Thursday, December 17 2009

Dear friend of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation,

Please receive my best Christmas greetings, and those of my colleagues at the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, along with a report about the work, programs and events of the Foundation. We can only accomplish our mission of helping the children of the Elqui Valley if we can have your financial support to follow the legacy of Gabriela Mistral. I hope we can count on you. May I give you a brief overview of the activities of the Foundation this past year? In April, we went to Monte Grande where we delivered our first project which included: 500 books for the Children’s Library, a one year Internet connection and Musical Instruments for the Children’s Orchestra. This event was a great success, the children’s orchestra played “New York, New York” in honor of our Foundation, and the ceremony was covered by the National Television Network. Also in April, we co-sponsored an event at the Consulate of Chile in New York in celebration Gabriela Mistral’s 120th birthday—we had a special program that included musical performances and poetry reading in both Spanish and English. Cristián Campos, the Cultural Attaché of Chile in Washington DC was our special guest and reader.

In October, the Gabriela Mistral Foundation had the honor to be invited by VOCES, the Latino Employee network of The New York Times Company, to present a program and the exhibit “Textiles from the Land of Gabriela Mistral,” this event was held at the headquarters of The New York Times in New York City—the program included the launch of its new documentary “Gabriela Mistral: Her life, her legacy,” as well as musical performances, classical music and poetry reading. I invite you to view this documentary: http://www.vimeo.com/7603796

Our activities for the coming year include a program at the Embassy of Chile in Washington DC; a poetry reading evening at the Lotos Club; and a special event at the Consulate of Chile in New York to celebrate de dedication of the Sala Gabriela Mistral; and this year we will be participating in the Independence Day Celebrations in New York City.
Our projects for 2010 include: establishing an English Program for the children of the Elqui Valley; continued Internet service for the Library; funding of special select Library projects; funding the Telares project—which teaches the mothers of the Elqui Valley artistic textile techniques and acquire a trade that will benefit the whole family. May I interest you in supporting one or more of these projects? The following words by Gabriela Mistral inspire and move us to continue with our work; I hope that they will inspire you to support it as well:

“We are guilty of many errors and many faults but our worst crime is abandoning children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow.’ His name is ‘Today.’”

We are a young but ambitious foundation and it is only with your help that we can continue to deliver projects and programs in Chile as well to award grants and scholarships to the children of Gabriela’s heart. We fully understand that the last year has been one of financial uncertainty for many people. Nevertheless I hope that in this season of giving, you will consider sending a donation to the Foundation. Your tax-deductible donation, whatever you can give, will be a tremendous boost to our modest budget and you will be helping a very worthy cause. For more information about our mission and our work, please visit our website at: www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org

Sincerely,

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