

December 2007

Dear Friends and Benefactors of the Augustinian Scholarship Fund,

We send you heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the holiday season and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your support and interest throughout the past year. The students have a lot of good news to share.

We celebrated nine graduations in June. Seven graduated from middle school and two graduated from high school. There is not enough space for all of the qualified college applicants at the local university so names are entered into a lottery for admittance, as a result our two high school graduates are on the waiting list and will start in January. In July we accepted ten new students into the ASF program. This brings our total for the 2007-2008 school year to 74 participants. Most of them are pictured in the enclosed photo. Aren't they are a good-looking group?

As the result of a generous one time grant of \$20,000.00 from the International Community Foundation (ICF), the new school year has begun in an exciting way for the University students. All 15 of them received a Dell laptop computer! Computer access is a must for the students in the University. The majority of them do not have computers in their home, so they spend many hours and money at Internet cafes in order to do their schoolwork. This can be expensive and inconvenient as they already spend a substantial part of their day on public transportation going to and from school, work and home.

The ICF grant is also being used to:

- Register ASF as an organization recognized in Mexico. This will legitimize the organization in the eyes of the Mexican government and facilitate grants from the Mexican government as well.
- Hire a graphic artist and web designer to create a professional brochure and website for ASF.
- Hire an education support person to be more actively involved with the students on a regular basis by making home visits, networking with the schools and supervising the students when they perform community service at the Community Center in Tecolote.

We appreciate this gift from ICF, which is sure to strengthen our organization and ensure the continued success of our students.

We are happy to welcome Jenn DePoy as a new member on our Board of Directors. She has been a volunteer for many years and is currently campus minister at St. Augustine High School in San Diego. She attends the monthly meetings with our students and has involved her own students in service and fundraising for ASF as well.

Be sure to keep your eyes out for our new brochure that will arrive in the mail in 2008 and as soon as we get the website up and running you will be the first to know! Thank you for your generous support and we hope that we can count on you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Monica Santos
Director
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