

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Junior High Scholarship Students from Comunidad Rutilio Grande

Since 2000, the Greater Milwaukee Synod has offered the chance to support youth empowerment and education through this very successful community-administered project in which all youth who finish 6th grade in the community school, receive the promise of continued education all the way through high school if 1) they make the commitment to study 2) they do community service for their community by participating in community activities and service projects and 3) they participate in the community's youth organization.

In the 90's, few youth had a chance to study beyond grade school. In fact, the first high school graduates from the community occurred in 1996, some 12 years ago. The scholarship program has changed high school graduation from being an option for only a select few to the norm for all youth in the community.

Education not only brings more enlightened citizenship, but has protected the community from crime and vice as these youth are so actively engaged, that this community is one of a few in its area where crime and drug-use is practically unknown!

The service projects and activities not only teach these youth important skills such as gardening, radio announcing, health care and natural medicine, but responsibility and team work. Participation in the youth organization prepares them for assuming functions on the community's council and in fact, many of them have served in that capacity.

In 2012, there will be 32 youth in junior high and high school. Nineteen (19) will be in 7-9th grades and twelve (12) will be in high school. Of these 32 youth, 17 are young women and 15 are young men.



2011 High School Students

Many high school graduates aspire to continue their studies in the university. In 2012, six will continue their university studies. Two are in law school, one is in an agronomy program, one is in biology while another is studying medical laboratory science. Others would like to pursue higher degrees but poverty has kept them from being able to do so.

Your congregation can support a student for as little as \$350 per year. This amount covers uniform, shoes, bookbag and school supply expenses (1/3 of the total cost) plus the very costly, daily transportation expenses to El Paisnal (2/3 of the total cost).

If you are interested, contact Mary Campbell at mbc48@earthlink.net for more information. Promotional materials are available for a congregational display.