

Progreso Apoyo Program

2024 Update



6 Our First Years – A Look Back.

We are very excited to be starting our seventh year as a non-profit organization helping students in Progreso, Chicxulub, and Flamboyanes succeed in school. We now have enough history to be able to document the impact that we are having on the lives of our students and their families.

Since we began in 2019, we have enrolled a total of 110 students. We are pleased to report that so far, **82% of them are either still in school, have graduated from high school or are in college.** In fact, of the 24 students we originally enrolled in our first year, 2019, 70% of them are now attending their first year of college.

Our data show that only 18% of the parents of our students attended college. In fact, 57% of the parents of our students have not gone to school beyond the 9th grade – which means they never even graduated from high school.

Of the 24 students enrolled our first year, 70% are now in their first year of college.



Our Program works to help their children get an advanced education which means they will be prepared for better jobs and more income.

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Of the 110 students enrolled since 2019, 90 of them have completed or are continuing their education.

Students in secundaria (middle school)

27

40

Students in prepa (high school)

Prepa graduates

4

19

Students now in college



Our First 6 Years, continued from p1

Our students come from families with limited means. **More than half of them (54%) live in a single-parent household or with their grandparents or other guardians.** While most of the parents or guardians are working, the top four occupations are casual sales (meaning selling items from the home or in a small

tienda), construction/laborer, fishermen, or domestic labor (housecleaning). Their children have dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, teachers, system engineers and other professional occupations. By helping students succeed in school and be ready to attend college, Progreso Apoyo Program sponsors help break the cycle of poverty.



Our first group of students enrolled in 2019 have graduated from high school and most are attending college!



2024 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Higher Education Program Takes Flight



2024 was the year that we fully launched our new Higher Education Program (HEP) which helps our graduating high school students attend college. **Last year we had 21 students graduating high school, and we are so pleased that 17 of them (81%) are attending college** with the support of their existing sponsors or new sponsors who are providing financial contributions. Higher education is expensive here in Mexico so the financial support of our sponsors can really make a difference in the future success of a student.

In 2025, we will be looking for new sponsors to join our Higher Education Program and make the dream of college a reality for our students graduating from high school. Please download this document: <https://tinyurl.com/2025NewCollegeSponsor> to learn more about how you can help.

Another Successful Home Tour



In March, we held our 6th Annual Progreso Home Tour, where we raised \$106,126MX to support our Program and several special projects.

Among the most important uses of these funds is to help our students who need tutoring in math and science. We have found that even the brightest students are challenged by the math and science classes taught in the local schools and benefit from attending classes after school taught by a qualified local tutor.





2024 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

One-On-One, One by One, Conversations Build Language Skills

The Progreso English Academy keeps going strong, with a total of 20 teachers helping 22 students. Working either online or in person at the Progreso Library, volunteer teachers work with their students once or twice per week to help improve their English conversation skills. We also held another session of our popular COBAY Conversation Classes, where volunteer teachers go to the local Progreso high school for several weeks to facilitate small conversation groups.



Sponsors have the opportunity to meet their students if they wish.



More Sponsors Helping More Students

In the first half of 2024, we added 13 new sponsors and 16 new students to our Program. Combined with our returning sponsors and existing students, we currently have 77 sponsors supporting 86 students who are attending either middle school, high school, or college. Our students need to maintain a grade point average of

8.0 out of 10, and in the fall of 2024, **the average grade point average of our students attending middle school or high school was 9.1!**



Every year we recruit new sponsors between January and March. To learn how you can become a sponsor and change a life, see page 7 of this Program Update or visit our website at <https://progresoapoyoprogram.org/>



2024 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Adios y Hola!



In 2024, we said good bye to our long-time Program Assistant, Fabiola Fuentes Rodriguez, and welcomed our new Program Assistant, Linda Trujillo. After helping to successfully grow our program over the past five years, it was time for Fabi to turn her attention full-time to her restaurant EnchilArte. We will miss Fabi and all the ways that she contributed to our Program and wish her all the best in her new adventure.

Our new Program Assistant, Linda Trujillo, has been studying English with one of our volunteer English teachers for the past three years. Her language skills are very impressive and as a result, she is able to help us not only communicate with our students and their families, but also interact effectively with our sponsors. This is her first professional job, but she is very smart and a quick learner. We are very happy to have her join our Program.





WHAT'S UP FOR 2025?

We have an exciting year planned for Apoyo! Here is a calendar of up-coming events and activities for 2025. We hope our sponsors, volunteers, donors and others can join us for some of them.

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La Casa de la Cultura ✨
invites you to attend

BLACK & WHITE NIGHT

January 11, 2025 ~ 5 pm to 8 pm

You are invited to a very special evening of art, free wine and music! Hosted by local artists Carl Boudreaux, Rosy Peraza Rios, Kelly Roscoe, and Carp Carpenter, this is your chance to dress up a little - in black and white, of course! Each artist will be displaying their work and you'll be able to participate in a raffle to win a piece of art donated by each of the artists. Even if you don't win any art, raffle participants will receive a discount coupon good for discounts on food and drinks at several local restaurants. Best of all? **The proceeds of the raffle will benefit the Progreso Apoyo Program!** So please join us on Saturday, January 11 between 5 and 8 pm at the Casa de Cultura on the corner of Calle 80 y Calle 75.



Meet & Mingle

February 4: 5 - 7 pm

By popular demand, we have organized an informal event so that our sponsors, volunteers and donors have a chance to meet and mingle!

The event will be held upstairs at **Señor Crocs Restaurant on Calle 77 y 26 in Progreso**. You'll be able to purchase your favorite adult beverage and enjoy botanas generously donated by the restaurant. And if you're still hungry, you can join your new friends for dinner at the restaurant downstairs after the event.

Save the date!

7th ANNUAL PROGRESO Home Tour



MARCH 8: 9am to 1pm
Tickets go on sale Jan. 29





WHAT'S UP FOR 2025? *cont.*

Sponsor Recruitment

January through March

This year we'd like to add 10 new sponsors into our regular program and 5 new sponsors into our Higher Education Program.

Sponsors make a multi-year commitment to a student to help pay for the cost of going to school. If you would like to help change a life and sponsor a student attending middle school or college, please download one of the follow documents.

<https://tinyurl.com/2025NewMiddleSchoolSponsor>

<https://tinyurl.com/2025NewCollegeSponsor>

Sponsor Renewal

January through March



In mid-January, current sponsors should look for an email from Vice-President Dale Hunter-Aubichon with info on how to pay 2025 sponsorship fees.

This year, we are making it easy to pay in cash! **Visit us at the Wednesday Crocodiles Farmers and Artisan Market at Señor Crocs Restaurant between 9 am and 12 noon.** One of our volunteers will be happy to accept your sponsor payment. Sponsors will also be able to pay by PayPal or Mexican bank transfer.

COBAY Conversation Classes

February 11 through March 25

We will return to the local high school COBAY to host weekly small-group conversation classes. The curriculum is already prepared and **all we need now are a few more volunteers to help lead the groups.** Teacher training will be provided and it's OK if you have only a limited knowledge of Spanish. If you or someone you know is interested in helping a young person improve their English, please send a WhatsApp to 52-999-433-3851 or email us at info@progresoapoyo.org





Happy New Year!

As the renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead famously said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Our ever-growing Progreso Apoyo community is having a measurable, positive impact on the lives of almost 100 local families and their students. **Thank you everyone for all of your many contributions of money, time, creative ideas, and more; we could not do this without all of you!**

Looking forward to a productive 2025! The Progreso Apoyo Program Board of Directors,



Speranza Avram, President

Dale Hunter-Aubichon, VP/Secretary

Mary Elizabeth Walberg, Treasurer