

The Newsletter
Of
The Community
Of
St. Martin

*Apostles of
Charity*

The Breeze of St. Martin

Vol 2. Number 6
Advent and
Christmas

“Finally, there
was a gentle
Breeze...
Elijah,
Why are
you here?”
1 Kings
19:12b-13



Comunidad de Los Martines A.C.

**To Serve the Poor
In the Tradition of**
*San Martin de Tours—To Evangelize
San Martin De Porres—To Serve the
Poor
Martin Luther—To Take God's Grace
to the Streets
Martin Luther King, Jr.—To Work for
Peace and Justice*



Dining in the Dark Fund Raiser Held in Los Angeles Funds Raised to Help the Blind

An educational and emotional fund raising dinner/dance was held in Los Angeles, November 5, in support of our work with the blind in Aguascalientes. Close to \$2,000 was raised to help buy canes, provide classes in Braille and assist in transportation. Since 2008 the Community has worked with two unions in an effort to provide support and leadership deve-



lopment to more than 30 persons.

Persons attending the fund raising event were blind folded so that they could experience eating and dancing without being able to see. For some, it was a very moving experience as they attempted to find their food, their drink and reach their mouth. “It was the first time I could imagine being blind and what that is like in a real way,” said one participant. Tears flowed as he continued to eat and struggle with his food.

A local union hall donated space, volunteers cooked Mexican food and a DJ, whose grandfather was blind, donated his services. Thanks to Alma Salinas (center above) and her team for organizing this important event!

HIV Services Being Provided

The Community has been approved by the State of Jalisco to provide HIV prevention and detection services. Condoms are provided for distribution in the neighborhood of Polanco and among sex workers in the center of Guadalajara. HIV transmission is on the rise in Mexico, making prevention work essential!

Permission has just been granted for the Community to begin rapid testing for HIV. Our center in Polanco will be used as the site for application of the exams. Outreach will be done with sex workers in the city as well as through our work in a local “tianguis” -swapmeet.

Those who test positive will be integrated into the local healthcare system. A support group and counseling will be offered.

Cesar Valle joins the Community and will do outreach to youth for HIV preven- tion and

GLBT youth for support and health-care services.

Cesar lives in Polanco in the Community's center. A resident of the area, he knows youth in need and is preoccupied with the lack of information about human sexuality, access to the healthcare system and HIV prevention.

Cesar is a college student and will integrate other young adults into the work, providing leadership in street outreach, support groups and our booth in the swapmeet. Welcome!



Help Keep the Miracles Growing!!!

With your support, the Community of St. Martin has touched the lives of hundreds
In Guadalajara and Aguascalientes, México. Thank you!

Through **popular education** a new **culture for life and health** is being created.

- ◇ Center opened in Polanco doing community development work. A women's support group and leadership development has been started. A youth program has been initiated.
- ◇ An experiential learning center opened in Polanco which provided opportunities for six persons to study Spanish and learn popular Mexican culture.
- ◇ Medical support has been provided with HIV+ women pre and post pregnancy.
- ◇ Dozens of sex workers have been given condoms, integrated into medical programs and provided clothing and food. Teams providing a violence free environment are being created.
- ◇ Hundreds of persons have received information about HIV in our booth at a local swapmeet. Condoms distributed and rapid testing for HIV provided. HIV+ integrated into medical support.
- ◇ Staff have accompanied sex workers in the center of Guadalajara, providing condoms, food and clothing. Efforts have been made to create circles of support through leadership development designed to reduce violence.
- ◇ Literacy classes in Braille and workshops for the blind in Aguascalientes.
- ◇ Support for a mini-industry producing body creams and lotions run by the blind raising funds for transportation to and from events.
- ◇ Consolidation of an administrative center enabling the Comunidad de los Martines to function in México as a non-profit organization.

**You can help the Community to continue its miracles in 2012.
Please consider a generous holiday gift or a monthly pledge for 2012.
Thank you for your support!!!**

The Community of St. Martin

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Fiscal Office-Donations are Welcome!

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On-line donations are encouraged:

www.ecchurch.org/sanmartin

The Community of St. Martin

**Is a recognized ministry in partnership with
The Ecumenical Catholic Church
*Your donations are tax-deductible***

The Rev. David J. Kalke, President of la Comunidad de los Martines and an AIDS activist working in New York City and southern California since the mid-1980's, is also an active member of the International AIDS Society.
www.iasociety.org