

A PRECIOSITA

La Preciosita means "the precious one" in Spanish

Background:

After completing an Extension trip to Puebla, Mexico, a number of educators took the initiative to explore the creation of a transportation assistance program for children in this migrant community.

Goal:

To financially assist this Mexican migrant community with transportation costs so their children can attend high school and avoid having to immigrate to the USA looking for employment.

Target: High school ready children (target number will be updated each year).

Note there were seven (7) children this year.

Costs:

\$1.80 US dollars per day (or \$9 per week per child) for a round trip (high school is about 30 to 40 minutes away from La Preciosita).

\$378 US dollars is the transportation cost for one child to attend high school for 42 weeks each year.

Note: Cost to provide for the 7 children was \$2, 646.00 for one year. \$7,938.00 for all three years of H.S. Generous donations from the OHCE Board were matched by an OHCE family and fees for one year have been donated for all seven children. Continued support will be needed for the remaining years.

Logistics & Accountability:

Money can be transferred via OSU to UPAEP University in Puebla. Our OSU-UPAEP liaison on campus is Alejandro Aizpuru. UPAEP will open an account dedicated to this project, then they (Octavio Gonzalez will oversee) would make the disbursement for transportation costs to La Preciosita (which is an incorporated entity in Mexico). The Preciosita leaders would be in charge of ensuring the funds are used for bus tickets only. Criteria for selecting the kids will be established based on grades and attendance.

Reporting

Each semester or each year, La Preciosita will report back to UPAEP and OSU on the number of children that successfully attended school because of this assistance. OSU-FCS will provide the information back to OHCE.

Questions:

A number of OHCE board members have been part of a discussion with Extension and UPAEP about this potential project. Feel free to ask questions to Dr. Atilas, Lani Vasconcellos, Debbie Mote, Sandy Pogue, Sue Rendel, Vina Spickler and Kay Lynn Johnson.