



# Noticias from Mi Casa

A Newsletter from the Mi Casa Foundation  
(formerly Santa Maria Foundation)

Vol. 4 Issue 4

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

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## New Mission Opens

Through your generosity, September 23 marked the inauguration of the Gotita de Amor (Small Drop of Love) Mission, constructed with the help of our Foundation. Immediately, five orphans moved into the home. Ricardo-age 2 (upper left), Diana-age 4 (upper center), Juan-age 6 (upper right), Miguel-age 8 (lower left), and Karla-age 10 (lower right) are all siblings whose father abandoned them and whose mother died of AIDS in April at the young age of 26. Thanks to God, all of the children have tested negative for AIDS. Initially, the mother's sister cared for the children, but financial struggles soon made that impossible. Hope came through your support, which allowed Gotita de Amor to open its doors and offer them a loving home.

Through your kindness, Mi Casa helped the mission complete the building of the home. We also transported a donated refrigerator, washer and stove to the mission—quite a task considering the necessary 4-hour excursion through the mountains.



*Your gifts offer a hopeful future to these and so many other disadvantaged children in Mexico. God bless you for your generosity.*



## Welcome to our new Board Members

A special welcome to the newest members of our Board of Directors, Robert Gundling and Doug Harrison. They join our current board members: Mark Runge-President, Dr. Lisa Landry-Secretary, Tim Banowsky-Treasurer, Bishop Tom Flanagan, Dr. Gerard Grace, and Dr. Patricia Olivares.

## Lenten Fish Fry

Mark your calendar for the Fridays of Lent when Knights of Columbus Council #786 in San Antonio will host a Fish Fry to raise \$5000 for the Foundation. Watch your mail in February for your opportunity to have a great meal and help our needy children and elderly.

## A Missioner Shares Her Ministry

Emily Boal is one of our yearlong missionaries at the El Oasis del Niño Mission in Querétaro. Following is part of the moving testimony she shared at our Fall Gala:



I began my work in Mexico clueless. It was all a honeymoon. The children were cute and fun, and I was answering God's call. Quickly, though, the children didn't seem so cute, and God felt far away. I became convinced that these kids were never going to be professionals; they'd be lucky to be teenagers. Still, I kept working, looking for God in a situation he had seemingly forsaken. One day, I found Him in the most peculiar place, the homework room. Every Monday through Thursday, I assist the elementary-aged boys with their tarea (homework). On this particular day, I was upset because their teacher assigned three of the boys who had been abandoned an activity describing their family. It didn't seem fair to me. It was so insensitive. I sat there in the classroom, not even knowing how to begin the assignment.

I was relieved when one of the workers interrupted. "Talk about your family," she began. "I'm your family. Aldo is your family. Madre Salustia is your family. Emily is your family. Describe us."

In that moment, I realized it doesn't matter what work I do for these children. They don't care that my energy can't match theirs, that my Spanish is lacking and that my patience wears thin. I love them. I am part of their family. Through the El Oasis del Niño mission and the Mi Casa Foundation, we are constructing something bigger than ourselves. We are building God's family. These children often feel that they are alone in the world. They have never known what it is like to have a home and to have love. They have been abandoned, left behind, forgotten. Their reaction to the feelings of this situation is destruction. But our work, our love, heals them. Love is a weapon more powerful than any vulgar act or harmful deed.

These abandoned children have not been forgotten by God. They are not so much transformed by their bitterness and anger that God cannot heal them. At times when I want to cry myself to sleep, I hear that still small voice asking me, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Mark 10:14)

*Emily's complete presentation can be found at: [www.micasafoundation.org/stories/emily.html](http://www.micasafoundation.org/stories/emily.html)*

**Special thanks to Century Business Equipment-Xerox Dealer for printing our newsletter and programs for our Gala.**



## A Year in Review

Due to your generosity, the Mi Casa Foundation has been able to provide help to numerous missions in Mexico. Following are some of our accomplishments this past year (some of which we shared with you in our fall newsletter):

- Provided yearlong missionaries who offer the love and care that the children were not able to receive at home.
- Provided office equipment so that the Hogar de Niños in Saltillo can solicit donations from local businesses and individuals.
- Provided furniture to El Buen Pastor so that the girls can store their belongings next to their beds.
- Provided window coverings to Hogar de Niños so that drugs and other contraband would not be passed to the children.
- Provided food for the Hogar de Niños.
- Provided help for the Otomi Indian primary school children with their homework in San Idelfonso because their parents are not educated enough to help them.
- Provided learning materials for El Puente de Esperanza in Querétaro to help the older youth be part of the 14% of children in Mexico who complete a high school education.
- Provided support for our mission trips that helped complete the building of Gotita de Amor in Jalpan and beautify El Buen Pastor in Saltillo.
- Provided support for Casa San José in Linares, which offers chronic care for elderly.

### 2007 Mission Trip Dates

Mark your calendar for our mission trips on June 9-16 to a home that cares for young boys in Saltillo and on August 4-12 to a home that cares for young girls in Chihuahua. Both trips are open to any adult with the desire to help. No Spanish is required. Youth may attend with their parent(s). Come and experience the missions you support. More information is available on our website.

### New Passport Requirements

As you may be aware, there are new passport requirements. Effective January 23, travelers from Mexico and other areas wanting to enter or re-enter the United States by air will be required to have a passport. On January 1, 2008, this requirement will be extended to all land or sea travel. **All volunteers wanting to participate in our mission trips will be required to have a passport for our mission trips starting in 2008.** For more information, call the Passport Information Center at (877) 487-2778 or visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).



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

## 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 Mi Casa Foundation can serve as a beneficiary of your will. If you would like to leave a percentage or specific dollar amount to the Foundation, you can add a codicil (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 Mi Casa Foundation, 3355 Coral Grove, San Antonio, TX 78247." If you have any questions or would like to name the Mi Casa Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, 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 Mi Casa Foundation is not engaged in giving legal advice. Advice from legal counsel should be sought when considering gifts.*

## Many Thanks to our Gala Corporate Sponsors

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