

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