

Juntos Newsletter April 2015

Many new developments! The first recipient of a free computer, our team learns how to make basic websites and two new locations.

Please note that when the snowbirds are back in Canada, the newsletter will appear every other month.

Next newsletter, June 2015.

1. Ernesto Tapia Cuevas, the first recipient of a Juntos computer.



Claudia Bierman, William Graham and Ernesto Tapia Cuevas



Claudia Bierman, Eva Echenberg, Ernesto Tapia Cuevas, Oscar Estrada, William Graham

Chosen by the teaching team, Ernesto was awarded the computer on March 17th 2015. There were smiles, handshakes and kisses.

A brilliant student, Ernesto has been a Juntos student at the Josefa site for many years, and knows every single one of the programmes taught. Nevertheless, he keeps coming to the sessions where he uses the Internet and does his homework. He is enrolled at a

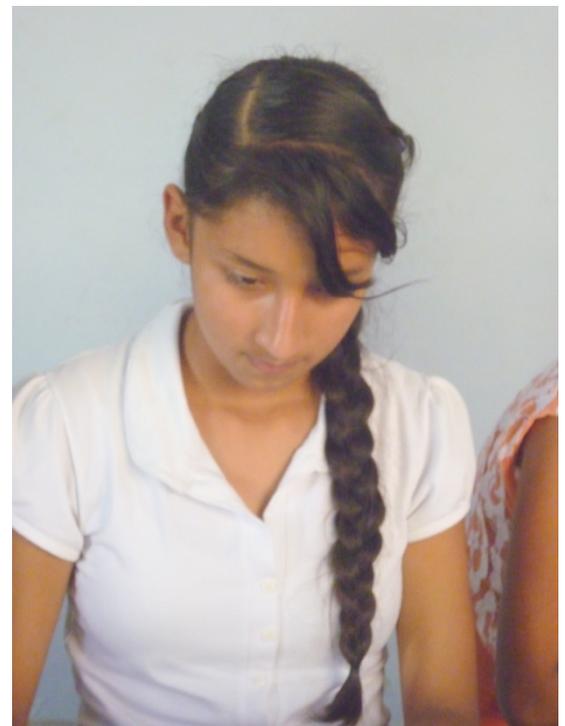
technical high school called the CONALEP, with a specialty in food and drink. Already in his fourth semester, this honour student has a scholarship from the school because of his high grade point average, 9.6 out of a possible 10. A year from now, in the spring of 2016, he will have completed the 6th and last semester at the *preparatoria*, the high school where he is studying.

Upon completion of his studies, he will get several certificates, his secondary certificate (*certificado de preparatoria*), his bachelor certificate (*certificado de bachillerato*) and a technical certificate in gastronomy. This semester, his fourth, he will do his social service and during the last two semesters, he will complete the practicum, where he will spend time working in a restaurant in Cuernavaca. At present the teaching team is looking into how he could do his compulsory social service semester working in the community with Juntos. Updates on Ernesto will be forthcoming.

Ernesto plans to attend university, the ULA in Cuernavaca, to get his next degree and hopes to become a chef. In an ideal world he would like to become a doctor, an anesthetist, but since his parents cannot help him and he works right now to pay his own expenses, that is not possible. Because he is very good in math, he earns money by working at Kumon, the world's largest after school math and reading programme. He got the job at Kumon about two years ago when he walked in and wanted to take courses. The owner told him what the fees were and when Ernesto explained that he did not have the means, the owner very intelligently suggested that if Ernesto was good enough, he could work there.

Ernesto has three siblings and he and his younger sisters, aged 14 and 12, have all attended Juntos classes. In the picture at right, his youngest sister, Sandy Anahi, is seen working away. She seems as bright as he is and was totally oblivious her picture was being taken.

The picture below shows Iris, one of the Juntos teachers, working with a boy with reduced eyesight. Although the boy wears glasses and manages with them, he had forgotten them. Instead of sending him home, Iris simply read out the assignment so he could continue learning.





2. One of the goals of Juntos is to enable students to get and keep good jobs. To that end Juntos provides courses on many software programs, Word, Excel, MovieMaker and more, but one that was lacking was web site creation. In order to bring this skill to the Juntos students, two steps are necessary. Right now only the first step is in place. In February and March the five Juntos teachers took a course on how to develop websites using Wix, a free platform. The next step will be to teach the students that attend the Juntos classes how to do so. We hope that making, and later maintaining websites, will provide jobs in the future.

Under the guidance of Gerardo Jaime and Katy Barnhart, the five Juntos teachers attended four three hour long workshops and on March 10, 2015, presented what they had learned at the Graham's house in Cuernavaca. The resulting website is very impressive. Please click on the link to see it.

www.mcaprendiendojuntos.wix.com/mcaj

The teachers, Gerardo Jaime and Katy Barnhart are Cuernavaca residents who run Casa Hoy. Along with teaching, they do very interesting work that might be of interest to many.

“Casa HOY is a family-run, socially-responsible Mexican enterprise based in Cuernavaca, Morelos (an offshoot of the U.S. nonprofit Por un mejor HOY). HOY connects international traveler-volunteers with local projects, acting as a bridge between the community and its visitors. This type of alternative travel allows both sides to meet

and together reach lasting positive development. HOY's "participatory trips" contribute to community growth and provide personally enriching experiences.

Casa HOY offers lodging to volunteers and budget travelers. It is located at Rio Mexapa 130, Colonia Hacienda Tetela, in Cuernavaca, State of Morelos. Its phone number is (777) 176-7868. Come visit!" hoycommunity-online.net

Conclusion. The initiative to bring website creation to Juntos has now gone forward and the teachers have become proficient. We will report how and when the next step, teaching the students, is implemented

In addition, if there are other programs Juntos should be teaching that you know about and could suggest, we request you write our contact address. It would be much appreciated!

With so many changes taking place in the computer world, Juntos will need all your help so that our teachers can keep abreast of the new technology.

3. Two new sites, Huizachera and 3 de Mayo, were inaugurated the first week of March, 2015, with great success and much interest on the part of the communities involved. They will replace the 28 de agosto because the venue was much too small and only accommodated eight to ten people. The students from the 28 de agosto who are interested in continuing with Juntos will be able to attend Lomas de Jiutepec.



Sergio Antunez, Gerardo Jaime, Iris Garcia, Emmanuel Rios, Oscar Estrada, Lilia Estrada, Katy Barnhart



Lead teacher Lilia describes the first day at Huizachera. (An English translation follows.)

Con gran gusto comparto con ustedes que arrancamos labores en la Col. Huizachera, con una asistencia de 38 participantes :). Pudimos darnos cuenta que efectivamente hay gran interés en la comunidad, por lo que queremos confiar en que esta asistencia continuara. Los niños y la gente tuvo una actitud muy agradable y de aceptación a la propuesta de computación que llevamos.

Ya pudimos ver con que infraestructura contamos y que equipamiento requerimos para poder ofrecer una mejor servicio para los niños y asistentes en general.

Estamos muy contentos con este nuevo arranque, todo sea por un "México Mejor"

It is with great pleasure that I share with you that we have started work in Col. Huizachera, with an attendance of 38 participants. :)

We realize that there is indeed great interest in the community, and we hope that this high attendance figure will continue. Both the children and the adults were very open and accepting of the computer teaching that we propose.

We can already see the infrastructure and equipment we require to provide better service for both the children and general participants. We are very happy with this new start, everything is for a "Better Mexico."



Huizachera

In an effort to reach more people interested in the work Juntos is doing, we again request you send this newsletter to five of your friends. Gracias. Thank you. Merci.

www.juntos-together.ca

Learning together to create a better future