



May 20th, 2009

Hola to all donors!

As I write this Oaxaca and Miramar are still preoccupied with the H1N1 flu. We postponed the second two day health seminar due to mass closings. The upside is that it will give Armida, the physician, an opportunity to teach how to control infections. This whole concern about a pandemic causes me to think how important our health program is to the older women of Miramar who don't tend to think of themselves as part of a wider world. Yet, the questions they wrestle with--nutrition, diabetes, dental health, women's health, domestic violence prevention, and chronic degenerative diseases are issues for women everywhere.

Even more importantly their objectives for the health program are obtaining a better education to manage their illnesses, providing a healthy environment for their families, and learning to negotiate more effectively with the local health system.

We are focusing on the health program because it is our newest and in most need of funding. So I commend it to you as you think about your Spring Appeal donation. As with everything we do we will evaluate this program and prepare it for sharing.

In other news, our literacy program has been expanded to another village, and we started working with a group of little girls who are Mixtec speaking and having difficulty shifting to Spanish. We are also using the bilingual literacy curriculum with a group in the Oaxaca women's prison. We know Patty Tovar has created something very effective with this curriculum and want to test its adaptability with different populations. We hope to take the manual and a workshop to a literacy program in the spring. Art has proven to enable women to surpass their blocks in learning from the systemic abuse they have suffered during their education.

We are excited to report that the weavers are preparing for an exhibition at El Museo de Textiles in Oaxaca beginning November 14, 2009. It would be a wonderful time for you to come visit and we will help you with arrangements! This is really big and should move the women into self-sufficiency with marketing their work. If you know other venues where the exhibition might come let us know and the curator will invite them to the opening.

It is developing into a great year. We welcome your help in making it happen, and thank you.

And watch for information to donate through GlobalGiving so we can benefit from a wider base of donors.

Happy Spring,

**Judith Lockhart-Radtke and
the Women of Miramar, Oaxaca and Boston
The Circle of Women**

Please donate at www.thecircleofwomen.org



**HEALTH WORKSHOPS:
LEARNING ABOUT FOOD GROUPS
PHOTOS BY TOM FEHER**

\$25 buys books for the little girls' Spanish literacy class

\$50 buys an ergonomic weaver's bench to save a back

\$250 funds one session of a health seminar