

Pandemic Emergency Relief Fund Update

August 22, 2020

In our email message of May 9 regarding the economic impact of the pandemic on Zihuatanejo and Friends of Niños Adelante's response to provide some basic support for the families of our students we were pleased to report overwhelming results to our plea for funds. This is an update on that effort.

In March, the Mexican Government put in place measures to restrict the spread of the virus by closing schools, beaches and hotels. They instituted hygiene, social distancing and travel restriction measures which all together, essentially shut down the tourist dependent economy.

Friends of Niños Adelante recognized the impact this would have on our students and families. Our Board met and authorized an emergency relief fund to offer some uniform amount of financial assistance to all the students and their families. We understood it would be impossible to provide enough to make the families whole but we could help with some basic amount. Our plea to our wonderful sponsors to help fund this effort has been extremely generous to the point of exceeding our goals.

The first distribution to all 180 students took place on April 22 and 23. Each student received 700 pesos. In Jose's words "there were a lot of happy mothers". Jose has been able to conduct four additional distributions of 1000 pesos per student at each distribution over the past four months.

Below photos are from the first two distribution in April and May. Jose and his wife, Ana, registered and distributed a cash payment to each of the 180 students (with a parent present).

