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Group raises funds to buy cows for Teosinte

(The following is part of a regular feature offering news and information about Arlington's Sister City programs.)

By Margaret Bruell
Special to The Advocate

The Arlington/El Salvador Sister City Committee is working toward several goals this fall. One is to raise money to buy cows for Arlington's Sister City, Teosinte.

Children in Teosinte rarely have the opportunity to drink fresh milk. However, this unfortunate situation will soon be changing, thanks to the generosity of visitors to the Sister City booth on Town Day. Their purchases of Salvadoran crafts and their generous contributions put the "Cow Fund" over the top. There is now enough money to buy the first cow.

A second goal of the committee is to begin establishing ties between the children of Arlington and the children of Teosinte.

Students at the Dallin School will soon be corresponding with pen pals in Teosinte. The pen pal relationship is part of an exciting program of global education being developed by Dallin teachers Helen Budd and Lauren Jastremski.

Two summers ago, Budd attended a global education workshop at Tufts University. She was so impressed by the ideas presented, that she began to look for ways to implement them at Dallin.

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Her enthusiasm was contagious. First grade teacher Lauren Jastremski was eager to work with her. Together they applied for and received a Horace Mann Grant.

The two teachers began their project last summer. They worked many hours to plan activities that would help children learn about other countries.

One focus of their work will be the students' own ethnic backgrounds. A second series of activities will introduce Arlington's two sister cities.

Besides writing letters to children in Tesointe, Dallin students will be collecting and sending practical holiday gifts, such as pencils and other school supplies, and clothing. The teachers also hope to obtain a cassette player and blank tapes, so that the Salvadoran children can record messages for the pen pals in Arlington.

Adults who would like to learn more about life in repopulated villages like Teosinte are invited to a talk by Julio Tobar. He is a member of the community council of San Jose Las Flores, Cambridge's Sister City. He will be speaking at the Unitarian Church on Concord Avenue in Belmont Center at 7:30, on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Arlington's neighboring towns are in the process of establishing sister city relationships with villages in El Salvador. Tobar's talk is co-sponsored by the newly formed Belmont Sister City Committee. Watertown is also looking into becoming a Sister City.

(Margaret Bruell is a resident of Arlington).