



Noticias from Santa María

A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation

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A Message From Fr. Cliff Norman— Founder & Director Of the Mission

We provide a home for normal children and for problematic ones. Ninety percent of the difficult cases arrive after Christmas. The majority of them are very aggressive and violent. Just the other day, a 17-year-old girl came by force, and an hour later, she broke down the door and ran away. Drug addicts are the most difficult. We do our best with each child. The good Lord touches most of them. The conversions are incredibly beautiful and joyful.

Every year for the past 27 years, we have planted beans and corn. This year, we decided to plant alfalfa and start raising animals to supply our six homes with good meat. At present, we own an expectant cow and eleven pigs. We plan to buy rabbits, lambs, and calves. We will continue to grow some of our vegetables.



Fr. Cliff poses with volunteers of the November Mission Trip.

Mission Trip News

In November, we made a mission trip to Santa María. Eight individuals were determined to make life more comfortable for children and elderly that they had never met. In one week, the men repaired 35 commodes, installed privacy curtains in the restrooms, repaired 12 sinks, fixed several electrical problems, and replaced several broken windows in the dormitories so that the children would not be cold at night. The women sewed over 100 bath towels and 50 bed sheets and pillowcases. Dr. Olivares examined the elderly and many of the children, and took care of minor problems. The smiles from the children and elderly and their cheers of appreciation made the work seem light.

A message from Rick Jones - Director of the Foundation

It is hard to believe that a year ago, our Board of Directors met to start the Santa María Foundation. We received our 501(c)3 tax-deductible status from the IRS during the summer and started our fundraising and recruiting of volunteers in September. We have had many challenges, but with God's help, we have persevered and we are growing each day. A volunteer, Mark Osman, built our website, another, Sophia Reynoso, published our brochures, and a third volunteer, Joe Conger, produced a short video for us. Many volunteers have helped to spread the word about the Foundation and the Mission, and the needs of the children and elderly. Donors have been generous and we have been able to make a difference at the mission. Groups like the Knights of Columbus, youth groups, and religious education classes have been instrumental in helping raise money for Santa María. If you would like to spread the word about helping these needy children and elderly, please call or email us.

Video Now Available

Many thanks to Joe Conger, news reporter with KENS-5, and his cameraman, Jason Walker, who voluntarily produced a nice 5-minute video of the Foundation and the Mission from home video taken at the mission over the past year. If you would like to get a copy to show to your Church, your friends or family, give us a call or email us.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIP



June 28-July 6



You are invited to be a part of this group for a week of sewing, plumbing, roof repair, painting, and computer maintenance. We will also be celebrating the graduation of the 6th and 9th grade with the children.

If you would like to join us on the trip, download a flyer from our website or call us to receive a flyer in the mail.

Stories from Santa Maria



Knights prepare and serve food at the Fish Fry fundraiser.

Luis' Story (one of the children at Santa Maria)

Translated from Spanish

"My name is Luis. I am 7 years old and have been at Santa Maria for two years. I am the son of a single mother. I don't love her because she always beat me and told me that it was my fault that my brother died. I am mad because that is not true. She does not want us with her and rarely comes to visit us. Thank God for Santa Maria which gives us all we need. When I grow up, I am going to be a fireman. I want my little brother, Adrian, who lives here at Santa Maria to live with me so that I can take care of him and not let my mother beat him."

Juana's Story (one of the elderly at Santa Maria)

Juana is a 71-year-old woman who never married but has one son who lives in the United States. She has not seen him for many years, since he left the country. She was alone and unable to take care of herself because of health problems. She was admitted into the Asilo (nursing home) about eight years ago and no one ever visited until a year ago, when one of her sisters came to see her. She wants to stay at Santa Maria until she dies. She receives good care and the medical attention that she needs. She has received free care for all these years since she is totally destitute.

Planned Giving

Wills are a very important part of estate planning. Whether you have a large estate or a modest estate, a will makes it much easier to distribute your possessions after your death.

A will presents an opportunity to give a gift that will keep on giving after your death. The Santa Maria Foundation can serve as the beneficiary for the Santa Maria Mission in Mexico. If you would like to leave a percentage or specific dollar amount to the Mission, you can add a codicile (addendum) to your present will or a line in your future will that states, "I bequeath the sum of (specify dollar or percentage amount) of my estate to the Santa Maria Foundation, 3355 Coral Grove, San Antonio, Texas 78247."

If you have any questions or would like to name the Santa Maria Foundation as your beneficiary, please contact Rick Jones, Executive Director of the Foundation.

If you don't have a will, create one as soon as possible for the sake of your loved ones. The Santa Maria Foundation is not engaged in giving legal advice. Advice from legal counsel should be sought when considering gifts.

THANK YOU! ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus of Council 786 at Holy Spirit Church who sponsored a Fish Fry to raise money for the Foundation during Lent.

Many thanks to the youth and children of St. Anthony of Padua Church who collected money for the Foundation through "Souper" Bowl and their Lenten project.

Thank you to Jason Seibert, who has been collecting new undergarments for the children at the mission for his Boy Scout Eagle project. Through coordination with Customs, the clothing will be delivered on our mission trip.

Special thanks to our Board of Directors and several other volunteers who spent a full weekend in May creating a Strategic Plan for the Foundation, so that we have a road map for the next few years. This Strategic Plan will help us in applying for grants to help in our work at the mission.

Santa Maria Mission Support

Many thanks to our donors of the past several months. In November, we sent \$5,000 to the Mission to help provide meals for 100 children for a month. In March, we sent \$10,000 to the mission to help remodel the secondary school. The building is over 150 years old. The roof and the walls were falling and crumbling. There are still many needs at the mission, but together, we can all make a difference! **Please continue to share the gifts that God has bestowed on you and make a difference in the future for these needy children and elderly.**

MISSIONARIES WANTED!

We are in process of receiving applications for prospective missionaries to serve for a year at Santa Maria. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, visit our website or give us a call at to learn about the opportunities and requirements to be a missionary.