

## **Accountability of the Board**

The board of Los Niños looks back on a very fertile but particularly difficult year. End of January the president and treasurer of the foundation (at own expenses) brought a brief working visit to the various projects in Guatemala and spoke with relevant stakeholders. In particular, interviews with people who know the country and culture very well and have a lot of insight in making choices for things that should be done or better not. Also, the administrative ties with the various projects are more strict. Especially to the Associations Bendición de Dios, which uses the building, constructed by Los Niños, Centro Educativo Melanjoco got stronger demands on the design of their administrative organization and about the way they have to justify themselves to Los Niños and indirectly to the donors and sponsors. This approach also helps them to grow into a more professional and independent social enterprise.

The many sponsors and supporters of the Foundation Los Niños did not abandon us this year. Our solid relationship with the Foundation children's project Guatemala (SKG) donated half of the needed money to run the project Bendición de Dios. All together sponsors and supporters donated, including two new building projects, 200.000 euros. Through this annual report and the accompanying financial statements the board wants to justify for its policies and wants to thank them all.

The Board appreciates the work of Ana-Maria Ackermans and Virginie Roussel as daily management in Guatemala, later supplemented by Christel Tinselboer, in often difficult and sometimes emotionally stressful circumstances. We are very grateful to have always great volunteers working in our projects and of course thanks to the various Guatemalan leaders and teachers who are committed to the future of many children, at the expenses of our foundation, so they have the opportunity to receive good education.

Jan Jongerius, president.

Board Composition:

Mr. J.A.C. Jongerius, president  
Ms. E.L.E. Lips-Reijn, secretary  
Mr. H.G. Dix, R.A, treasurer  
Ms. N.W.H. van Rossen  
Ms. M.H. Dijkmans (until 31st of December 2010)  
Ms. M. Hoitink-Jansen (from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011)  
Ms. J.M.C. Ackermans

## **Introduction**

The year 2010 has flown by, in which the Foundation had some difficult moments, but above all many nice results were achieved. Confidence in several local organizations was tested, but thanks to new agreements, better communication, the support of motivated volunteers and friends and hope that together we are stronger than alone, we could accomplish which is written below.

### **In infrastructure**

- There is invested in a new building for the educational center of the foundation Semilla de Esperanza y Amor in San Mateo, including furniture and computers. Some very active sponsors donated a large amount of money to pay a big part of this center.
- A donation, yet in the formation of a loan, for the new building of El Plan Infinito in Santiago Zamora.

### **In education through local school projects:**

- Primary education to 170 children in the school of 'Bendición Dios' in Alotenango (cost 185 euros per child per year)
- High school education to 64 young people from the "Telesecundaria" in Chimachoy (cost 100 euros per child per year)
- After school education for more than 80 children in Semilla de Esperanza y Amor in San Mateo (cost 60 euros per child per year)

### **In education through partial or full scholarships:**

- 3 grants for private primary school
- 63 scholarships for high school
- 16 vocational
- 2 university courses

### **In socio-cultural:**

- A salary for a great nurse in a health post
- Donation for the music, art and sports festival of CasaSito
- Medical support to young people in the various projects and to the homeless
- Help to the families in the projects supported by Los Niños after Hurricane Agatha

This annual report is the support of Los Niños in these various projects, both quantitatively and qualitatively discussed for the year 2010.

## Education through local school projects:

The goal of Los Niños is education through locally controlled projects. The structural support for these projects consists of funds, volunteers, and since 2010 also provides management training to local administrators.

### **1. Bendición de Dios, Alotenango**

#### *1.1. Primary education*

Together with Foundation Children's project Guatemala (SKG) Los Niños Foundation supports the school 'Bendición de Dios' in Alotenango (for other programs, see [www.bendiciondedios.org](http://www.bendiciondedios.org))

In the beautiful building "Centro Educativo-Guate-Niños Melanjoco, 170 students successfully completed their grade in 2010.

Education remains a clear positive change. The children will be taught by different teaching methods to be independent and have autonomy. The children are more involved in the curriculum because it is at the level of every individual child.



In 2010, Los Niños has contributed to the salary of the staff of the elementary school, major repairs of the new building, nutritious snack, educational tools, cleaning, administrative purposes, holidays and all this with the fantastic efforts of volunteers.

#### *1.2 The carpentry workshop (Carpinteria)*



In the first half of the year, Guatemalan carpenter Hipolito gave quality classes to students of secondary education, while the founder of the carpenter, Susan Eleveld, had to stay mainly in the Netherlands because of her health. The totally renovated carpentry made the work more enjoyable. Unfortunately we could not continue working with Hipolito. Thanks to our

volunteer Tessa all the students were taught the whole year. At the end of the year 95 students could bring their own made 'dream catcher' home. Tessa also sold in the Netherlands a lot of pieces of the students. So they could buy a lot of new materials.

### 1.3. Family Program

In 2010 we launched the program "Fuerza Familiar" for 18 families of Bendición de Dios, thanks to the support of the Belgian NGO Volens and Anneleen Haeck. A series of workshops received by parents and children learned them some basic techniques for education, communication and relationships to make family life more enjoyable for everyone. Great importance was attached to self-esteem, love, authority, respect and humor. It was very difficult to get the interest and responsibility of the fathers to how to educate your child. Although there were a few fathers actually participating and the impact of the workshops to them was quite large. For example, a father who was an alcoholic, did not drink a drop during the complete length of the workshop. A mother testified: "Through these sessions, I understand that it is better to talk with my children to reach something, then to beat them with the belt."



## 2. Instituto de Telesecundaria, Chimachoy

In 2010 there were 64 high school students in Chimachoy, an increase of almost 20% over the previous year! Of the 27 students of first year, there were also 9 girls: a big scoop in this remote area where the girls after primary school, 'have studied long enough' according to many parents.

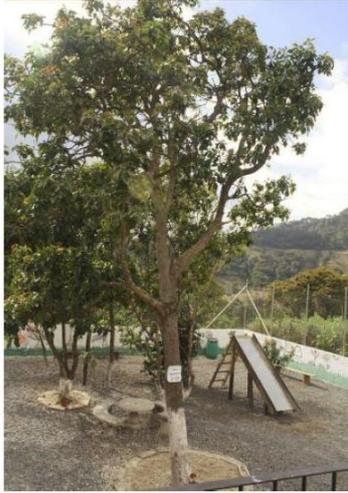
Director Laura Vasquez de Back is fighting for a change of attitude of the young students and their parents. With respect for the culture, language and the importance of agriculture in this region, she tries, together with other motivated teachers, to give young people a broader view of the world. New this year were the computer and music lessons, this brought the students creativity, technological developments and independence. In November 18 students graduated. They got a backpack and a graduation picture as souvenir. Thanks to Laura's insistence on the government's financial support, Los Niños contributes now only one third of the total costs.



### 3. Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, San Mateo Milpas Altas

In the past year Director Lys Flores received an average of 100 children per day. The teachers and volunteers gave them lots of love, literacy, English classes, helped with the homework, gave them sports and played games with them. Los Niños supported with the rent of the building, the salary of the director and all the necessary educational material, while other partners paid the teachers salaries and the daily lunch of the children.

After an intensive period of nine months we build a great educational center, which we donated to Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, where Lys and her team can work in a professional and structured way.



### 4. El Plan Infinito, Santiago Zamora

This new educational and cultural project of CasaSito, led by the Belgian Chris van den Vijver, could finish the construction of the new educational building by a loan of 8.000 euros, given by Los Niños.

In this building, young people and mothers of the village of Santiago Zamora can follow computer lessons, English lessons, language lessons in the library, homework assistance and a lot of other social activities (swimming classes is one of them).



## **Scholarship fund**

Besides the support for local educational projects, Los Niños also provides scholarships to children who are not able to pay further education. In 2010, 84 students received a partial or full scholarship.

	primary	junior high	teacher	science	computer	technician	household	university
Alotenango		50	3					
Chimachoy			9	1				
CasaSito		11	1					1
Families	3	2				1	1	1



Especially to mention is that 1 student, supported by Los Niños since primary school, has graduated as a teacher, more than 10 students graduated from High school in Alotenango and 3 students from Chimachoy as a teacher of primary school.

Unfortunately, we also had to stop one scholarship of a student because of repeated bad results and to little effort. The other students all achieved the required 70%. One student didn't achieve this and will contribute in the expenses in 2011. All these students may continue studying. the High school in Alotenango was closed in late 2010. The students will be transferred to other schools and director Julio has found sponsors for this.

## **Socio-cultural, medical and unexpected support**

Finally, Los Niños also provides social and medical support to the various educational projects and our partner organizations.

For CasaSito ([www.casasito.org](http://www.casasito.org)) we supported the music-, art- and sports festival with great prizes. For Foundation Por Eso ([www.poreso.org](http://www.poreso.org)) we paid the rent of the room for a grandmother with her disabled granddaughter Elizabeth. Also support was given for some emergencies.

From the medical fund Los Niños contributed financially to a cancer treatment, surgery of a cleft lip, eye surgery, kidney surgery, milk and vitamins for a weak baby, a doctor's visit for the children of Semilla de Esperanza y Amor, medicines and unfortunately also support for funerals.



After hurricane Agatha we supported, with 16.000 euros received in donations, several families from our projects in San Mateo and Alotenango with food and new furniture. In Ciudad Vieja, San Pedro and San Miguel Escobar we could offer psychological support to many affected families through one of our partner

organizations. In Solola and Panajachel we supported through CasaSito the rebuild of houses and donated food.



By shortage of personnel and material on the Health Post in Alotenango, Los Niños paid again this year the salary for the nurse Miriam. Unfortunately this was the last year. In March 2011 Miriam was fatal hit by a bus and died almost immediately. We will see how we can keep supporting her 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

### **Mil Gracias!**

Thanks to everyone who supported us, our kids and projects, again with financial or moral support, by volunteering or with management and organization.