



PROGRESO APOYO PROGRAM

2025 Year-end Report

2025 Year in Review

Just like the students that we support, our Program keeps growing and we ended 2025 with 85 sponsors providing scholarships to 96 students attending middle school, high school, and college.



This year we had 25 students graduate from high school and 22 of them are continuing their education by attending college. Here are some photos of this year’s graduating seniors.



We are particularly excited about the growth in our college program, because when our students graduate and become professionals, the income that they will receive from their work will benefit their entire family, and have the potential to impact on their community.

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New Leadership for a New Year

After serving as a Founding Director of the Progreso Apoyo Program AC since 2019, **Mary Elizabeth Walberg** has stepped down from the Board to pursue other interests. Over the seven years that she has supported our Program, she organized seven successful Progreso Home Tours, the event that provides the funding we need to operate the organization. Her commitment to the students in our Program has been unwavering and while we will certainly miss Mary as a Board Member, we know that she will continue to support the organization in many ways large and small.



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Annual Meet and Mingle Sponsor/Volunteer Event

January 29, 4 - 6 pm
La Antigua Restaurant,
Progreso

Our Program operates through the generosity of our Sponsors and the hard work of multiple volunteers who donate their time and talents in so many ways. Each year we like to say "Thank You" and enable our growing community of supporters to get to know each other better. All of our Sponsors, English teachers, and Home Tour volunteers are invited to this event!

This year's Meet and Mingle will take place at La Antigua Restaurant on the corner of Calle 60 y Calle 71. The restaurant will be providing light snacks. Beverages will be available for purchase.

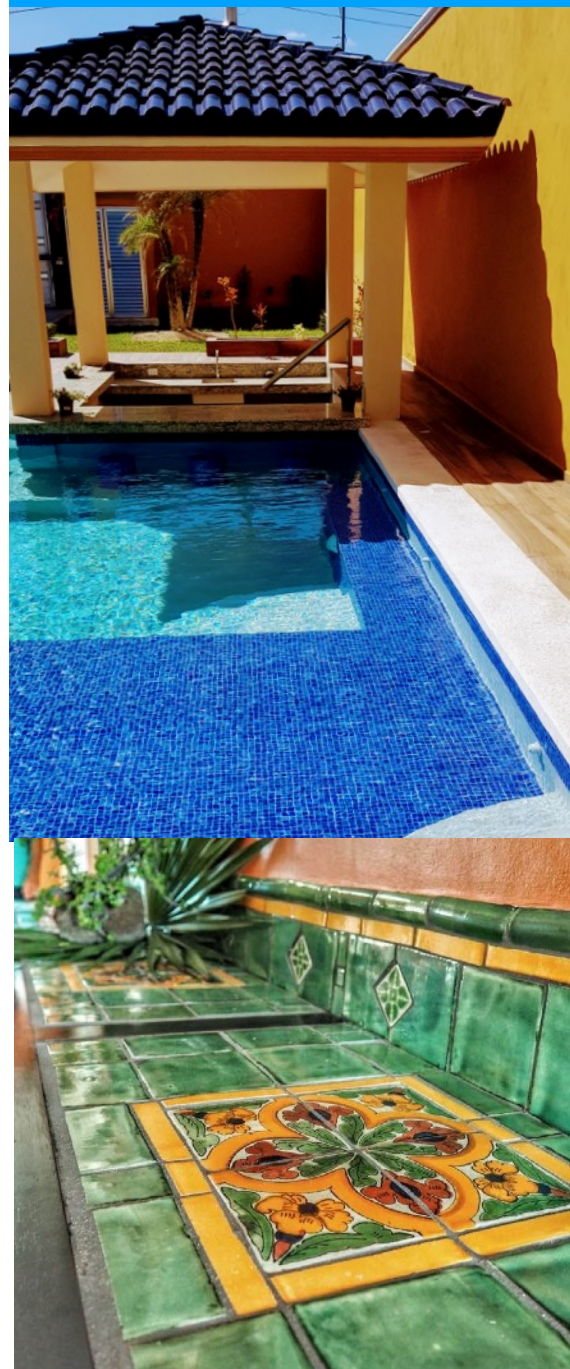
To be sure we have enough snacks for everyone, please click the link below to RSVP.

<https://tinyurl.com/Jan29ApoyoEvent>

Please RSVP by Jan 22



**2026 kicks off
with two special
events!**



**8th Annual
Progreso**

**Home
Tour**



**February 28, 9 am - 1 pm, Ginger's
Jungle Café, Calle 71 x C 46 y 44**

This year's Progreso Home Tour features six lovely homes all within several blocks of each other in east Progreso - so the taxi rides will be really short!

After touring the homes, return to our new Home Tour location at Ginger's Jungle Café for the raffle and online auction. This year, we'll also have a 50/50 raffle. Lunch will be available for purchase at the café so you can enjoy some time with your friends after the Tour.

Since 100% of sponsor donations are used to support our students, the annual Progreso Home Tour is how we raise money to operate the organization and pay for special programs like tutoring.

Tickets are just \$300 and available at:

- Barlovento Restaurant, Calle 80
- Mondays at Natural Thangs Market, Chuburna. See Romi the veggie lady.
- Wednesdays at Crocodiles Farmers Market, Progreso. Visit the Progreso Apoyo Table.
- Fridays at the Jungle Jam & Mercado, Progreso. Look for Kimberly Futchter who sells lovely jewelry.
- On-line at <https://tinyurl.com/2026ProgresoHomeTourTickets> (fees apply for online purchases)

New Leadership for a New Year Continued from page 1



We are very pleased to announce the appointment of three new members of the Board of Directors who bring a variety of skills and talents to the organization:

Long-time sponsor **Debbie Ritchie** has been involved with the Progreso Apoyo Program since 2019 when she was a volunteer with our first English program at Carlos Marx Middle School. Starting in 2021, she helped organize the Virtual English Program which is now part of the **Progreso Apoyo English Academy**. Debbie serves as the Director of the English Academy. Debbie and her husband Vic are long-time Progreso snowbirds from Canada.

Beatriz Vallejo Parker is a relatively new full-time resident of Progreso. She was born in the US, but raised in Mexico so she is bilingual, bicultural, and a real asset to our organization! She has served as our **Director of Academic Programs** since 2024, where she helps monitor our students' performance in school and coordinates our tutoring program. Beatriz also serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Finally, we are excited to have new Progreso resident **Jana Erickson** join our Board as **Director of Communications**. Jana has worked as a creative director and graphic designer in the US for many years and we are thrilled about all the ways that she is updating our image. She and her husband Andy moved to Progreso in mid-2024 as full-time residents.

Debbie, Beatriz and Jana join Vice-President Dale Hunter-Aubichon and President Speranza Avram to make up the new five-member Board of Directors of the Progreso Apoyo Program. With this talented group of individuals, stay tuned for a fabulous year!

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Because of the support that our college students have received from their sponsors over many years, they recognize the importance of giving back to the community.

Here's an excerpt from a letter from one of our college students whose generous sponsors are paying 50% of the cost of medical school so this young man can become a doctor:

Since I was a child, I grew up in an environment marked by illness, as my mother suffers from diabetes and is allergic to certain medications, which causes her to recover more slowly. This situation left a profound mark on me, as for years I didn't know how to help her beyond watching helplessly. Today, achieving my academic dream of going to medical school is also a personal promise: to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to help her and other patients facing similar situations.





College Program Receives Generous Donation

Long-time residents of our community know **Kitty Morgan**, the founder of the original Progreso Apoyo Program, who single-handedly helped more than 200 local students graduate high school and in most cases, complete college as well.

After retiring from the Progreso Apoyo Program in 2019, Kitty continued her work with local students through a program called CAPP: Career Advancement Program of Progreso. Through the CAPP, she made sure that the students who were in her original program were able to finish their college studies.

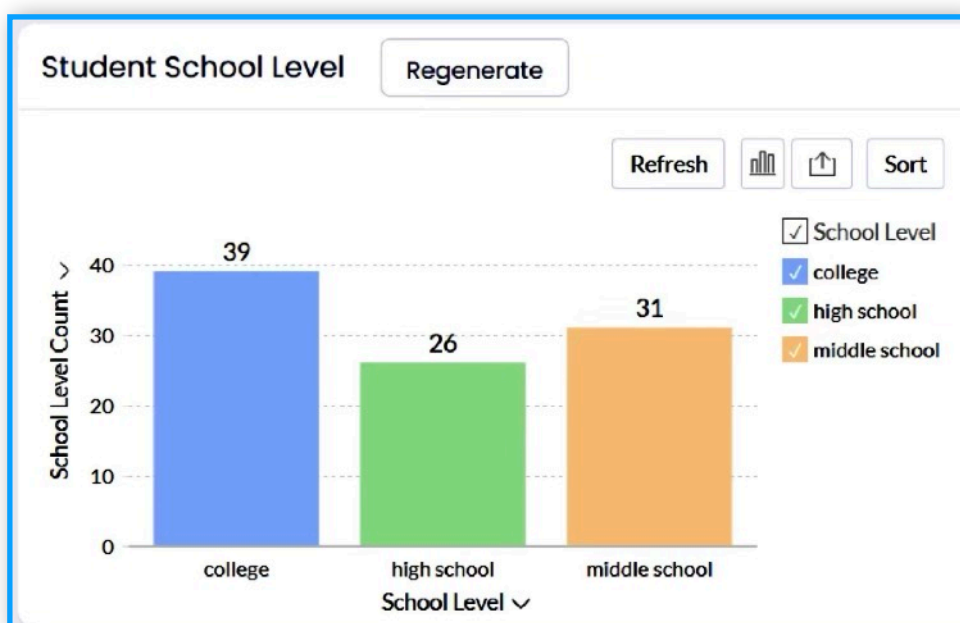
In 2025, CAPP had met its goal but also had some remaining funds that were not earmarked for its students. Therefore, CAPP provided a very generous donation to the current Progreso Apoyo Program to enable us to help six of our college students with their educational expenses for the next four years.

The Progreso Apoyo Program is proud to continue the work that Kitty pioneered more than 20 years ago and we are honored to receive the generous donation from CAPP that will be used to help some of our deserving students achieve their dreams.



Current PAP Vice-President Dale Hunter-Aubichon, PAP Founder Kitty Morgan, current PAP President Speranza Avram

Managing our Growth With New Data Tools



To help us manage our growth, we launched a new database program called PAPAS: Progreso Apoyo Program Administrative System. At left is an example of some of the information reports that this new system can generate.

Taking advantage of technology will position our Program to grow even more in 2026 and beyond.



Sponsor Renewal and New Sponsor Recruitment January – March

During the month of January, sponsors whose students are in middle school or high school will receive an email notification with information on how to renew their annual sponsor fees. Sponsors whose students are in college will receive an email asking them to confirm the amount of their contribution for their student's next year in college.

2026 Sponsor fees remain the same:

- \$3,100MXN to support a middle school student
- \$4,200MXN to support a high school student
- Minimum of \$5,000MXN to support a college student

The first quarter of the year is also when we recruit new sponsors for our Program. Our best source of new sponsors is our existing sponsors who spread the word about being part of our rewarding Program. If you know someone who is interested in helping a young person stay and succeed in school, please share this link with them: <https://tinyurl.com/2026NewSponsorLetter> or have them contact us at info@progresoapoyo.org or by WhatsApp: 999-433-3851.



Apoyo Sponsors: Would You Like To Meet Your Student?

This past year, several sponsors had the opportunity to meet their students in person and they found it a very rewarding experience. If you are in the area and would like to visit with your student, just send an email to admin@progresoapoyo.org or a WhatsApp to 999-433-3851 and let us know when you will be available. Our bilingual Program Assistant Linda Trujillo will coordinate a visit between you and your student, which usually takes place at the Progreso Public Library. Linda will also attend the meeting to provide introductions and help with translations. It's a great way to get connected with the young person whose life you are enriching through your support!



Progreso Apoyo Program Assistant Linda Trujillo, far right, helps coordinate sponsor/student meetings.