



Dear Elene, Lars-Erik and other Ledarskapskolan Friends,



My name is Kira, I am 19 years old, come from Berlin and I am the new volunteer for Vamos Adelante since October this year. During my time here in Guatemala I will be teaching students in the Vamos Adelante schools, taking pictures of the godchildren, collecting the information of them and writing the reports.

For that same reason I visited the remote village called El Nispero two weeks ago, which is a very poor area without paved roads and only rough little paths lead to the simple houses. There is no running water to be found here and one has to walk to the river with a bucket to fetch it. Electricity was only recently installed. There I met one of your godchildren, the small and very cute girl Norma who will celebrate her 7th birthday in February. From the very beginning, while I was there, she was standing next to me and tried to touch and talk to me. Norma has developed a really good and warm character, she likes to be together with people, is not anymore afraid of visitors as previously when she tried to escape



from them. Norma lives in a house with many children /cousins, uncles, and learns daily new words and activities from them and their company, the nearby nature, the animals such as dogs, cats, chickens, pigs, birds, insects around her. Norma has also improved her motoric abilities and can now use her hands and fingers much better and can grab things with them without any problems, walks and runs well, which is almost normal at this point.

Norma's mother Paty, who is like her daughter mentally retarded, recently started with the help of her mother Sara and Vamos Adelante a small micro credit business with the purpose of sustaining herself and her daughter in the future. She is selling fruit and ice-cream and it is going well.

Paty is now more independent of her mother and also more self-confident. For Norma it is really important to see her mother this well, and she can copy this for her own life. We assume and hope for Norma's future that she can learn to

do different things like cooking easy, but delicious meals in spite of her given limitations.

The other kids in the area accept Norma how she is and play plenty with her. She will perhaps start school in 2013 and is very happy about this. There she can learn many new things in the future.

I painted little things on a page and asked Norma what these paintings could be. She did not know a lot, but when we wrote her name together, my hand guided her, was she really happy and proud of her work. After that she sat down next to me and just listened while I interviewed other children. During this time she played with my hair because she liked the color, the cut and the feeling she had while touching it. Her hair has grown some and she looks quite healthy, - I thought.

The whole time I was there I saw her happy and in a good mood and she was lovely and very friendly with everybody.



In Santa Rosa I met a really friendly and open-hearted young man. This really good-looking guy is another godchild of yours. His name is José Catalino and he is 17 years old and will start in 2013 in 7th grade.

For people, who do not know him, it is very difficult to see that he has severe muscle spasms and a very hard time controlling his movements. This is why we are very grateful for your great help, because José could visit a special program and is now more independent than before. He can walk alone and speak very well if he is





not nervous, and when you speak with him he will always try to look at you in the eyes.

José Catalino is very intelligent and could be better in school, if he would not be so lazy with his homework. He is really well integrated in his school in Santa Rosa. For all exams the teachers allow him at least triple the time compared to other students so that he can relax his fingers and write calmly. In his family he is being treated like all other siblings, all have to help in the house. Like in other homes they fight and play without thinking twice that José has a little problem. The Vamos Adelante School in Santa Rosa continued growing in 2012 and we have now a new Kindergarten, Pre-school and nine grades. The teachers there are a very good team and give plenty of attention to the kids, which they need. When you are at this colorful place you can feel the harmony and niceness of the teachers and you will notice that the children have a lot of fun there

because they are from really poor families and would not study without the scholarship of us. The students love to go to school, because they can leave their small, dark houses and go to a bright place with enough space for everyone.

For that reason José wants to continue studying in our school, but also he is afraid of another school in another city for bullying and mobbing because of his disablement.

And for us there is no problem because we are so well equipped in this school with the good teachers and enough material. We are just a little bit worried about his age, because he starts now to show interest in the other sex and the girls in his grade are very young.

After learning in school José wants to continue studying in vocational school and later go to work. And with your help, which is really noble and generous, he will reach his dream and can be an independent man from his family.



In the name of your godchildren, their families and the whole Vamos Adelante Team I say thank you for your wonderful support and wish you and your families a Happy New Year 2013!

