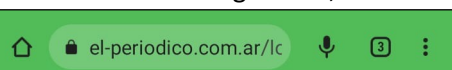


Dear Everyone

Greetings from "Spring" in San Francisco. With a month to go until Summer officially starts, we have already had some days where afternoon temperatures are touching forty, making for challenging working conditions in the sandy surface of the riding school; something like a micro version of the Atacama desert, complete with cacti.



Las Referentes Comunitarias se propusieron ayudar al comedor "Tu arcoiris" de barrio San Javier.

Los integrantes del **Programa Referentes Judiciales Comunitarios** volvieron a solicitar ayuda para continuar con las refacciones en el **comedor "Tu arcoiris"** de barrio San Javier, en la ciudad de **Frontera**.

Probably the most important progress this month has been made by Teen. She has fully involved herself in her building/bricklaying course with the "mujeres con oficios" group, is very much enjoying herself and it is giving her a palpable boost to her self esteem. Some of them appeared in a local paper the other day (see insert left) after they went to volunteer for a day of fixing-restoring-maintaining-improving at a local community centre/kids' feeding programme.

The upshot of this is that Teen, Boyfriend, and Baby have decided that it is time to move out! We have helped them to pay the first month's rent on a small house which needed some work doing on it, and they have been going there every day for the last couple of weeks to coax it into a livable condition. It was full of a lot of abandoned junk, filthy, and the bathroom needed some fixing and things replacing. The little garden is still full of rubbish and rubble, but the house is now ready to occupy, and they hope to be able to move across in the next few days. They will only be a few blocks away and their finances will be very tight to start with so we expect still to see quite a lot of them, especially at mealtimes(!) but we are thrilled with the unexpected turn things have taken, considering that only a couple of months ago we were despairing of ever being able to persuade her to do anything with her life.

La Flaca has also moved house. She had been living with her boyfriend and his mum in quite a chaotic situation, and she has now moved out into a property which has been divided into bedsits with a shared bathroom. Hazel has been round a couple of times this week to give her a hand with a few things that she needed, including emergency budgeting advice ("whatever else you do, make sure you pay your rent first!").

Our Scouts have been busy this week helping to organize an overnight camp for one of the infant schools, which was like herding mice (smaller than cats), but it went well. We have been very pleased with the progress of our youth who was living in the psychiatric unit. He is now living with his dad, thanks in no small part to his successful participation in various Scout weekends, which enabled him to demonstrate his ability to function in community with appropriate support. We have been working with him on setting goals in some areas of his behaviour. Last week we asked him what it was about Scouts that encouraged him to keep coming when he has never persevered with any activity previously. He said. "It's different here. You're like family. You care about me and accept me for who I am, and when I screw up you forgive me and we try again".

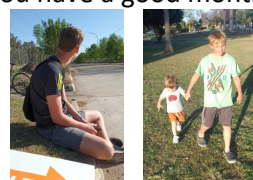


The rest of the family are all fine. Martin is busy putting the recording of this morning's sermon up on the church's web channel. He has two preaching slots next week, and Hazel has one the week after. Joni is chuffed with himself because he has just been invited to join the "elite" squad at his boxing club. It is well deserved, we can certainly testify that he has put in the graft. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.



Hazel X

Martin



Joni & Daniel

