

EL GOLFO STUDENT SPONSORSHIP (10/3/19)

For over 20 years Maggi and I disappear from Missoula to spend warmer winter months in the northern Mexico town of El Golfo de Santa Clara, which is in Sonora Mexico about 100 miles south of Yuma, AZ. After years of coordinating a family Food Program in this village, the work became more rigorous than our old bones were happy with so we persuaded a volunteer to take over the food program before we proposed and established a program that would keep kids in school for PREPATORIA (3 year High School).

Since the government stopped nearly all gill net fishing in the northern Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California) four years ago steady work is scarce. The population has dropped from 10,000 to around 7000. While the government pays for 9 basic years of school, PREPATORIA costs about \$100 a semester for 6 semesters to get a certificate. Our idea was to get members of our winter RV group and friends to sponsor a student to continue on to Preparatoria to have a better chance to continue on to college, tech school or at least get a full time job with more responsibility and pay to have a better life. Since fishing no longer provided a good paying opportunity for boys there were few jobs that offered dependable employment and girls tended to have little opportunity to work and often get pregnant at age 15 or 16 with an unemployed boy. They crowd in with the boys' parents who then have two more people to support. Mexican families love children so love if not food abounds. We contacted the Secundaria school principal to identify the best students who would like to go on to school and whose parents supported that interest, but could not afford to send them to PREPATORIA. Our RV members also supported the idea and we started the program two years ago with 17 students, half of which were girls.

Holy Spirit Social Concerns Committee was supportive of this program as well as other members of our Holy Spirit congregation and friends of ours so we ended the second year with 27 students and 6 have now graduated. This year 2019-20 we are guaranteeing to pay for 23 students and have a couple friends willing to support 2 or 3 more if we find some struggling to pay for school. This year Holy Spirit is supporting two of these students. Other members are sponsoring 9 students.

Of our 6 graduates we believe we have 3 in college or tech school. We hope this will start the idea that more school is a good thing, that it will help the village as a whole over time and improve the lives and futures of some of these young people and their families.

We thank Holy Spirit and our other sponsors for their support in giving these students a better chance to have a good life.

Chuck and Maggi Teague

Photos are:

(1) Maggi and one of our 6 PREPATORIA graduating students named Gracia who is an A student along with working to help support her drug addicted parents and younger brothers. We have provided the family some food, propane and clothing. Gracia is determined to go to college and with her drive we hope she makes it.

(2) Some our Secundaria students selected to attend Preparatoria. They are now in their second year.

Maggi & Gracia who as an A student also worked to support her family and graduated last June. She is trying to attend College. Our food program helped her family as well.





Eight of our Secundaria students selected to attend Preparatoria. They are now starting their second year.