

Odd Fellow Loge Nr. 9, Ekestubben M Postboks 449 4002 STAVANGER Norway



06 November 201

## for Alex Antonio

Dear friends at Odd Fellow Loge Nr. 9, Ekestubben M,



Look! The laptops arrived! #happychildren

Hello! How are you? I hope you are healthy! Time has passed so fast and winter has arrived since my last letter. At Tela city, the sea does not look so blue because of the heavy raining but still you can see the locals and tourists walking on the beach. It seems they prefer to d it at noon to avoid the high tide in the afternoon On their part, the boys and girls from the village are enjoying their vacations; school year was over in November. Next year, in February they will return to their normal routine. I am sure in your country there is snow. But I am curious, how do you celebrate Christmas? Do you have vacations? I hope so! You tell me later. What de you think if I tell you the latest news from the

village? And I also want to tell you what your little sponsored friend does for the holidays. I hope my letter gets to your home before Christmas. What do you think? Here I go!

For Alex, Christmas is a very special season. Not only because school work is over a month ago but also because of the cool winds in winter time and all the preparations held at home. For example, he

and his SOS family have the tradition to decorate their home with a tree, a pretty Nativity scene and a beautiful Santa's boot on the front door; all the families had a lot of fun with the Christmas Doors Contest! Also, the whole family enjoyed wearing new clothes, listening to music to dance and cooking together delicious rice with chicken and rice with vegetables and baked chicken. Mmm so tasty! And meanwhile he waits to give his family a big Christmas Eve hug, he loves spending beautiful moments; 'My favorite moment was having fun with my family and lighting firecrackers with my friends' Alex commented with a smile. I am sure this Christmas is going to be even better than the previous one!



Belen practices in front of the sea... She is a grea athlete!



## #DigitalVillage

I am sure you know the hashtag. It is very common to see it when you use Facebook or Twitter most to set a trend about something important. Just like the things I want to share with you. Important things! Thanks to sponsors like YOU and the generosity of your support, this year, the boys, girls and adolescents at the village finally have stopped attending internet cafés to become members of a #DigitalVillage. Hooray! Now each family has a next-generation laptop with connection to internet. Besides, they also have a multifunctional printer.

The children feel so happy!! The day their laptops arrived, the children and moms organized the schedules to use them in a blink of an eye! The children who attend school in the morning, use them in the afternoon while the ones who go in the afternoon, get up early to do their homework. Of course nobody forgets to help SOS mom with the house chores. "After finishing homework, they can play online or even listen to music." SOS mom Maria says. Before the families had the new laptops in thei houses, they received a series of workshops; safety of information, importance of technology, children's electronic rights and some other similar topics. The children and moms did not miss any ar now, remembering what they learned is part of the adventure.

## "I want to participate in the Olympic Games" Belen says.

Some of the children at the village, have been practicing sports for two years already and just as Belen, they dream on becoming one of the athletes who represent Honduras. She practices soccer and taekwondo. Her coach takes her and her siblings to the beach to train. There, they can develop more resistance... besides, it is a beautiful sight and later they can enjoy playing in the sea. The othe children who are not into sports, enjoy attending workshops like bakery and confectionery. Now each birthday celebration has a big delicious homemade cake. As you can read, the children are busy, especially now on their vacations: they spend a lot of time at the village's soccer field with their uniforms ready because they want to do better techniques and tricks.

Just like this year, the challenges for the next are many: The children need to continue attending to workshops and training. There are some repairing to do at the village too: painting the houses and buying some new fans to sleep better during the Caribbean summer. Even though it looks a lot to do, this does not make us sad because this year, we achieved many things. For example, boys and girls have their bedrooms in order with their new closets. SOS mom and some of the girls are not afraid to see a little mouse nibbling the cookies because the kitchen furniture is new and does not have slits. Additionally, the new lamps for the green areas are great for scoring goals in the evening.

Finally, on behalf of the boys and girls at the SOS Children's Village Tela, SOS mothers and us, who work side by their side: THANK YOU VERY MUCH! For your friendship and commitment in this 2017 THANKS for your generous support which allows second chances and makes dreams come true!

From here, from my Honduras, just from the middle of Central America I wish an incredible Christmas and a fabulous 2018 next to your family and friends. But before leaving you, here with my letter, you will find a small star for your Christmas tree, I hope you like it and make a wish!

Best greetings!

Yours sincerely.

Jackeline Soto

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