

2010 REPORT ON RUTILIO GRANDE SCHOLARSHIPS

This year we had a group of 31 scholarship students, 14 in junior high, 15 in senior high and 2 in the university. In January, the senior high students received a quantity of money to buy their uniforms, shoes, backpacks and school materials since the Government didn't provide any of this. The junior high students received their uniforms, shoes and school materials from the Government and only received \$20 each in order to buy their backpacks.

For the entire school year which begins in January, they all successfully completed their studies in a satisfactory manner. When the school year began in January, the community council gathered all the parents and students to explain their rights and responsibilities as scholarship students and integrated each one into a different area of community service, including the community radio station which had 14 students assigned to it. There were another group of 5 who together with 5 women of the community were responsible for the clinic. There was another group assigned to the church and the choir. All the scholarship students were responsible for the garden and other non-scholarship students worked with them for the 6 month period in which the garden functioned. Scholarship students also were assigned at various times of the year to campaigns of community clean-up, social and cultural activities and also organized their own activities in order to raise funds such as raffles, tournaments, and excursions. The funds raised were used for their needs during the school year and also to celebrate Mother's Day. They were also used for an end of the year celebration dinner in which all students and their parents were invited.

The scholarship project strengthened the organization of the community's youth, helped to keep them united and always busy in productive activities. It was created to help them develop into responsible good leaders.

Every three months the council gathered with them and their parents to evaluate their behavior and their academic progress. They gave us copies of their report cards. In terms of the university students, they gave copies of their grades to us at the end of each semester and carried out additional responsibilities with the children, providing leadership to the group assigned to the church and one of them is on the community council.

At the end of the year, we can report that 29 passed to the next grade. One will graduate from senior high and 5 new students will enter senior high in 2011. All want to continue to study next year and many wish to continue into the university since this is the great dream that they have to better the conditions of their families and be able to help the community.

Next year we will have a group of 33 students with 5 new students entering 7th grade. We have attached the grades and letters of various students and some responded to the questions you asked about them. We have also attached a list of those studying.

Comunidad Rutilio Grande

Samples of the letters:

From **Rubi Delgado Sanchez**:

A warm greeting to the Milwaukee Synod.

My name is Rubi Delgado. I hope you are all well, together with your families. I am a student in my last year of high school. I have a good relationship with my family as the opportunity to study has opened new and better relationships with them. Studying has helped me to understand them better. Thanks to God, I have done well this year and graduated on November 27th. In the Virgin of Guadalupe Church, I am a catechist and work with the children to prepare them for First Communion. I would like to continue in the university in order to be a doctor or lawyer.

From **Felix Garcia Chicas**:

Each one of you receive a fraternal and warm greeting, hoping that your activities in your community are fruitful.

I am writing to thank you for your excellent help since without it; I would find it difficult to study. This year I have enjoyed good relationships with my parents and we are more united as a family. This has helped me to be able to get better grades.

I help the community by trying to inspire younger youth to study and participate in activities with us. When I graduate I want to become an agricultural engineer so I can help the people in my community move forward.

All the best to you. Thanks and blessings.

From **Meylin Yamileth Rivera Bonilla**:

My name is Meylin. I am in my first year of senior high and am 15 years old. Receive a warm and cordial greeting, hoping in God's Holy Glory, that you are in good health and surrounded by family and loved ones. Know that you also a part of our family in Rutilio Grande.

I help my parents quite a bit in that they are the ones who motivate me to move forward in my studies, so that one day I might become a professional and be able to help my family and community. I am doing well in my studies even though school is very hard. But no matter what, I will continue. The youth in our community are organized and carry out clean up campaigns in the community and all go to church each Sunday and participate in the meetings of Virgin of Guadalupe Church and many other other activities.

My future plans after senior high is to become a professional so that I can help others just as you have helped me. I would like to become an engineer and also receive a degree in English. For that I will need some help from you. May God bless and protect you always.