



July 2019 Progreso Apoyo Program Update

HAPPY SUMMER!

Wherever you are, we hope you're having a great time. The Progreso Apoyo Program Team has been busy and we have lots of exciting news to share with you!

END-OF-YEAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



School ended on June 28, and over the past week we collected the grades from students and their parents. We have sent information about the progress of each student to their sponsor. All

of our students have successfully completed their first year of middle school (secundaria) and will be starting their second year at the end of August.

Over the next few weeks, each of our students will collect their new school and athletic uniforms, a new pair of shoes and new socks – all of which have been paid for by sponsor funds. Our students will wear their new uniforms to a



Progreso Apoyo Program event in late August, where we will provide each of them with a new backpack full of school supplies (seen in this picture!) for the year. We will take their photo to share with their sponsor and we will also have a brief presentation by a local young man who has an inspirational story about staying focused on your dreams.

NEW PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

A) Tutoring Program



In order to help our student be as successful as possible, the Progreso Apoyo Program has identified a few bilingual tutors who are willing to serve as volunteers to work one-on-one with our students as needed during the school year to help

them with specific subjects. If you know of other bilingual folks who might want to work with us in this capacity, please send their contact information to us at info@progresoapoyo.org

B) English Language Classes at Carlos Marx School

We have been asked to provide English classes to 1st-year students attending Carlos Marx Secundaria School. The classes will be led by retired educator and Progreso resident Greg Coutts, assisted by Karen McNally.

We have recruited about six teachers to help teach these classes beginning September 21, but would love to have a few more so that we can keep these classes small. The classes will be held at the school on Saturday mornings for about an hour and will last through Dec. 7. The school director is hoping that about 50 students will participate in this extra-curricular activity. If you are available and interested in helping, please contact Karen McNally at kk.biker@gmail.com

C) We're official — PAP Becomes a Civil Association!



Our new Board with attorney Alfonso Barrera Romero

One of our core values is *sustainability*. To help us meet this goal, we have registered our organization as a charitable non-profit civil association in the State of Yucatan. This provides us with greater credibility in our work with the community, local schools, and other partners like the City of Progreso. Once we get our corporate bank account created, it will also make it possible for US and Canadian sponsors to transfer dollars directly into that account.

The members of our board are:

- Speranza Avram, President
- Dale Hunter-Aubichon, Vice-President
- Mary Elizabeth Walberg, Treasurer
- Rebecca Gleason, Secretary

Special thanks to the team at **Easy Legal Mexico**, who donated their legal services to help us receive our civil association status, and to **Kimmy Suki** from **Yucatan Giving Outreach** who made that donation possible!

2020 SPONSOR RECRUITMENT

As of July 1, we have officially opened recruitment for new sponsors who will be matched with students next year. We would like to recruit at least 25 new sponsors this year – and you can help us! A copy of our 2020 Sponsor New Sponsor Recruitment flyer is posted on our Website www.progresoapoyo.org.

If you would like to help a child succeed in school beginning with the 2020-21 school year, please email us at info@progresoapoyo.org and we will get in touch with you to collect your sponsorship form. Please note that sponsor funds will not be requested to be paid until January, 2020, but must be received no later than March 31, 2020.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

100% of sponsor contributions are used to support the needs of the students enrolled in our program. Because we are now a registered non-profit charity in Mexico, we have increased operating expenses in order to maintain this legal status. In addition, we wish to have funds available to help our students with items such as glasses or hearing aids that are not covered by the sponsorship funds. Therefore, over the coming year, we have some fun ways that you and the Yucatan Beach community can help support the Progreso Apoyo Program!

A Night in Bordeaux — An evening of wine, music and food

To kick off the new season, we are hosting a wine-tasting featuring four wines from France poured by a local sommelier. They will be paired with interesting appetizers, and you will be able to enjoy them in the beautiful ambiance of **The Mayan Gypsy**, a lovely boutique hotel in Progreso that was featured on our home tour last year. Live music will accompany the event.

The wine tasting is scheduled for **Friday, Nov. 8 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm**. Only 50 tickets at MX\$375 each will be available for this special evening. We are giving our sponsors the first opportunity to purchase tickets for this exclusive event, but general ticket sales will begin on September 1. Watch for

more information by following our Facebook page **Progreso Apoyo Program** or by visiting our website: www.progresoapoyo.org



Are you ready for nine weeks of fun and entertainment? Then get ready for **Yucatan Idol**, a talent competition modeled after American Idol that will begin on **January 7** at the new **Crocodiles Restaurant** in Progreso. Starting with 14 contestants, the competition will continue through March 3 until a Yucatan Idol is selected.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Progreso Apoyo Program as well as guest charities who have been invited to participate throughout the competition. We are currently recruiting performers who are interested in being a part of this fun activity. Want to learn more? Please contact **Yucatan Idol Coordinator** Rebecca Gleason at rebeccakg@aol.com.

Home Tour

We'll end the season with the **2nd Annual Progreso Apoyo Program Home Tour**, scheduled for **Saturday, March 7**. Using the great feedback we received from participants in last year's wonderful event, we'll be working to make this Tour even bigger and better! Be sure to put this date on your calendar!



A BIG "THANK YOU" TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

It's hard to believe that the new Progreso Apoyo Program has only been in operation since January, 2019! In a few short months we have accomplished a lot and we look forward to accomplishing much more. But we are humbled by the knowledge that without our first group of sponsors who joined us at the very beginning of this journey, as well as the many individuals who donated funds or volunteered their time, energy and skills to help us get going, none of this would have been possible!

Thank you for your investment in the future of the youth of Progreso and Chicxulub and thank you for your involvement with the Progreso Apoyo Program!