

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.

May 4, 2023

Spring and summer excitement!

The Merida Student Houses (Casa Estudiantil Mérida = CEM) are going strong with **11 young women and 12 young men** at their respective houses, all pursuing a college education with this help. The young women are studying many fields including health, law, chemistry, and accounting. The young men's fields include engineering, architecture, education (one elementary teacher), and agronomy.

The Mayan Children's Village (Villa Infantil Maya = VIM) has a visionary **new director Jorge Salazar** and his wife Rebeca, pictured here. He is an ordained Presbyterian pastor who is very well known around the area. He is actively talking in area villages to renew the interest in high school education possible through VIM. Part of his vision for VIM is to also use the facilities as a retreat center for area churches, and the first retreat is scheduled for Aug. 13 – 14, right before most students arrive. There is a need for renewal at VIM due to a double-whammy. Just when the pandemic turned students away from high school, employment opportunities swelled in nearby construction on the huge Mayan Train (Railway) project. So, this year enrollment at VIM is down to six, equaling the previous low point at the inauguration ceremony in 2006. From that start, Isaac and Juanita Ricardez built a very successful program averaging around 25 students a year until the pandemic years. We miss the loving and capable leadership of Isaac and Juanita who retired in December, but we are excited with the potential for rebirth with Jorge and Rebeca.



Work team mission trips are back! Four summer teams are coming, after one winter trip, and maybe two in the fall, and one next spring. Quite a recovery from none in 2020 and 2021, and then two in 2022. Churches planning trips:

- First Presbyterian Church, Hickory, NC, May 14 – 20 college and June 9 – 15 youth
- Northminster Presbyterian Church, Tucson, AZ, May 27 – June 5 with
- Valley Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ, May 27 – June 5
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, June 19 – 24
- First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, considering fall
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC, considering fall
- First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, March 7 – 16, 2024

Acción is gearing up for this exciting mission season. These trips are in addition to a trip by friends of Vienna Presbyterian Church this past January. We thank everyone who

expressed interest in the return to our mission partnerships in Mexico and hope to see even more of you next year! Acción Director Oscar and his wife Patty traveled to North Carolina and Arizona, Feb. 25 – Mar. 6. They visited all the churches listed above, except FLC-Fargo, and had great interactions.

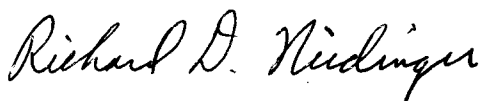
As we welcome Jorge and Rebeca, now is good time to summarize the **Acción staff in Mexico** that keep all these ministries running. Another new staff person is Albert Tzek who is finishing up his last semester in Physics Engineering while living at CEM. He is replacing Oveth Hernandez who left the position of Assistant Director for Communication in December to work as a teacher and Chaplain at Bethel International Christian Academy in Izamal. The middle and high school students there are experiencing the same bright, gentle, and loving Oveth that so many work teams have over the years. God bless Oveth and his students! Here are all the current year-round Acción staff who have worked at least since the year shown:

- Oscar R. Dorantes, Executive Director of Acción (2006, title 2008)
- Roger Aviles, Assistant Director for Finances (2006, title 2008)
- Albert Tzek, Assistant Director for Communications (2023)
- Jorge Salazar, Director of the Mayan Children's Village (2023)
- Keyla May, Director of Merida Student House for Women (2021)
- Josué Puch, Director of Merida Student House for Men (2020)
- Marcela Moo, Cook at Merida Student House for Men (2012)
- Martha May, Cook at the Mayan Children's Village (2009)
- Groundskeeper at the Mayan Children's Village

Many of these have been associated with Acción for longer; for example, Oscar and Roger worked helping Oscar Sr. and work teams since the 1990's.

Pray for all the students, the Acción staff, and for the work teams and people in the villages being served. We appreciate your donations, mailed to the address below, to support the ongoing expenses of these ministries, particularly CEM and VIM.

Yours in Christ,



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