

JUNTOS Newsletter – November 2017

Whereas we normally focus on our teachers and students, this Newsletter focuses on some of our volunteers and donors. Some of our volunteers come to Cuernavaca for a few weeks, others for several months and luckily, we now have volunteers who live in town all year long. Our donors are from several countries, Canada, the United States as well as the UK. In addition to their financial support the donors pepper us with excellent ideas. They see the Juntos programmes with a more detached and analytical point of view which in turn gives them a better perspective. All are greatly appreciated.

Karin and Françoise were in Cuernavaca last March and helped organize a fund raising event, a first for JUNTOS in Cuernavaca. And what a success it was! It was hosted by Ninive and Bruce and included two local artists who contributed 20% of their sales to JUNTOS. The jeweler Roberto Zarate and the painter and print maker Louisa Harris Emerson filled several rooms of the house with their artwork.

In addition, there was a table with JUNTOS t-shirts in the patio.



Karin Austin and Françoise Roux looked smashing wearing and selling the JUNTOS t-shirts.

There was a donation box on the food table and info sheets in English and Spanish, as well as copies of the newsletters to acquaint the guests with JUNTOS. In addition, there was a poster board in the entrance.

Not only did we raise funds, but we introduced many members of the Cuernavaca community to JUNTOS. We hope new people will become involved with Juntos and welcome all.

One of the challenges for JUNTOS has been the fact that members of the executive are only in Cuernavaca for part of the year. That is why we are so excited to welcome two new volunteers who live permanently in town. Sally and Luis have been invaluable this summer. They have visited all the sites frequently and reported back on what they saw and heard. Both have been very impressed with the quality of the tutors. Both bring a vast knowledge of the country and the people and will be able to help those of us who live far away make better decisions. Determining what the real needs are and responding to the same remains a great challenge for all of us.



Sally and Luis handing out one of the free computers to the JUNTOS assistants.

I, Eva, have been involved with JUNTOS for about five or six years. Our friends and neighbours, Helen and Fred Wiegand had told both of us about another couple

in our Montreal neighbourhood who wintered in Cuernavaca. Maybe seven or eight years ago, the Wiegands decided that enough was enough and invited both the Grahams and the Echenbergs to their house. (The Wiegands live one block away from both). The rest, as they say, is history. I am a native Spanish speaker and was a Spanish teacher during my career so I have been able to bring that expertise to the programme.

Garry Gale and his wife Heather have been good friends and generous donors to JUNTOS. He and Will were college friends at Queen's University and had recently reconnected. Last year Garry threw out a challenge. He offered to match donations made to purchase up to twenty five computers before the end of May 2017. The readers of this Newsletter rose to the challenge, generous as ever, and his challenge was met in a matter of weeks.

Garry has made the same offer this month, November, 2017. He will match donations up to a maximum of \$5,000.00 - half the cost of 25 computers.

Thank you Garry!

The second donor we would like to mention is Birgit Faber-Morse. For many years Birgit spent part of the year in Cuernavaca where she was very active socially as well as giving countless hours to JUNTOS. An archeologist by training, she wrote several books about her work in Antigua, in the West Indies. During her career she was curatorial affiliate in the Division of Anthropology at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Sadly, her health no longer permits her to travel. Before leaving Mexico, Birgit made a very generous donation to JUNTOS to support learning in the city she loves.

And to the many unnamed donors, "Thank you!" JUNTOS could not continue with your help.

Finally, nothing would exist without the wisdom, energy and generosity of Claudia and Will. They not only had the idea of bringing computer literacy to the less privileged in Cuernavaca, they made their dream come true.



Here they are with yet another of our great volunteers, Soryl Rosenberg.



Will, Eva, our former tutor Iris and Claudia. January 2017

We of course have other volunteers and donors but introducing them all here would steal their thunder.

To participate in the Garry Gale challenge.

Make cheque payable to

JUNTOS

572 Chemin Cote St.-Antoine

Westmount, QC H3Y 2K4

Canada

Or press the FundRaise Now button at

www.juntos-together.ca/donate