



Happy Hearts Fund and ING Partner to rebuild the Arcadio Zentella Elementary School in Tabasco, Mexico which was severely damaged by floods in 2007



Arcadi Zentella School, Before



Arcadio Zentella School, After

The Happy Hearts Fund team visited Mexico last month for the grand opening of the Arcadio Zentella Elementary School which they rebuilt with ING. The joint venture initiative was announced at a press conference which was immediately followed by the HHF and ING teams traveling to the “Arcadio Zentella” School for a touching ceremony where Phil Caputo, Executive Director of HHF; Olga Nemcova, Director of Operations of HHF; Carlos Muriel, President of ING for Latin America and Xavier de Uriarte, Director of ING revealed the plaque that marked the beginning of operations of the school’s new location. They were accompanied by the Governor of the State, Andrés Granier Melo and over 800 people including the director of the school, teachers, students and community members of the Ranchería El Río in Jalpa de Méndez.



Adolfo Arditti Bejarano, Carlos Muriel, Phil Caputo, Xavier de Uriarte



Children in the crowd at the school's opening ceremony

The Sustainable Schools Program in Mexico was initiated to improve children's lives after natural disasters through rebuilding schools, installing technology, and establishing small sustainable businesses. **The first school that has been rebuilt in Mexico is the "Arcadio Zentella" School, which was severely damaged by the floods in 2007 and declared unsafe by authorities. Now more than 230 children can benefit from the new school.** This program has unconditional support from teachers, directors and children's parents, as well as the Secretary of Public Education of the State of Tabasco and the Citizen Council for the Reconstruction of Tabasco. The "Arcadio Zentella" School has seven classrooms, a civic square and sanitary services. **Following our Sustainable Schools Program blueprint of bringing technology to our schools, a state-of-the art media room and computer lab was installed equipped with a projector screen to allow for distance learning and 20 HP computers with internet access.**



Students in their new computer lab



Olga Nemcova with some of the excited children

To provide for the ongoing maintenance needs of the school, the joint venture, in collaboration with the community, conducted a feasibility study. With significant community involvement and input, a study by the Pan-American Institute of High Direction of Companies (IPADE) determined the sale of bottled water to be the appropriate business for this market.

The JV has plans for the sustainable business, which is the third component of our blueprint, to begin operations in June and to expand and grow our work in Mexico, rebuilding more schools impacted by natural disasters and establishing technology and sustainability components to help not only the children but the whole community.

HHF receives specific donations to underwrite all administrative and fundraising expenses, allowing all public donations to support our programs.

With our heartfelt happy wishes,

Happy Hearts Fund Team

HHF is committed to help accomplish the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). In the meantime, we would love to hear from you! Let us know if you like our "HAPPY NewsLETTERS" and feel that they are informative. If you have any questions or comments on what you would change or programs you want to hear about please email us at feedback@happyheartsfund.org. We would be really happy if you connect with us – remember, communication is a two-way street!