



Noticias from *Mi Casa*

A Newsletter from the *Mi Casa Foundation*
(formerly *Santa María Foundation*)

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Faces of Lives You Touch

Andrés, Jesús, and Brenda were abandoned by their father five years ago. Their mother washes cars to make a living. Due to her financial situation, she soon realized that she could not care for her three children by herself. She brought the children to Hogar de Niños Mission in Saltillo. The children say that they are so thankful for the mission because they get to eat 3 meals a day instead of the 1-2 meals they were getting at home. They also live in a secure setting with the opportunity to attend school. Andrés, Jesús, Brenda, and their mother are so appreciative to you for giving them hope and a life with dignity.

Reflections of a New Missionary

It feels as if I have become a mother of 26 girls overnight. I have had to readjust my mindset while entering into this job. I realize these girls are here because something negative or tragic has happened to them; something uncontrollable by them. They don't come from a healthy or happy home, and maybe not even have a home at all. Each girl has a story written in her eyes. This story helps explain her personality and the reason why she makes particular choices. There is such a range of diversity here. Some girls will cling to you and beg for attention while others, who are just as needy for love, tend to shy away as if they don't know how to react. Zamanita was the first to arrive. She is such a ball of energy but extremely clingy and needy.

Working with neglected children is a difficult job. Working with neglected children in a foreign language is quite a challenge. My mom always told me when children are young they are physically exhausting and when they are older, mentally exhausting. I have a feeling I will be both by the end of my time here. I don't think I would like it if it was going to be any other way. Helping these girls will make all my time and effort here worthwhile but it won't be easy. (by Beth Helmbrecht)

Muchas Gracias to:

- Taco Cabana at 3003 Thousand Oaks for donating breakfast tacos for our two mission trips.
- Xerox agent, Century Business Equipment, for printing our newsletter.

Mission in Need of Repair

The Oasis del Niño/Casa Cuna Mission in Querétaro cares for children who have been abandoned, abused, neglected or orphaned. These children range from infants to 10-years-old. The home has been in existence for 62 years and is in desperate need of repairs. Most urgent are repairs to the roof. During a recent rainstorm, the house was inundated with 2-3 inches of water in all of the rooms. The leaks are also weakening the supports of the roof making it risky for all of the residents. Jonathan, our missionary, is working with an architect and an engineer to make sure that the repairs are done properly. The estimated cost is over \$15,000! If you would like to make a donation to help make these repairs, please write "Roof Repair" on the memo part of your check. If you would like to learn more about the mission, visit Jonathan's blog listed under his bio in this newsletter. God bless you for helping to make these children's home a safer place.

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

Accomplishments You Made Happen

Over the summer, the Foundation touched many lives of the children and the elderly in our missions. Thank you for making it possible to:

- Provide three months of food for the Hogar de Niños mission in Saltillo when they were having financial problems trying to make ends meet.
- Provide funds to help Otomi Indian children obtain an education to help end the cycle of poverty that has plagued their community for generations.
- Provide funds for books and learning materials for high school/college children at El Puente Mission in Querétaro who would not have hope for the future without the mission.
- Provide the help of our mission trips to build a mission in Jalpan for needy children as well as help the El Buen Pastor Mission in Saltillo to offer an appealing home for the children.
- Provide funds during financial difficulties for the San José Mission in Linares which offers chronic care for adults and elderly who have no one to care for them.



Pictured (l-r) Rene Carreño, Joe Avila, Daniel Jones, Teresa Campos, Beth Helmbrecht, Ramon Martinez, Marta Trinidad, Emily Boal, Julie Schlichting, Vince Montalvo, Geoff Groesbeck, Kathleen Brett, Leland Knox, Ed Larson, Rick Jones, Teresa Delgado, Betty Hernandez, Mary Pint, Robert Gundling, Pauline Garza, John Dieterle, Effie Williams, Mary Beals, Michael Cermack, Rhonda Dooley, and Jonathan Dooley.

Mission Not So Impossible II

On August 6, a group of 26 volunteers left for a week to help construct the Gotita de Amor Mission in Jalpan, Querétaro. The mission is being built to care for children whose families cannot care for them and they have nowhere else to go. The closest children's home is 3½ hours away through the mountains. This dedicated group wired the building for electricity, installed ceiling fans, light fixtures, and outlets, painted the kitchen, the two dormitories and bathrooms, and mounted curtain rods and curtains for the dormitories.

Our 2006-2007 Missionaries

Our volunteers provide the love and care that our children did not receive at home

Emily Boal

Emily is 22-years-old and is the younger of two sisters and comes to us from Cochran, PA. She graduated this spring from John Carroll University and feels that she "was born an activist." Her faith is a result of her home life and she feels that she was called to be a missionary since elementary school. Making a difference in social justice is a prayer and a service to God in her life. The Scripture passage from Mt 25:40 "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do for me" resonates in her soul. She serves at our Oasis del Niño Mission in Querétaro as a teacher and house parent. Emily will be sharing her experience at our Gala this year.



Jonathan Dooley

Jonathan is 23-years-old and has a twin sister. He graduated from Trinity University with a degree in Business and Spanish. His mother was influential in his desire to become a missionary. She would read Scripture to him at bedtime as a child and encouraged him to seek a job where he could serve Jesus. Jonathan is serving at our Oasis del Niño Mission in Querétaro in administration and as a house parent. You can read about his experiences as a missionary on his blog at <http://www.jonathaninmexico.blogspot.com>.



Beth Helmbrecht

Beth is 23-years-old and is the middle of five children. She graduated from the University of Tennessee this spring with a degree in Biology. Her interest in being a missionary was spurred at the age of eight by a family friend who is a priest. The desire to be a missionary never diminished and she is living out that desire at our El Buen Pastor Mission in Saltillo serving as a house parent. One of her favorite quotes is by Mother Theresa: "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put in the doing – that's compassion in action."



Kathleen Brett

Kathleen is 25-years-old and is the 8th of ten children. She has worked with children since graduating from St. Mary's University in 2004. Some of her older siblings served in South America, so she was drawn to missionary work at a young age. For her, the Scripture passage from Mk 12:31 "Love your neighbor as yourself" is not merely a helpful suggestion, but as Thomas Merton said, "the fundamental law of human existence." As a missionary, she hopes to learn more ways to serve God by serving others. Kathleen serves as a house parent at our El Buen Pastor Mission in Saltillo.



Prayer Partners Wanted

We would like to invite you to become a prayer partner with our missionaries in Mexico. We invite you to pray for our missionaries at the same time that they have their daily prayer together. Our missionaries in Saltillo pray at 9:30pm each evening while our missionaries in Querétaro pray at 8:00am each morning. Please pray for them as they cope with leaving their homes, family and friends to enter another culture and language to serve God's needy children.