



# Noticias from Santa María

A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation

Vol. 3 Issue I

[www.santamariafoundation.org](http://www.santamariafoundation.org)

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*Marín proudly poses next to his degree in Industrial Maintenance. Santa María aided him in earning his college degree.*

## Marín Advances through Santa María

Marín Montoya Balderas was born the second of 10 brothers and sisters in 1983. He showed a keen ability to study in secondary school. Unfortunately, due to his family's poverty, they could not afford to pay his required tuition for high school. Instead of quitting school like most boys his age in Mexico, Marín came to Santa María.

After serving as a caregiver for the younger boys at Santa María for a year, the mission paid his tuition and provided him with room and board to attend high school. He graduated from high school with honors and decided to attend the university to get a degree so that he could help support his family.

Santa María provided lodging in Querétaro and paid his tuition to attend the University of Technology in Querétaro. Each evening, he studied until 1AM to keep up with his job and his studies. What started as a class of 30 students, reduced to 15 graduates because half of the class could not keep up with the rigorous schedule of working and studies. Marín received his Associate's Degree in Industrial Maintenance with a 3.4 GPA this winter. This degree allows him to be a supervisor of machinists in a factory.

At 21, he is working in medical equipment maintenance and saving money to attend the University of Technology in Celaya to complete his Master's Degree as an engineer. This degree would put him in the top 10% of educated workers in Mexico.

Marín's goal is to get his engineering degree and find a job that would allow him to make significant donations to make a difference for the future residents of Santa María who are victims of abuse and neglect, as well as help support his family.

When asked what the Santa María Mission has meant to him, he responds, "Santa María gave me a Christian formation to guide me into a strong relationship with God. It gave me a foundation to make a productive life and help others that are less fortunate than me."

*For a more detailed story on Marín, visit [www.santamariafoundation.org/stories/marin.html](http://www.santamariafoundation.org/stories/marin.html)*

## Missionaries Wanted

We are accepting applications for committed volunteers wanting to serve for a year at Santa María. The commitment is from August 1 through July 31. If you or anyone you know would be interested, give us a call or visit our website.

## Mission Trip in June

For those interested in a short-term mission experience, we have a trip planned for June 25 – July 3. On the trip, we complete several projects at the mission as well as enjoy a traditional Mexican celebration as the children transition to the next level in their education. Come experience an opportunity to receive more than you give! For more information, give us a call or visit our website.

## Festival at Holy Spirit Church

Holy Spirit Church in San Antonio is holding their annual festival on May 15. Colleen Tschoepe, the chairperson of the festival, has invited the Foundation to participate. We will be selling cotton candy, snow cones and slush puppies at our booth. Flavia Valle, our booth coordinator, is looking for volunteers for two-hour shifts from 2-6pm. If you would like to help, please call her at (210)493-4654

## Bishop Tom Recuperates

As many of you know, Bishop Tom Flanagan is a member of our Board of Directors. He underwent knee replacement surgery last month and is recuperating slowly. Please keep him in your prayers as he recuperates from this painful surgery and prepares to have his other knee replaced.

## Changing of the Guard

Two of the founding directors on our board have completed their tenure of three years. Muchísimas gracias to Jorge Valle (president) and Tom Strickler (treasurer) who volunteered countless hours to Santa María. Without their help, we could not have started the Foundation.

Bienvenidos (Welcome) to our newest directors who started last month. Tim Banowsky, Gerry Grace, and Dr. Lisa Landry have volunteered to become directors on the board. We are confident that their talents will help the Foundation long into the future.

Our new officers of the Board are Mark Runge-President, Dr. Landry-Secretary, and Tim Banowsky-Treasurer.



*Knights of Columbus Council 786 members prepare plates for their Annual Fish Fry to support Santa Maria.*

## Planning for the Future

A special planning meeting will be held in San Antonio on the weekend of May 20-22, to plan for the future of Santa Maria. Participants include Querétaro Rotary Club members, members of Hope for the Children, directors of the mission's board, Fr. Mike Sanchez (associate director of the mission), and directors of our board. Please pray for these special volunteers as they strategize for the mission's future.

### Muchas Gracias to:

- Knights of Columbus Council 786 who held their annual Lenten Fish Fry to support Santa Maria. They donated \$5000 from the profits of the dinners.
- S.A. Xerographics Systems for printing our newsletter and the enclosed pictures of the children.



## Life Insurance as a Gift?

Using life insurance as a charitable gift offers several opportunities. It can be done as simply as adding the charity as a full or partial beneficiary of the policy. Another option is to gift the policy to the charity and receive a current income tax deduction. Life insurance provides a major gift to a charity with no extra "out-of-pocket" costs. Either of these options could also result in lower estate taxes for the donor.

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

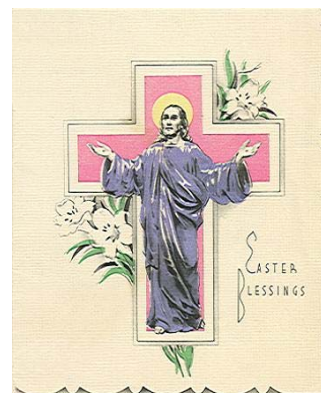
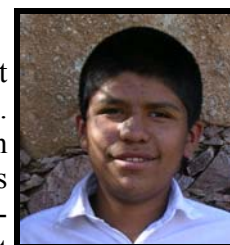
## Stories from Santa Maria

### *Inez*

Inez is one of our elderly residents who once was part of a singing group that appeared on television. As she aged, she started to lose her memory. Since she never married, she had no children and her family refused to care for her. Inez habitually walks off for no reason. She was accepted at Santa Maria for fear that she would walk away from her family, get lost, and they would not search for her. She is very happy at Santa Maria. The one thing that she has not forgotten is the gift of singing, and she leads the other seniors in singing thanks to God for His many blessings to them, especially Santa Maria.

### *Mario Trejo*

Mario is a 14 year-old student at Santa Maria who is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He is the youngest of six children with his next oldest sibling 14 years older. At the young age of 8, his parents were neglecting him to the point that he was spending time with a bad group of teens. By age 10, he was spending most of his time on the streets robbing stores to eat and stealing money from people to buy alcohol and cigarettes. His parents took him to the Mexican Department of Human Services and they sent them to Santa Maria. At Santa Maria, he is learning to live a normal life: attending school again, doing chores, and learning respect for others. He is very thankful for his new home where adults care. He is especially thankful to his principal at Santa Maria who spends time with him after school so that he can catch up on his lost years of study. With the formation that he is receiving at Santa Maria, he hopes to be a veterinarian some day.



*The children, elderly, and staff of Santa Maria pray that you have a happy and blessed Easter Season as we celebrate His resurrection!*