



January 21, 2013

Hola all Members, Supporters, and Friends,

As I am finally able to actually sit down and collect my thoughts and write this status letter, I am looking over the letter I sent last year. The first thing I noticed is that this letter is four weeks later than the one from last year. The next thing I noticed is that two of our goals for this year have been met, and a third was addressed. It has been a busy and productive year.

2012 was a significant year in the history of the Casa Hogar San José, and I'm proud to say that the Casa Connection, Inc. has played an integral part in the important service that the Casa provides to the children under its care. I am happy to report the following accomplishments of the Casa Connection, Inc. in 2012:

- 1) Increased monthly financial support from **\$800 to \$2500 per month**. The Casa Connection funds 16% of the \$15,800 monthly operating budget of the Casa.
- 2) Held a successful second-annual fundraiser, a food and beer tasting event, **Latin Foods and Local Brews**, that netted over \$10,800.
- 3) Continued communication with the Casa's long-time principal benefactor, the St. Joseph's Foundation (SJF), to foster greater cooperation and involvement in the funding and operation of the Casa.
- 4) Initiated and coordinated a business meeting at the Casa, over Labor Day weekend, at which several interested parties in the United States met with SJF and the Casa Director, Lupita Muñiz.
- 5) Initiated discussion with a private Lexington, MA high school interested in providing technical/computer help to the Casa.
- 6) Began work on coordinating a collegiate internship program to provide interns the opportunity to live and work at the Casa.
- 7) Coordinated a volunteer internship for two seniors from Natick High School, in Natick, MA to visit and work at the Casa in the Spring of 2013.
- 8) Determined that registration with the Combined Federal Campaign requires a full financial audit by an accountant. Due to unknown contribution potential, the cost of a full audit is not prudent at this time.

One of the main goals of the Casa Connection, Inc. is to provide a consistent, long-term source of funding for the Casa that Lupita can depend on every quarter. By working collectively, combining the donations of individuals, corporations, and foundations, along with money raised through fundraising activities, the Casa Connection is meeting that goal. We are finalizing plans for Fiscal Year 2013 to include:

- 1) Maintain the monthly Casa Connection, Inc. donation at \$2500 while continuing to build on our principal that can be used for emergency funding or other projects associated with the Casa.
- 2) Aggressively solicit donations through corporate and foundation grants.
- 3) Hold our third-annual fundraiser, Latin Foods & Local Brews in the Fall of 2013.
- 4) Add a smaller fundraiser in the Spring to raise funds and awareness for the Casa Connection, Inc.
- 5) Facilitate a staff retreat at the Casa with activities to identify leadership skills and encourage team-building.

In 2012, donors contributed over \$15,000 to help the children of the Casa. As you consider charitable donations at the beginning of this new year, would you consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Casa Connection, Inc., or even becoming a Sustaining Amigo with a regular monthly pledge of as little as \$5?

Donations can be made at www.casaconnection.org, or sent to Casa Connection, Inc., Attn: Treasurer, 89 College Ave, Somerville, MA 02144. If you would like to make a regular monthly contribution, please contact Pete Shungu at treasurer@casaconnection.org.

If you have any questions about the Casa Hogar San José, or about Casa Connection, Inc., please feel free to contact me at president@casaconnection.org.

Thank you for your support of the Casa through Casa Connection, Inc.

Matthew Miller
President
Casa Connection, Inc.
89 College Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145

617-821-0740
president@casaconnection.org
www.casaconnection.org

A 501c(3) nonprofit supporting the children of the Casa San Jose orphanage in Colima, Mexico.