

December 2005

Dear supporter:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mexico Child Link Trust. Please find enclosed a brief summary of some of the highlights of 2005. I will be in Mexico from 14<sup>th</sup> December until January 15<sup>th</sup> on a project evaluation visit and intend to give a further update on the project towards the end of January with the latest news and photographs.

I spent less time in Mexico this year as our funding is limited and Mexico Child Link has to keep sufficient reserves to be able to maintain its project commitments. We are finding it increasingly complicated to maintain our programmes in Mexico due to the difficulty in raising funds. We are a small organization with no single major donor, and we depend to a large extent on the generosity of the many individuals who support our work in Mexico. During 2005 we sent funding of £33,000 to our project partners and also a £4,000 grant for house repairs from *Ulster Garden Villages*.

Fortunately, low cost telephone connections via broadband now make it easier than ever to keep in touch with Mexico at an affordable price. Nonetheless, project evaluation visits are still necessary in order to see first hand how the children and young people are doing, and ensure that the work programmes are being properly carried out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who fundraised on our behalf, or gave support in kind, as well as the many people who made a donation to support our work.

*The City of London Freemen's School  
Coranny School Roslea  
Parish of the Holy Cross, Shrewsbury  
Edgecombe TRC  
Himbleton CofE First School  
Christy Stewart  
Newell Stores  
Marion Gibson Memorial Trust  
Dorothy Arthur  
Makro, Dunmurry  
June Getty, May Blair and friends  
Maurice Dawson  
Inkberrow School  
Roslea Choir  
Davis Senior High School, California  
Khaled Faiz*

*Ulster Garden Villages Ltd.  
Paget Trust.  
Edyth McConway and colleagues  
Wallace High School  
St Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt  
Methodist College Belfast First XV  
Herne Bay High School  
The Moore Trust  
Elizabeth Pritchett  
MKB Russells  
Bob and Pearl McClean  
Anita McNabb  
St Tierney's, Roslea  
Fairfield Middle School, Ohio  
Noreen Napier  
90 Monthly donors who give from £1 to £40*

If you are able to continue your support during 2006, I would be very grateful.



Jonathan Getty  
(Co-ordinator, Mexico Child Link Trust)

- Mario and Israel, the two youngest boys, have now been at the project for 18 months and have adapted well.
- Esteban and Argelio continue in full time employment and we are hoping to secure funding to build them a small house on the project site where they can live more independently.
- Ana Sandóval who has been with Fundación Trébol for five years took over from Angélica López as project director in May. Ana is a psychology graduate from the *Universidad Autónoma de Puebla*.
- The job training programme run by CINIA is a great opportunity which we hope to take full advantage of.
- There was considerable disruption for the children during September and October due to the roof repairs which were carried out.

**January:**

The project received donations and presents for the children from various organizations in Puebla. In Mexico, children receive their presents from the three kings on the 6<sup>th</sup> January rather than on Christmas day.

**February**

The residential project in Tenex-tepec got a telephone connection allowing direct calls to the project site for the first time.

**March:**

Jonathan Getty spent a month at the project and returned on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Josefa Garcia and her partner, Luis had a baby boy. Josefa left the project in March 2004 and is living in her home village of Coyay. We keep in touch with her via a single public telephone in the village and an annual visit. Two of the staff from Fundación Trébol made the 7 hour trip to Coyay in the pick-up truck to bring her cartons of long life milk, basic provisions and baby clothes. Both mother and baby are doing well. Josefa reported recently that her baby was "*grande y gordito*" big and fat. There is an article about Josefa's move back to her home village on the Mexico Child Link website.

**April:**

Montserrat Roldán left the carpentry workshop and Patricia Pincle took over. Patricia had a previous spell of employment with our project partners and we are glad to welcome her back. The project was visited by a group from a Norwegian company, Mineberget, which has experience in giving employment to people with special needs. Jonathan Getty helped Fundación Trébol prepare a business plan to use for Fundraising and promotional purposes.

**May:**

Ana Sandoval took over the post of project director from Angélica López. Jovita Saldaña assumed the responsibility for independence training and the residential project. Angélica had health problems and is now recovering from surgery.

**June:**

Doby the project guard Dog, a Brazilian Mastiff, was hit by a car and had to have an operation to fix his leg. Ana has reported that he has now lost the urge to wander outside of his territory and chase cars.

**July**

Mexico Child Link received a £4,000 grant from Ulster Garden Villages which was used to carry out essential repairs on the two houses where the children and young people live. The main work carried out involved roof repairs and new floors.

The project received a small grant from Quiera to organise a summer programme for the children.

**August:**

Quiera, the Mexican Bankers Association awarded monthly educational grants to Lucero, Emmanuel and Oscar

**September:**

An opportunity came up with regard to job training for some of the young people in the project through a new organization in Puebla called CINIA.

Ana Sandoval, Fundación Trébol Project Director reports:

*“CINIA is an organization which provides training and job opportunities for people with learning disability. They receive fair pay and are given standard workplace entitlements such as national insurance and holidays.*

*CINEA is working with several organizations in the Puebla area as well as Fundación Trébol. The young people involved are Patricia Pérez, Marisol Jimenez, and Alma Colorado. They are receiving training for cleaning and domestic chores. Rodolfo Moscoso is being trained as a gardener.*

*This work provides an opportunity for job training as well as learning to use public transport. It also provides general preparation for more independent living and an opportunity to socialize. An initial evaluation by CINIA has shown that Rodolfo is capable of working in any of the designated areas of work and would be capable of holding down a job and living more independently in the community.*

*Paty and Marisol have also made significant progress, especially with regard to their self-confidence and interpersonal relations. Marisol in particular has made great progress in relation to her anxiety about living outside the project.*

*Challenges with this programme include problems with public transport. Some of the drivers are not very considerate to the young people with learning disability. There has also been some difficulty in convincing employers that the young people deserve a chance in the workplace. ”*

**October:**

Emmanuel and Lucero, both 15, are training two days per week in a carpentry workshop in Atlixco, using the skills they have acquired in the project's carpentry workshop.

Mexico Child Link received a donation of £3,100 from the Marian Gibson Trust.

This trust fund had been a long term supporter of our work and the donation was received when the trust was wound up after the death of Jim Gibson.

**November:**

A Civil engineer from Belgium, Mr Khaled Faïz, is spending six weeks in Mexico helping our project partners prepare a project proposal to fund a small house for Esteban Ortega and Argelio Avila. We are hoping to secure funding from RIBA, the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Emmanuel had a routine hernia operation and is recovering well.

Maribel Gutierrez, the office administrator who is off on maternity leave had a baby girl.

**December:**

The volcano Popocatepetl which is 20 miles from the project site has shown recent signs of activity and is producing a fumarole or two.

Jonathan Getty, coordinator of Mexico Child link left for Mexico on an Evaluation visit.