



From the desk of the President

January, 2013

Dear All,

Thank you for visiting our website. I wish you a healthy and happy 2013.

2012 was a historic year for the Congreso. We had an array of goals and objectives for 2012, and I am very happy to report we accomplished most of them.

1. ***Complete the legalization of the organization.*** On March 15, 2012 we received notice from the IRS approving us for 501(C)3 status. The application was very detailed and the requirements are strict. Having this status will help us achieve our goals and objectives. Many thanks to all who have supported this initiative.

2. ***Engage in projects which support our mission:***

- ***The prescription drug discount card program*** has been a huge success. We continue to receive many reports of cost savings and this program will be ongoing.
- ***Distribution of Wild life Storytelling animals in Paraguay:*** Please view the video on our website as Board of Director Selso Britez makes the first distribution. This is an example of a collaborative relationship we have with another Non Profit organization. We hope to continue this program in 2013.
- ***Beat the Dengue:*** One of our Board of Directors brother contracted Dengue fever two days after coming back from Paraguay. He almost died. Seeing the USA having trouble treating this disease was an eye opener. Our Beat the Dengue project has been designed to help educate children and their families of Paraguay to the dangers and prevention of Dengue.
- ***Launch the CPMUSA Scholarship program:*** We have finalized the Scholarship application and in the process of launching this program. The program is geared to help defer College costs such as books and supplies.

During 2012 I had the opportunity to interact with a variety of Paraguayan organizations and guest from Paraguay.

- In March we launched our 1st annual ***Miss Chiquita contest of NY.*** This tradition was lost for a number of years and we felt the need to bring it back. We ran a spectacular event and we received very positive feedback. The fundraising money raised will be allocated towards the fulfillment of our mission, which will include the college scholarship program.
- In May we teamed up with Paraguayan groups around the world and presented a ***“list of demands”.*** We presented this list to Paraguayan Consulates around the world. The purpose was to create awareness of how Paraguayan Americans feel regarding the right to vote in Paraguayan elections.

- This year we had the opportunity to meet **Hugo Gamarra**, Paraguayan movie director. We organized two movie nights, one in Queens and one in New Jersey. Three movie classics were shown, “El Porton de los Sueños” with national writer Augusto Roa Bastos, “Profesion Cinero” and “Tekoete”. It was very interesting to hear the history of these movies from the Director himself.
- Once again we were involved with the “**Paraguayan Festival of Music-USA**” that took place at Queens College in New York. It was a great show and everyone enjoyed the performances from our national and international musicians. CPMUSA will continue to assist in these events which promotes our rich culture.
- In June we put together the first **Emergency Relief** program where people could utilize our website for donations. The idea was to give people an easy and secure method to help people in need. We collected \$1,600 and people were able to utilize the secure website donation page. We will need to formalize this program further since there are certain IRS guidelines that need to be followed.
- In October we joined efforts with Nora Fernandez, Lucia Galeano and Alvaro Almirón of Westchester, to run the **Teletón Paraguay-USA event**. As always, it was a pleasure to be part of this noble cause.
- In December we had the pleasure of meeting Father Jose Larrosa. Along with the committee, **The Virgin Mary of Caacupe of Queens**, we sponsored a youth seminar program. The idea was to provide a forum for young adults in the community and for them to discuss topics which are important to them. We hope to further expand this type of program which is targeted for our youth.

For 2013 we will continue our initiatives and concentrate on the following areas:

- Fundraising: Having sufficient funds will help us meet our goals and fulfill our mission.
- Provide additional resources for the Paraguayan community to help inform and educate.
- Improve and expand initiatives already in place.
- Expand the number of Board of Directors to promote diversity within the organization.
- Connect with other Non Profit organizations that share similar interests.

I would like to thank the CPMUSA Board of Directors and the many other members of the community who have supported the organization. With your ongoing support, we will continue to flourish and work towards making positive differences within the Paraguayan community.

Thanks for visiting our website and feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions.

Sincerely,



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