



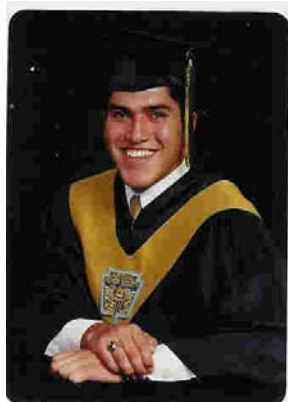
# *Noticias from Santa María*

*A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation*

*Vol. 2 Issues 1&2 www.santamariafoundation.org Summer 2004*



¡Felicidades!



## **Ulises Beats the Odds**

Like many of the children who come to the Santa Maria mission, Ulises is a young man who seems to have had all the odds stacked against him. With the love and support he has received through Santa Maria's friends and volunteers, however, he has been able to overcome those odds and is now looking forward to a bright future. In fact, he recently graduated from Holy Cross High School in San Antonio and is preparing to enter college at the University of Texas at San Antonio – and he is doing so with a great appreciation for the life that Santa Maria has given him.

Ulises never knew a father figure in his life, and at the age of 8, he also lost connection with his mother when she abandoned him at Santa Maria. A real turning point in Ulises' life occurred in 2001, when he was offered an opportunity to come to the United States to continue his high school studies by Leonard Villaseñor, a missionary from San Antonio. In three short years, Ulises learned English and graduated from high school with Honors.

Of course, he also is looking forward to his future with hopeful anticipation. Who would have guessed that a young boy, abandoned at the age of 8 and left at a remote mission in Central Mexico would today be entering college in the United States to study for his career of choice? Only his Creator, who showed Ulises His loving care through the hearts and hands of people affiliated with Santa Maria mission.

*For a more detailed and touching story on Ulises, visit [www.santamariafoundation.org/downloads/ulises.htm](http://www.santamariafoundation.org/downloads/ulises.htm)*

## **Message from Father Cliff**

### *Fruits with No Exceptions*

A valuable and worthy thought that the Lord Jesus directed to each and every one of us is: "...by their 'fruits', you shall know them." The key word in this statement is fruits, referring to works; namely goodness, generosity, and love extended to our family, friends, and those also who are not as friendly. There are no exceptions to this. The Good Lord is in desperate need today of 'fearless disciples.' As we here in Santa Maria pray for you, please pray for all of us. God bless you! Fr. Cliff, Mission Director.

## **Message from Rick Jones**

### *From Mission Trip to Missionaries...*

We are in an exciting transition as we return from a weeklong mission trip. We built ping pong tables for the children, made pillowcases and sheets, provided an irrigation system for part of the farming area, painted the girls' home, and several other projects. At the end of the trip, we brought back our missionaries that have been at Santa Maria for a year. Thomas, Colleen, and Sarah have been wonderful for the children that they have served. God has blessed us dearly with their service and they will be dearly missed. At the same time, we are preparing to receive two new missionaries: Eric Ahern from Arizona and Jason Saucier from Mississippi. Everyone is excited about the gifts that they will offer when they arrive in August. Watch for an update on them in our Fall newsletter. God bless you for your continued support of our work with God's needy children and elderly. Rick Jones, Foundation Director.

## **Experiencing**

### **A Night in Old Queretaro**

The Foundation is hosting its first annual special evening called, "A Night in Old Queretaro" on November 12, 2004. It will be a fun evening devoted to learning about the mission, presentations of Mexican dancing and singing, an auction of items from Queretaro, and having fun with friends of Santa Maria. Watch for your invitation in the mail this fall.



Knights of Columbus Council 786 members serve fish at their Annual Fish Fry to support Santa Maria.

## Stories from Santa Maria

### *Coping with Alzheimer's*

Rosa Hernandez is a 68-year-old resident at Santa Maria. She has Alzheimer's and has great difficulty caring for herself. She is cared for at Santa Maria under the watchful eyes of our caregivers. Without the mission, she would be left to wander the streets and try to survive by herself.



### *Genaro needs your help!*

This past year, 14-year-old Genaro Guerrero came to Santa Maria. His father is an alcoholic and his mother can no longer take care of him because she is ill. Genaro has been a model student this year at Santa Maria. He hopes to become a priest some day. He is missing several of his teeth and is in desperate need of a bridge. This dental work is estimated to cost \$1500. Genaro is thinking about dropping out of school so that he can pay for the dental bridge. We are asking for your help, so that together, we can provide the dental work and Genaro can continue with his schooling at Santa Maria. To make a donation, notate "Genaro" in the memo section of your check.

### **Muchas Gracias a:**

- Colleen Conway, Sarah Kolacz, and Thomas Clouqueur for their year of service as missionaries at Santa Maria.
- Charlie and Tracey Whelan who requested donations to the Santa Maria Foundation in lieu of gifts for the baptism of their son, Nicholas Robert Emmett Whelan. Congratulations to them in welcoming Nicholas into the Catholic Community.
- The students at Holy Spirit School, St. Pius X School, and St. Anthony of Padua Religious Education for raising money this Spring for the children and elderly at Santa Maria.
- Knights of Columbus Council 786 who sponsored a Lenten Fish Fry to help the mission.
- Mark Runge of San Antonio Xerographics Systems who donated the printing of our color brochures and this newsletter.
- Texas Star Envelope for donating our donor envelopes that are used in our presentations to organizations.

These donations have allowed us to improve the quality of the homes, provide much-needed medications, provide an irrigation system as part of the farming at the mission, provide bedding for the children, support our missionaries and increase the computer learning opportunities at the schools.

**THANK YOU**

### **What's in a Newsletter?**

What would you like to see in this newsletter? Our newsletter is to inform you, the donor, about our work with the Santa Maria Mission. Please let us know what you would like to see in our future letters.

### **Volunteers Join Foundation Board**

Bienvenidos (Welcome) to our new Board members, Patricia Stout and Fernando Toca, who joined in June. Patricia comes with a history of helping nonprofits and Fernando founded the Mexican nonprofit, Dibujando Un Mañana, a charity that helps needy throughout Mexico.

### **To Trust or not to Trust?**

A Charitable Remainder Trust is a contribution of cash, securities, or real property made to an irrevocable trust. The trust pays you an income for life. When the trust terminates, the assets are distributed to your charity of choice. When the trust is initially created, you will obtain a current income tax deduction for the value of the charity's interest in the trust, even though the charity has to wait to receive the donation. The Santa Maria Foundation is a tax-exempt charity under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS code.

The Santa Maria Foundation is not engaged in giving legal/tax advice. Advice from legal/tax counsel should be sought when considering gifts.

### **Helping a Missionary?**

We have two new missionaries starting in August and are considering recruiting for a January to December commitment. These volunteers leave their families and friends to commit a year of their lives at Santa Maria to serve the children and elderly at the mission. They come to us with an open heart in answer to God's call to serve others. We are looking for sponsors to help them fulfill their commitment. If you would like to help sponsor a missionary, give us a call or write "Missionary" on your donation.