

Jardín de Gracia



Sixth Grade class of 2016

What happens now?

Jardin de Gracia had a great year in 2016 . There are 20 6th graders who are prepared go out into the community. They almost all will continue their education in another location nearby. “What will they do now?” is the question most asked at this time of year. Until our next phase of school opens, I can tell you that there are a few options available. They can apply to a nearby Christian school - it is a bilingual school & we are not, so the children starting there start with a disadvantage. Second, they can travel into Siguatepeque and attend a public school (this is a good option). The third option is to enroll & attend the local high school here in El Socorro (also a decent option). The final option is either begin to work or help take care of the home so that a parent can return to work (our least

favorite). All the options besides staying home, require parental involvement and money for enrollment, materials and supplies. After being at Jardin, some families are better prepared to continue their child’s education. The parent has to make the commitment to get the child to school and pay for all the fees. They may have grown a business or graduated other children out of the home. They at the least have a stronger appreciation for the value of education and hopefully a higher value on their child as well. As to this graduating class, most will attend the public school, 1 will apply to the bilingual school, 2 have left for the USA illegally, and 2 will stay home. Every graduating family has approached us and thanked us for your investment in their child. It’s been a sweet ride.



Angelina is one of our kindergarten readers

Kindergarten finished the year with 24 graduates. They will enter 1st grade prepared and ready to learn. We had 19 children in Kindergarten learn to read this year.

In the picture on the left you’ll see Angelina. She finished the year reading and loving the math center. She is a typical case of a child in whose life we are trying to make a difference. She lives with her grandparents. Her mother passed away this year and her father is in the USA. Her brother and she are attending the Baptist church in our village with her grandparents and other family members. Angelina is bright, smart and loves ballet. Jardin de Gracia is a place that she spends her days surrounded by people that love her. She is disciplined and loved consistently. She has 2 hot meals a day and she is stimulated in the classroom. She has access to toys and school supplies that are not in her home and she is learning how to be responsible in taking care of things. Reading is only one part of kindergarten. Angelina is proof that the lessons are much deeper.

Big Steps of Faith

At Jardin de Gracia we are fully supported by private donations. This means that everything we do depends on you. Most of you are already sponsors or faithful monthly supporters of the school. You have visited or have been deeply involved for years. This year marks a huge change in the works for us. The extended grades of 7th, 8th and 9th are a big undertaking both faith wise and financially. We feel so confident that this is the direction that God has for us, but at the same time, we need more support. There are several "painless" ways to increase your donations. The first I would suggest is to talk about the school to your people. Your family, friends, church leadership... Jardin is a great place to get involved. Second, if you do any online ordering through Amazon, make sure you have signed up to use the Amazon Smile option. Amazon Smile is a great way to send a percentage of your online shopping dollars straight to JdG. According to Amazon.com .5% of your purchase could be sent to Jardin de Gracia. In 2016 we generated almost \$20 and if you chose to shop through Amazon Smile, that could increase a 100 fold. There is a link on our Facebook page that you can use to sign up and learn more. Thirdly, if you are already a sponsor or a regular supporter please know that we are so thankful for you and we appreciate every single dollar that you send. Praying big prayers for the school is one of the biggest things you can do to help. Dollars go a long way but if we are not walking in the path that God has before us, we can't accomplish what He wants. Praying for us is a big part of what we need this year as we walk closely to Him. We see over & over in the Bible that prayers are used to tear down walls, change hearts, and remove obstacles and that's exactly what we're asking. There is a lot of paperwork involved in adding the next level of education. Please pray for the people that we encounter during this process.

We are also seeking work teams to join us in coming to help build the walls for the new buildings. The school's budget is sufficient to start the project; however our ultimate goal is \$50,000. That amount will give us enough money to open & begin operation of the new classrooms as we find more sponsors to partner with us.

We will be breaking ground in this coming year (2017) and hope to start our first class in 2020. The new buildings will be the focus of every work team that comes to visit over the next couple of years. Please pray about how you can be involved! We would love for you to participate in our next big step! We are stronger together.

Contact us: info@jardindegracia.com • (918) 960-9353

Mail your check to: Jardin de Gracia • 7100 W. Elizabeth St. • Columbia, MO • 65202

Website: www.jardindegracia.com

Thank you!



2016 was a fantastic year at Jardin de Gracia. We met many of our personal, our staff's and the mission's goals. We feel very supported and loved by our sponsoring families, individuals and churches. There has never been a time during 2016 that we didn't put out a need and it was filled within the next week. As we go into 2017, we are confident that the Lord will continue to supply our every need. The children are growing in self confidence, in truth and in love. They are happy and healthier than ever before. Some of the children that had never been to a dentist before 3rd grade just graduated with a healthy mouth. Children that couldn't read in 1st and 2nd grade are now excelling in the reading section of their classes. Families that were buying school supplies instead of food for their families are now able to concentrate more on keeping their families fed & healthy. We know we can't do any of this without your support. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life.