

## ANDREW FINCH EDUCATION TRUST

Newsletter No 24

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Tataikuna: There are 16 sponsored children and a further 16, siblings of those sponsored received nearly the same benefits. 20 other children who go to the library and attend the Andrew Finch Centre activities in Techo Propio and Mocha also received help. As before there were monthly meeting with the children and at least one of the parents. Eighty four food parcels were distributed (rice, semolina, pasta, three types of flour, oats, lentils and sardines). Nine items of clothing were given. In addition to our student at University (see below), there are 20 children in secondary school, 27 in primary school and 4 in kindergarten. The use of the internet to do homework is now normal in all levels of education, and the families were helped with these expenses as they do not have equipment or connections to their homes.

The health fund was used to help one girl following an accident when she was struck by a motorbike. She needed to have to have physiotherapy and x-rays. Six children needed consultations, transport and medicine because of throat infections (the rapid temperature changes, and the dust and ash from the volcano make these prevalent). A girl having odontology treatment had to change the dentist because he had removed a tooth by mistake! One girl had to change her glasses.

Education Centres: There have been the usual activities in both centres. Short courses in computers, English language, Spanish grammar and some mathematics have been given by Gladys. A focus in Mocha has been, at the request of the parents, trying to improve the reading skills of the children. Each centre will shortly need one new computer. 84 new books have been bought and there are now a total of over 2,000. On the next inventory those in very bad condition will be removed. The dance, choir and ecology club continue with some adults participating.

Gladys: Gladys is our Universtiy student. She continues to do well and has passed her third semester. There were two new subjects included in this term, English and Work Practice. The new semester started on September 18. As elsewhere, although the actual tuition is free, there are substantial expenses associated with attending University, including daily transport to Ambato, lunch, medical examinations, internet connection and use, computer equipment and printer plus paper and ink, books and photocopies, some clothes and shoes.

Conclusion: The directors, parents, children and ourselves are incredibly grateful for your interest and support. As you can see, our work continues with supporting families in both education, health and nutrition. Any help you feel you can give would be gratefully received. We do hope you like this year's Christmas card and if you send them feel you would like to buy some.

Adrienne Finch;

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[www.voluntariosdeoccidente.org](http://www.voluntariosdeoccidente.org).

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NB This is the 15th year since Andrew died and the community of Mocha organised a mass for him on September 2nd. We are so grateful that they continue to remember and honour him