

Guadalupe-Hernandez family Easing the Burden

Mano Amiga Santa Catarina has been a safe haven and source of comfort for the Guadalupe-Hernandez family since Hurricane Alex tore apart their home a few years ago. What could have been a negative turning point in the family life became an opportunity to grow in faith and strengthen their resolve to rise out of poverty.

Since the hurricane, the family of six has been renting two small rooms in a home near the school. They make do with sleeping quarters in the living room, consisting of bunk beds and a couch. Mr. Hernandez works long hours in construction to provide for his family and save for a new home.

Mano Amiga principal Lulu Quintero, a regular visitor to their home, provides encouragement and feedback on their children's accomplishments and activities. Miriam teaches Catholic formation to 7-year-old children, and Natalia lectures in mass.

"We are very appreciative of Mano Amiga," says Sra. Guadalupe. "We see a difference in our children from their peers. We are growing in faith as a family."



FROM LEFT: *Mano Amiga Principal Quintero; Jose- 2nd grade; Natalia- 5th grade; Sra. Maria Guadalupe Garcia; Mariana- kindergarten; Miriam- 8th grade; Sr. Victor Hernandez*

We can help break the vicious cycle of poverty through the gift of Catholic education. Mano Amiga provides families with the tools for generational change. Make a difference by sponsoring a child today.

To donate or for more information:
call 1-800-961-8153 or
e-mail info@catholicworldmission.org

An endowment may provide a student's Catholic education for a lifetime. For information on planned giving including endowments, call or e-mail Amber DeMartino at the above contact information.

Catholic World Mission
590 Columbus Ave
Thornwood, NY 10594



Alleviate Suffering.
Illuminate the Mind.
Ignite the Spirit.

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Mano Amiga
CATHOLIC WORLD MISSION

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The Mano Amiga, or "Helping Hand" schools have been bringing hope to poor families willing to help themselves for nearly 50 years. More than 21,000 children in 37 schools have been served in this unique approach to attacking poverty at its root. Learn how you can help change lives—for generations to come.

Growing up and Giving Back

Cynthia and Brenda teach elementary school children at Mano Amiga Santa Catarina. Both of these women feel uniquely connected to the school: it has been their home since they were in elementary school.

The two teachers attended Mano Amiga as youngsters. Brenda's home was destroyed by Hurricane Gilberto when she was in kindergarten. Along with her

parents and 8 siblings, Brenda took shelter with temporary provisions on the grounds of Mano Amiga. With a new network of spiritual and physical support, she started school at Mano Amiga that year, staying all the way through graduation.

Brenda feels she was given an excellent academic and spiritual foundation for life. She decided to come back to Mano Amiga as a teacher to return the gifts she has been given. "Being in a Catholic environment is important to both Cynthia and me," Brenda says. "We both want the children today to have the opportunity we had."



A Leg Up, Not a Hand Out

The Mano Amiga school system gives the impoverished exactly what it says: a Helping Hand.

Providing high quality, values-based Catholic education to the poorest areas of Mexico and Latin America, the schools respond to the needs of the whole child, as well as the whole community.

Addressing the academic, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of families, Mano Amiga creates a platform for people to use their God-given skills to become self sufficient.

Parents have the opportunity for literacy and parenting classes, as well as to participate in daily mass and the sacraments with their children. Families are engaged. Communities are transformed.

While all Mano Amiga families pay what they can, about 95% students are on scholarship to some degree.

More than 15% have special needs, including nutritional, emotional or physical ailments. Some require transportation to school. Students Pre-K through high school are selected on the basis of need as well as their family's commitment to making for a better life. Some families with several children may pay as much as \$300 per month; others contribute only \$5. All are expected to work with the school in helping their children succeed.

**“He scatters abroad,
he gives to the poor, his righteousness
endures forever.”**
2 Cor 9:9

Won't you help invest in the future of a child?

Many schools cover barely 50% of operating expenses through tuition. The remaining is covered through the generosity of donor grants. Your gift can help change the future of a child, who in turn can change the future of his community.

Full year sponsorship: \$780

Semester sponsorship: \$390

One Quarter sponsorship: \$195

One Month sponsorship: \$65

*Sponsor a child in perpetuity**

*(*See enclosed information on endowment)*

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please call 1-800-961-8153
or e-mail info@catholicworldmission.org.

Donate confidently online:
www.catholicworldmission.org



Carving a Path to a Bright Future

Alejandro does not take the gift of Mano Amiga for granted. Despite hardship, Alejandro and his parents have always known that Catholic education would provide this boy with the opportunity to make a better life for himself and his family.

Today, this young man is about to graduate from the middle grades of Mano Amiga Monterrey after proving

himself as a dedicated and high achieving student. In addition to his studies, Alejandro enjoys singing and acting as a clown to earn extra money for his education. He has even learned to play three musical instruments! Alejandro's hard work has been rewarded with a scholarship to attend the prestigious Culver Academy in the U.S. for high school.

Alejandro's eyes well with tears as he expresses his appreciation for the opportunity he has been given. "Here at Mano Amiga, we can dream," says Alejandro. "We've learned to become good people and make a future for ourselves. We're like a family."

M.A. Monterrey is one of the original Mano Amiga schools, dating back to 1974. This school now has 984 needy families, with 90% of its high school graduates going on to higher learning.

Teachers: Mentors for life

The majority of school operating expenses is in teacher salaries. Teachers are the life blood of the schools and oftentimes the most significant role models in students' lives. Mano Amiga strives to pay each teacher a dignified wage.

