



Noticias from Santa María

A Newsletter from the Santa María Foundation

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Faces of Santa Maria



Yaret and her sister were brought to Santa Maria two years ago. Their parents had been divorced for three years and their father was trying to raise them alone. He had to work full time to support his children. After a year of trying to be a mother, father, and sole-supporter them, he realized that they were being neglected and

not receiving the care that young girls need. He decided to bring them to Santa Maria. Now, at Santa Maria, they have the love and care that they need to grow up in a healthy environment.



Josefina is an 86-year-old woman from Mexico City who suffers from mild retardation. She is from a large family but all her sisters and brothers are dead except for one brother who is unable to care for her. She never married and lived alone. When her brother found that she could no longer care for herself, he brought her to Santa Maria. She

has been at Santa Maria for about 10 years now and her brother seldom comes to visit her.

Seeking a Grant Writer

The Santa Maria Foundation completed three years of ministering to the needy children and elderly of Mexico in September. In completing this milestone, we have decided to start requesting grants to support our ministry. If you enjoy writing or are a grant writer, we would like to invite you to help us in this endeavor. Your talent will go far to help us request funds from private foundations and other organizations that we have found who fund our type of ministry. You can make a huge difference in the lives of those who cannot help themselves! Give us a call.

Reaching Out to More Children & Elderly

In October, the Board of Directors of the Foundation voted to expand our ministry to serve additional homes and programs in Mexico that care for destitute children and elderly. Over the next couple of months, we will be visiting homes in Mexico to determine which programs match our purpose. We will announce the names and location of the homes in our spring newsletter. Please pray for us as we undertake this much needed expansion of our ministry.

Experiencing A Night in Old Querétaro

It was a fun night of dinner and dance for those that gathered to support the Foundation at our 2005 Gala. From competing bids on the silent auction items to Sonny Melendrez prodding the egos in the live auction, it was quite entertaining. Bishop Tom Flanagan shared that "mission" is very much a part of our Church and that the Foundation was special in responding to that call. Guadalupe Olvera, past-president of the mission's board of directors, traveled up from Querétaro to thank our donors for their support of our work in Mexico and asked them to continue supporting this much needed ministry. Our missionary, Kristina Smith, shared a moving presentation of her experience at Santa Maria. She touched the hearts of everyone present and brought tears to many of our eyes. You can read her presentation online at www.santamariafoundation.org/stories/Kristina.mht.

Pictures from the Gala can be viewed at <http://vic.sahispano.com>. All proceeds support the Foundation.



Fish for Lent

Knights of Columbus Council 786 of Holy Spirit Church in San Antonio is sponsoring its annual Lenten Fish Fry starting on March 3. The proceeds support our ministry. We will be inviting our donors in the San Antonio area to purchase tickets and/or help with this tasty fundraiser. Join us for some great food as well supporting the needy children and elderly in our missions!

Many Thanks to our Gala Sponsors who helped to make it a success!

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- Planned Giving -

IRAs & Retirement Plans

IRAs and retirement plans are a great way to donate to a charity. By making the charity the beneficiary of your IRA or retirement plan, the money passes to the charity without income taxation as would be the case with an individual as the named beneficiary. Beneficiaries can be named as a percentage of the total amount of the IRA or retirement plan.

The Santa Maria Foundation can serve as the beneficiary for our missionary work to care for the impoverished children and elderly in Mexico. If you have questions or would like to name the Foundation as a beneficiary, please contact us.

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



*Merry Christmas
from the children, elderly and staff
of Santa María!
Without you, the loving work
of our missions would not be possible.*

Muchas Gracias to

- Our volunteers who helped with the Gala, especially our Steering Committee: Sylvia Villarreal, Mark Runge, Tim Banowsky, Ger Grace, and Dr. Lisa Landry.
- Video Professor for providing tutorial software to help our volunteers teach Windows XP and Microsoft Office, and Quicken and Photoshop to help us in our administration.
- Texas Star Envelope for donating our donor envelopes.
- Jack Ahern, father of our missionary Eric Ahern, for donating the prayer cards of Pope John Paul and Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Xerox agent, San Antonio Xerographic Systems, for printing our newsletter.

A Year in Review

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make many improvements to the Santa Maria Mission as well as provide yearlong volunteers to love and care for the children and elderly. Following are some of our accomplishments this year:

- Provide three economical vehicles for the mission
- Coordinate two mission trips to provide several projects including beautification of the homes, benches for the children who were sitting on the floor in their recreation room, sewing linens for the children's beds, and providing maintenance to the computer lab
- Set up a two-way antenna to improve the communication between the homes in the foothills and the homes in the town of Colón
- Provide a computer lab with 17 new computers as well as set up a lab at the girls' secondary school. These labs will help the children acquire the skills to get good paying jobs in Mexico
- Provide a scholarship to one of the students from Santa Maria to continue his college education
- Provide funding for food for the residents of Santa Maria and construction of lodging for teachers and volunteers
- Provide musical instruments for the music classes
- Provide five new sewing machines so that linens can be provided for the hundreds of residents
- Host a Strategic Planning Gathering in San Antonio to plan the future of Santa Maria with participants from Colorado and Mexico