



Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation

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September 8, 2007

Dear Supporters of the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation,

Since 2003, when the Foundation began its work with the Refugio, board members and others were aware that at some point we would have to expand our giving to a more *personal* level. The educational needs of individual children is important so that they can pursue a career and be self-supporting. *That time has now arrived.*

For those of you who have spent even one or two days at the Refugio, or have received newsletters from us in the past, you will probably take a look at this picture on the right and immediately recognize Sandra. Her responsibility at the Refugio was to help care for young children. It is hard to believe that she will turn 18 in November.



Sandra at Refugio

According to Madre Chuy, Sandra was first assigned to Casa Hogar by DIF (social services) when she was three years old, and from that point became a permanent resident of shelter care. She was among the 14 children who left Casa Hogar with Madres Mari, Chuy, Roma, and Lupita, when the Refugio was formed. Although Sandra left the Refugio three years ago at age 15, her life has continued to be surrounded by people who have recognized her talents, embraced her desire to achieve, and have been there to help her when she has stumbled.

Sandra continues to sing and play the tambourine at the little church below the Refugio and is greeted each Sunday by hugs from Madre Chuy. She has made good choices in her life in regards to boys and is a role model not only to her five sisters, but to the other children at the Refugio and the Transition Home.



Sandra's family home - exterior

times her older sister and two nieces, in a house in the woods, near Garza Blanca (just south of Puerto Vallarta).

It has become obvious that Sandra cannot live in this three-sided tent filled with three beds, a single light bulb hanging in the center, and a garden hose to bathe and wash her clothes. Not only has this situation hindered her ability to achieve scholastically but has also put her in the position of a *child at risk*. BUT some very exciting things have taken place in her life that I would like to share with you. Sandra has begun prepa (the equivalent of high school in the US) at the Colegio Mexico Americano, and her desire to become a dental assistant has not changed. Thanks to Gaby, Sandra is even working part-time for a dentist in Bucerias.

Since moving out of the Refugio, Sandra has lived with her mother and four brothers; and at



Sandra's home - interior



Foundation Board Member Gaby Whitten and her husband John, and their 5-year old son Elliott, have opened their home to Sandra in a foster family environment. She is now living with them, learning to participate as a family member, and they are assisting her personally, intellectually, and socially. We cannot ask the Whitten family to bear this financial burden alone and that is why I am writing.

It is our goal to raise \$4,850 USD by November 18 - this equals 50 percent of Sandra's education, room & board, swim lessons, and other living expenses for the 2007-2008 school year. **Please remember that your contributions are USA tax deductible, as our foundation is an IRS-recognized 501 (c)(3).**

- \$4,000 USD Colegio Mexico Americano – 1 year tuition, books, & uniforms
- 5,000 USD \$500 x 10 months for room & board, medical, swim lessons, transportation, allowance
- 700 USD Laptop Computer (school requirement because of online classes)

We hope you will help us in our endeavor, but ask if you personally cannot assist, that you will consider passing this letter on to someone you know who has a heart for Mexico, their children, and the belief in the power of education. Please e-mail me if you should have any questions regarding Sandra or her educational needs at paws@harbornet.com

Education is not only investing in the future of our Refugio children, but in future generations.

Sincerely,

Judy L. McCormick
Board Member from Gig Harbor, Washington



Sandra's Educational Fund - Investing in her Future
Yes, I can help! (Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope.)

Name

Address

Email