

Mano Amiga



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

CONQUERING POVERTY
with the Richness of Our Catholic Faith





A Leg Up, Not a Hand Out

The Mano Amiga school system gives the impoverished exactly what it says: a Helping Hand. Providing high quality, values-based Catholic education to the poorest areas of Mexico and Latin America, the schools respond to the needs of the whole child, as well as the whole community. Addressing the academic, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of families, Mano Amiga creates a platform for people to use their God-given skills to become self sufficient. Parents have the opportunity for literacy and parenting classes, as well as to participate in daily mass and the sacraments with their children. Families are engaged. Communities are transformed.

About 95% of Mano Amiga students are on scholarship to some degree. More than 15% have special needs, including nutritional, emotional or physical. Some require transportation to school. Students, Pre-K through high school are selected on the basis of need as well as their family's commitment to making for a better life. Many families pay an average of \$300 per month toward the child's academics; others can contribute only \$10. All pay what they can, and are expected to work with the school in helping their children succeed.

The Mano Amiga Gift

Conquering poverty is a vast and complex challenge. The root causes of physical, spiritual and educational poverty need to be addressed in tandem for long-term change to take place. Attacking poverty at the root is the goal of **Mano Amiga (Helping Hand)** schools. And it is working. Thousands of students are being rescued from what could be a life plagued by drugs, violence and chronic poverty. Mano Amiga families experience love, intellectual stimulation, spiritual growth and opportunity.

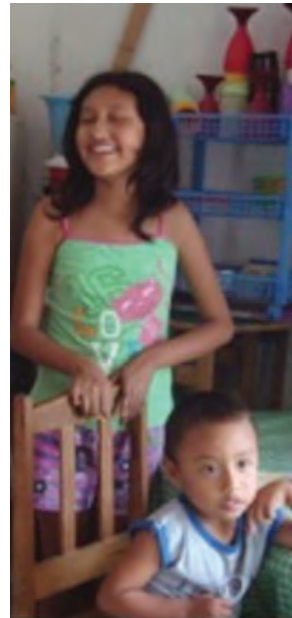
the system at work

GABRIELA AND HER BROTHER JOSMAR ARE STUDENTS OF MANO AMIGA CONKAL. Gabriela, 14, suffers from a chronic kidney disease that requires frequent treatments. The family struggles to provide basic needs for their children, let alone medical expenses. Insurance does not pay for the special foods Gabriela needs to eat. She and her mother take on sewing work to pay for some of the expenses.

Gaby's little brother Josmar is a preschooler. He has sacrificed as well, because of his sister's medical needs, and struggled with routine at the beginning of the school year. "At first, Josmar

clung to the school fence and cried," says his teacher. But the school staff understood Josmar's challenges. With patience, we helped him feel safe and happy in school. He has made friends and is learning academic and social skills."

Gabriela encourages and mentors her little brother, and works hard in school, despite her fragile health. "She is an excellent student," her teacher remarks, "especially in science." Gabriela's dream is to become a nutritionist and help people, the way she has been helped by others. Gabriela references her faith in God as the source of her strength.





MIGUEL IS A STUDENT AT MANO AMIGA PIEDRAS NEGRAS.

Miguel, 7, lives with his parents and two brothers, ages 10 and 2, on about \$350 per month. The family's four bedroom house has no running water in the bathroom. Drug dealers prowl near the home outside. Miguel's father works in a cemetery while his mother tends to the children. Parenting has proven to be a difficult job for them. Miguel has struggled in school often due to lack of food and sleep.

Mano Amiga teachers and administrators tend to this

family's needs on a holistic level. By facilitating medical check-ups and providing necessities such as blankets, clothing and food as well as counseling for the parents, Mano Amiga has helped the family seek a better way of living. Miguel's mother is now participating in parenting classes at school and attending mass. The gift of Mano Amiga has lifted some of life's burden from the family.

Miguel says he would like to grow up to be a policeman. His Mano Amiga family will continue to help him see hope in his future and to stay away from the temptation of drugs.

“I grew up very poor in Mexico, but thanks to Mano Amiga I was able to break the cycle of poverty. I am a cardiovascular surgeon and own my own practice. I owe much of my success to the integral formation I received at Mano Amiga.”

Dr. Antonio Heredia with Fr. James McKenna, LC, former principal of Mano Amiga Monterrey.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We can help fill the financial gap for these schools to continue serving the needy. Many schools cover barely 50% of operating expenses through tuition. The remaining is covered through the generosity of donor grants. The large majority of operating expenses are in teacher salaries. Teachers are the life blood of the schools and oftentimes the most significant role models in students' lives. Mano Amiga strives to pay each teacher a dignified wage.

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

- 21,000 children served in 35 Mano Amiga schools
- Over 9,000 communities impacted
- Over 85% of graduates go onto higher education
- 83% of alumni are formally employed and give back to the community
- Hundreds of parents engaged in literacy and life skills classes
- Thousands of staff and volunteers devoting their lives to serving the poor
- Children and families living lives free of drugs and crime
- Families participating in the sacraments and growing spiritually

Won't you consider investing in the future of a child?

A one-year full scholarship for a child is a \$780 investment. The impact yielded by pulling one child out of poverty can truly span generations and transform communities.

Please help us meet our goal of 250 new full child sponsorships before the end of the year.