



December 2020 - Vol. 10 No. 3

CUPS IN 2020 AND BEYOND

Considering how 2020 has been disrupted for all of us by COVID-19, CUPS is doing well, and continues to pursue its mission in Tamaulipas Mexico in the customary fashion. Our board members and staff (Fidencio and Rafa) are safe and well, and God continues to bless our efforts through you supporters, as we have received a bumper crop of donations this year, including about 20 computers, almost 200 children's jackets, over 90 homemade quilts, and lots of educational and durable medical supplies. People have been creative about how to get us supplies during this COVID year. One church sent us \$500 worth of educational supplies directly from Amazon. At times, Rafa has had difficulty crossing the border to deliver donations to Fidencio, due in part to pandemic-related border closures, but he has persevered, and ultimately the donations do get delivered. As of this writing, Fidencio says he could use even more warm clothing for rural communities.

Financially, CUPS has received enough donations to keep us working and to fund a number of projects, as outlined below. Fidencio has experienced a rash of breakdowns of the CUPS truck, and so one of our next tasks will be to fund its replacement, which is something we hope to accomplish in the next month or so.

Our major project of renovation to Telebachillerato #022 (TBC 022) in La Soledad has gotten off to a slow start, but progress is being made. In a conference call with principal Marco Gonzalez, the CUPS board agreed on an exact scope of work, and the school is busy getting detailed cost estimates for the agreed items, which include a van for student transportation, air conditioning/heating for classrooms, painting, window replacement, and a new fully furnished computer classroom. Fidencio has been in contact with Director Marco of TBC 022, and is helping get quotes for materials for windows, painting, and other items. The school has been distracted by pandemic, which has forced them to address virtual learning and take other measures to protect the students and employees.



The TBC 022 project received a big boost this year, when CUPS received a generous designated contribution for it from the Johnnie Webb foundation. That, combined with other CUPS funds, should allow the completion of the project in 2021.

HELP CUPS WITH AMAZON SMILE

If you, like many people, are Christmas shopping on Amazon.com, you can help CUPS financially by signing up for Amazon Smile and then directing contributions to **Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud**. Amazon Smile is free service and changes nothing about your Amazon shopping experience except that you direct your browser to Smile.Amazon.com instead of simply Amazon.com. Once you do that, Amazon will make donations to CUPS each time you purchase something. Click the following link to learn more: [How to Sign Up for Amazon Smile](#)

A CUPS SPANISH VOCABULARY PRIMER

We like to provide information from time to time that our supporters might find useful. Here are some terms often used in our work that might not appear in a typical Spanish class.

TECHO vs. TECHADO

Techo is Spanish for roof, and CUPS has often built roofs for classrooms, as it did last year in Isla Fantasia. The related word Techado literally means "Roofed", but as a noun it often refers to an open-sided structure with a large roof on supports to provide a shaded area for school assemblies and programs. CUPS has built several techados, including three this year (see project section below).

PRIMARIA, SECUNDARIA, BACHILLERATO

In the Mexican educational system, a Primaria is a primary school (grades 1-

6), while a Secundaria is a middle school (grades 7-9). As explained in an earlier newsletter, a Bachillerato is a high school (grades 10-12). The word Secundaria often causes problems for English speakers, since in the USA a "secondary" school is usually a high school.

Project Updates

Here is a list of completed projects in 2020:



Work on Playa Bagdad
Techado

1. Techado at Mexico Unido Primaria in Ejido Rancho Viejo
2. Techado for Campo Pesquero preschool in Playa Bagdad
3. Border fence for Flores Magon kindergarten
4. Techado for Jose Delgado Primaria

The CUPS board is also:

1. Considering another Techado project at Federico Trobel Kindergarten
2. Replacement of the CUPS truck
3. Progressing major revamp work at Telebachillerato 022



Delivery of School Supplies



Delivery of Medical
Supplies

Recent and Upcoming Events

December 9, 2020 - Board Meeting via Zoom videoconference

February 10, 2021 - Board Meeting

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