

# Friends of Accion, Inc.

*To render meaningful support to the charitable activities of Acción in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico with a view to advancing the well being of the people served and the Christian faith.*

June 2013

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to nine young Mexican men and women who graduated from high school or university this year, thanks to living at Accion's student homes, VIM and CEM! Thank you to everyone who made this possible through donations, prayers, and volunteering. Let's keep up the good work!

From the Merida Student House (CEM), José Felipe is our university graduate, completing a major in Family Sciences. He says to us, "Let God continue blessing this loved place [CEM], and may you feel deep in your hearts always the seed of charity for us and others to cope in life." I'm sure that José Felipe would like to use his education to join us in his charge. CEM was also home to a graduating high school student, Gerardo, who says he learned more about being responsible at CEM.

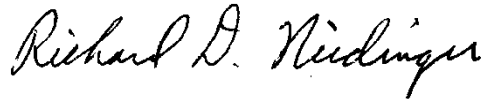
From the Mayan Children's Village (VIM), three young women and four young men are graduating with a high school diploma, called *Bachillerato* in Spanish. Concepción came to VIM in 2007 (the second year of operation) and started middle school at the age of 16. He stuck with it and is now graduating high school at age 23. In a rural family of 10 children, Concepción says he is the only one "who is studying" and now he has finished high school! The other traditional-age graduates lived at VIM throughout their high-school years, and all hope to go on to college. They all express great appreciation for the opportunity to continue studying by living at VIM. Wendy is grateful for her "feisty mother" and says this: "[VIM] helped me not only in my studies but also in the spiritual realm. It has enabled me closer to God and learn more about him. I love the devotional, have been very special and beautiful, VIM has become my second home and here I have my second family." Wendy is Catholic, showing how VIM is actually bridging denominational differences. Wendy plans to go to nursing school.

Some children also need VIM to be able to access good pre-high-school education. Congratulations to Cristian Alejandro who just completed *Primaria* (Mexican elementary school through grade 6); and to Rey David who finished *Secundaria* (middle or junior-high school grades 7 – 9) after six years at VIM. David will continue to *Preparatoria* (high school grades 10 – 12).

Friends of Accion desperately needs your support to be able to continue providing opportunity to the youth of the Yucatan. Trusting in God, we hope to keep the current roster numbers at around 30 youth at VIM and 18 at CEM, replacing graduates with kids waiting for a spot. Honestly, past-year donations have not been enough to fully fund these numbers. We are very grateful for our supporters who are beginning to make up the difference. Please, consider our BECAS sponsorship program information at [http://friendsofaccion.org/?page\\_id=835](http://friendsofaccion.org/?page_id=835), where you can find out more about our students. Any contribution this summer will enable us to continue this fall. (Actually, with a shorter summer break and different calendars, VIM and CEM are only without students for about three weeks in July.)

These youth are working hard to fulfill their potential. May God use us to enable their quest.

With the hope that does not disappoint,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard D. Neidinger". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Richard D. Neidinger  
President, Friends of Accion, Inc.

P.S. The words of Juana, another of our high-school graduates from VIM, remind me a bit of my daughter: "I'm somewhat distracted, cheerful, I'm different; I consider myself a good person. In my spare time I like drawing, coloring, writing verses, poems, songs, read, talk, think, sleep, play, laugh, be on the pc, learning crafts origami. I like computers and cell phones; I like repair, improve, well, I like systems and repairs. In [VIM], I learned so much that we all have a reason, that God has a plan for everyone, and that is always with us. I have learned the camaraderie, teamwork, to be responsible and always give a little more. I see the positive side of things." My philosophy is "Instead of cursing the place where you fell, you should find what tripped you."