



Noticias from Santa María

A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation

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A Home for the Homeless

Santa María continues to receive children whom the Mexican Department of Human Services cannot or will not help as well as elderly that other nursing homes do not want. Truly “discarded” members of society!



Carmen

Carmen is a 7-year-old girl who arrived at Santa María this year. She is the oldest of four siblings, three girls and a boy. Her father drank incessantly and often, when he was drunk, would take the girls to their room and beat them. He never beat his son because “he is a man.” Since he did not work, he even tried to sell one of her sisters to make

some money.

Carmen’s mother worked cleaning people’s homes to pay for the necessities of the family. Since she was hardly ever home, Carmen had to care for and prepare food for her younger brother and sisters. Can you imagine the stress on a 7-year-old to have to be the caretaker of her younger siblings?

Carmen is very appreciative for the love and care that she receives at Santa María. When asked if she would like to visit her parents, she responds by saying, “only to tell my Dad not to drink anymore.” Due to all the harm and stress caused by her parents, she says that she never wants to go home again and that Santa María is her new home! She also says that she is very thankful for the donors that help provide her with a caring place to live.

Consuelo

At 103 years old, Consuelo has lived a full life. Her son abandoned her and her husband a few years ago because he could not afford to care for them. Consuelo’s parishioners brought her and her husband to Santa María about a year ago. They were in very poor health due to malnutrition. Her husband died a month later at the age of 96. Consuelo is a cheerful woman who continues to move about with the help of a cane. She says that she has a full schedule “caring” for her husband, who in her mind, is still very much alive.



Muchas Gracias

- Eric Ahern, one of our missionaries over the past year, has been a great servant to the mission. He is committing to serving an additional year at Santa María. *Whoever sows bountifully also reaps bountifully.*
- San Antonio Xerographic Systems for printing our newsletter and notecards.
- Padgett, Stratemann & Co. for preparing our 2004 tax return.
- HEB for providing funding for food for our children.
- Holy Spirit Church parishioners for their generosity to our mission and for allowing us to have a booth at their festival.
- CVS Pharmacy at Thousand Oaks and Jones Maltsberger for donating hundreds of dollars of medications and bandages for our children and elderly.
- Academy Sports for donating gift cards to provide equipment for the mission.
- You, our generous donors. Through your generosity, we were able to provide thousands of dollars for food for our residents as well as upgrade the radio communication system at Santa María so that there is communication between all of the homes spread out over a 7-mile area.



“A Night in Old Querétaro” Gala

Mark your calendar for our gala coming up soon. It will be held November 19, at 6:00pm, at the Hilton Airport Hotel. This year’s gala will include a dance for the guests. Sonny Melendrez will be joining us again as the emcee for the evening. Don’t miss this fun and enjoyable evening!





Dallas Jesuit Prep students serve breakfast to the students at Santa Maria.

Helping Make a Difference

Eleven students and two teachers from Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas spent a week planting trees and flowers to help beautify the grounds to make the mission a brighter place for the children at Santa Maria. Fr. Mike requested the project to enhance the morale and spirituality of the residents. It was a week of fun as well as an awareness of the presence of God in others for the students. The sponsors at Jesuit Prep plan to continue supporting the needs of the mission through fundraising and service projects.

From the Mission Director

Fr. Cliff Norman (Padre Antonio)

Children continue to arrive in desperate need. Their parent(s) arrive, begging us to accept their "horrible, miserable and impossible" children who are totally disoriented. The truth is that these children are feeling unloved and unwanted, and consequently become disoriented. Many have experimented with drugs, alcohol, sex and the whole gamut of social vices. In most of our children's lives, the real problem has been the incompetent parent(s)! They bring their children to us to "reform" them. The task is not easy, but very rewarding; especially as we come to the end of our school year and celebrate the passing of our children to the next grade. Thank you for helping us to offer the love and care that our children yearn for.

From the Foundation Director

Rick Jones

Summer is a very busy time for the Foundation. After returning from the trip with the Jesuit students, I am in the midst of preparing a group of adults from Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas who are giving their vacation time to continue the beautification of Santa Maria, as well as make some needed items for the mission. We will also be bringing our current missionaries to San Antonio for a retreat. In August, we will have at least four additional missionaries joining Eric for the 2005-06 school year! God is truly blessing our work through these volunteers and your generosity. Thank you for continuing to help us serve these needy children and elderly of God!

A Gift that Keeps on 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 us.

If you don't have a will, please 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.



Jason poses with his second grade class.

A Missionary Reflects

Jason Saucier is completing his year as a missionary and will be returning to his home in Mississippi in July. When asked to reflect on his past year, he shares:

"Over the past year, I must say that the intangibles far outweigh the tangibles. I do not believe that I have necessarily done anything worthy of praise or acknowledgment. On the contrary, the kids have done more for me than I have done for them. They taught me patience, courage in the face of adversity, humility, laughter, preciousness of life, the little time that we are allotted to prove ourselves worthy of heaven, and the meaning of true selflessness. I look back over this past year and sometimes wonder why I was chosen by God for such an important work, when I have nothing to offer, and in fact, did not achieve my tasks to their fullness. I stand in awe of those around me for their strength and tireless service to these children of God. When I find myself tiring from my work here, I attribute it to my lack of faith and discipline in prayer. I did teach, but for a greater part of the time, I learned."

Jason has truly been a gift to Santa Maria. *Thank you our good and faithful servant.*