

# The ASAPROSAR Newsletter



June 2010

## Hope Through Education

*Reflections of the Barefoot Angels program*

**Lucy Mograss**

*Salem State College Graduate School of Social Work*

Creating hope for the future through education and vocational training, the staff at Barefoot Angels continues to look for and create innovative and sustainable projects. These projects are meant not only to inspire, but to instill confidence to succeed and a sense of self-worth in the youth they assist through the program. On a recent trip to El Salvador I had the privilege of meeting some of those remarkable young men and women and see firsthand the efforts of ASAPROSAR. The Barefoot Angels program allows them to see that their goals and ambitions are attainable.



Started as a way to rescue youth and children, 7-18 years old, from a life of drugs and gangs, Barefoot Angels has continued to expand its programming to now serve 300 children and 88 adults in a recently enlarged building in the terminal area of Santa Ana. During a presentation given by Lucy Luna, the Barefoot Angels Program Director, we were told that research conducted by ASAPROSAR found 85% of the families in the Santa Ana community were single parent families. These numbers allowed ASAPROSAR to get to know their target population, at risk youth and families and implement programs with their needs in mind. Children of these families, typically between 13 and 18 years old but many times younger, are forced to work in order to help support the family. Up in the early hours of the



the morning, these children work the market and dump areas peddling goods for minimal earnings and unheard of working conditions. Not discounting the importance of family and a child's need to contribute, Lucy and her staff work to create an atmosphere of safety where the individuals can come to learn and work without causing friction in the home. This creates a dynamic where the children are able to learn and families continue to feel valued as a cohesive unit.

A recent newsletter highlighted the Magician Without Borders program and the outstanding job done with young men and women around mental health and confidence building while learning magic. Similar to the mission behind this program is the work being done by

Claudia Flores and the 13 to 18 year olds. During my visit, I had the pleasure of meeting Claudia and a few of the young men and women involved in the project. Claudia assists the youth in perfecting a trade ranging from jewelry making to embroidery to the creation of wallets, purses and bags. What is most remarkable about this project and the attempts to keep with the mission of "sustainability" is that all of the materials are recycled. The youth take magazine pictures, unusable eyeglass lens and carpet samples to produce elegant, fashionable one of a kind products. These products are then sold, with proceeds benefiting the Barefoot Angles and sustaining the mission. [Read More...](#)

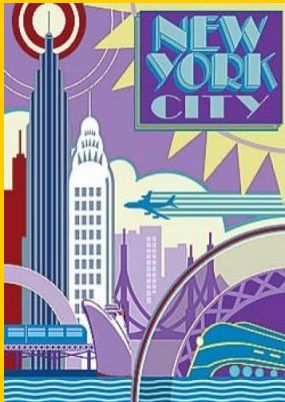


## Infant Stimulation Program

by  
Danielle Wegrzyn



Her dark brown eyes can melt the largest man into a puddle of mush instantly, her pudgy arms and legs move with purpose as she stacks blocks and picks out stuffed animals, her smile and giggle contagious. The day we spent with the staff of ASAPROSAR's infant stimulation program was memorable to say the least. [Read More...](#)



## Get Involved!

ASAPROSAR is beginning to plan an event in New York City. We are looking for ASAPROSAR Ambassadors to help get the word out and invite some friends. [Email us](#) to get involved!

# Challenge Accepted!

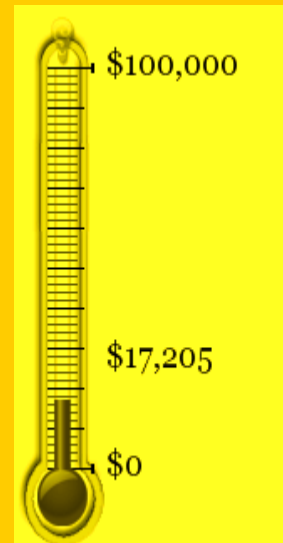
We have made a great initial push toward our goal of meeting the \$100K challenge grant. If you have given already, thank you very much for your support! If you are thinking about a gift now is a great time to double the impact of your giving!

The deadline for donations to be matched is September 1st.

## Dr. Vicky's Visit



Dr. Vicky's visit was a great time to share some on ASAPROSAR's recent work as well as the organizations history with new and old friends. Dr. Vicky stayed busy with a couple radio interviews, a television interview, a variety show, a fundraiser in Washington D.C., meetings and conversations with friends and supporters and much more. [View Photos.](#)



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"Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are."

- Bernice Johnson Reagon