

## Special school

Already during the time when Linda and Martin (two other volunteers present in 2004/2005) were here, it was evident that “normal” school is not suitable for all project pupils. Linda and Carmen visited various special schools, in order to inquire about costs and school profile. Unfortunately there is no governmental institution and, so, special education is a luxury. At that time, because of lack of time, no concrete selection was met.



At the beginning of school year in January 2006 this topic came out again. As Tanja already takes care of the “striking” children since September 2005, she can provide a realistic estimation over individual needs and can suggest an adequate place to stimulate them. For 5 children the attendance of a special school was highly recommended. Carmen and Tanja chose the “Colegio Santa Sofía de Jesús”, as they use different stimulation concepts and, so, strengths and weaknesses of each pupil can be considered.

Thanks to the [Jürgen Wahn Stiftung \(JWS\)](#), Manuel (hyperactive), Claudio (strongly development retarded, epileptic), Brandon (school failure, lost of his mother), Marvin (misformation of his left hand) and Jonathan (mental retarded) can be educated since February in this special school. Tanja cares for the development and the progress of the respective children, attends the parents work and offers individual learning assistance in the early afternoon. All 5 children are very well integrated in their new surrounding field and, so far, they go to school with a lot of joy and proudness.

See also [newsletter \(page 3\)](#).

## New account program

A project administration is not a simple task. Aury, the accountant, fills out Excel sheets all day long, in order to register each “centavo” spent. [Kinder-nothilfe \(KNH\)](#), another big sponsor of the project, requires monthly reports about the expenses.

This work could be facilitated by using an adequate account program. Therefore we asked another project ([Casita Amarilla](#)), which is also supported by [JWS](#), about the programm they currently use. They work successfully for years

with **SCAFI** program of Oficsa. According to the positive feedback of **Casita Amarilla** we also purchased this program.

The **JWS** sponsored this new investment and the installation took place by the end of January. Aury was trained to the new programm functionalities and expressed herself very satisfied.

## Computer corner



One of the first tasks of Christian was to set up a computer corner. Due to lack of time this could not be achieved in 2005. At that time there were many discussions about the location, where this corner should be placed. In fact the project does not dispose of a lot of space.

Finally, after a thorough space re-design, we opted for the corridor to "oficina" (office). 4 computers were financed by the **JWS**. The

computers were bought in a close Internet Café, with the idea that, in case of problems, fast assistance could be found there.

After fixing a few holes in the wall, we connected the computers resp. the cables together. Directly after the installation the computer classes could begin. Since then the afternoons Christian are occupied by educate older children (starting from 9 years).

See also to **JWS** > Guatemala > La Carolingia.

## Child therapy

Like last year, except during the vacation program, Tanja takes care of the development stimulation of the "chiquitos" (children at the age between 2 and 6 years). 12 children rotate to receive this special education. A therapy unit lasts between 30 and 45 minutes. In single meetings Tanja deals with the individual deficits of the small ones and tries with playful elements to reduce the respective deficits.

Most of them children have a general development retardation with partly disabilities in motricity and/or speech language. The therapy usually consists of stimulation of visual, aural and tactile perception, the increase of the concentration ability, the development of action strategies as well as the improvement

of the fine and coordination motricity. The children enjoy this individual allowance very much and ask every morning if today is their turn.

## Internet

The JWS was very interested in sponsoring an Internet connection in "La Carolingia". This should open new possibilities for the project to facilitate communication with the association. Nowadays you can have a telephone communication for hours over Internet via programmes like, for example, Skype, and you pay only the Internet costs.

First a network installation was necessary, so that all computers can profit from the Internet (there are meanwhile 6). So a router was needed, which Tanja's father brought along from the USA. Christian was not able to find here, in Guatemala, an adequate equipment. Since Christian was confronted for the first time to such a task, he asked his friend Laurent from Switzerland for expert advice.

After the network installation, only the Internet connection was missing, which proved to be a difficult job. After many unsuccessful dates (either the people did not appear or "La Carolingia" did not lay in the network area) we were able to close a contract with Telefónica. The monthly Internet costs are here however (still) very expensive.

## Sex education

Sex education is unfortunately still a taboo here in Guatemala. So far this delicate subject was never taught in the project, as none of the "maestras" dares to talk about it. All react very blocked and ashamed. On the other hand 15 years old girls come to "La Carolingia", partly already twice mother, and look for advice and support.



According to a Guatemalan study many young women do not know, how they became pregnant. Many men shirk the responsibility and are reluctant to the paternity. A vicious circle starts and often ends in poverty and unemployment. So that not the same happens to the children from the project, Tanja offers since February each afternoon sex education.

These courses take place in small sex-separated groups (5 pupils at the age between 9 and 13) in order to guarantee a family and trusting atmosphere. Contents go from sensory perception, feelings, personal identification, confidence to the structure and the function way of the female and male body, sex act, diseases, pregnancy and preventing.

## **Pupils database**

If a child is admitted to the project, data are collected about him, his family and his surrounding field. The personal files are located in an archive. To allow faster access to the data of a child, Christian developed a computer program. In addition these digitized data can be used to statistic purpose. The database must be filled now with the appropriate information.