



Noticias from Mi Casa

A Newsletter from the Mi Casa Foundation

Helping others help themselves

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Abandoned and Scared

Seven-year-old Emilio is an intelligent young boy with a lot of imagination. Through no fault of his own, his father was abusive and would beat him and his mother until she finally decided to escape with Emilio from him. She then left Emilio with his grandmother and fled the country. Due to her age, his grandmother soon realized that she could not care for a young boy and brought him to Casa Hogar de Los Pequeños Mission in Saltillo. Due to the

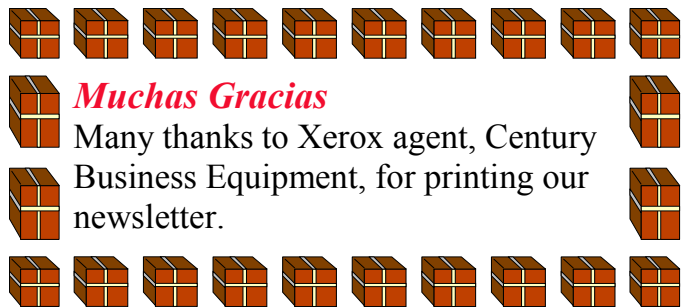


abuse and abandonment in his young life, Emilio had difficulty coping with his new home and the staff who tried to love and care for him. The mission brought in a psychologist to help him deal with all the pain that he was forced to endure as a young child before he even started school. With the help of the psychologist, he is now able to play with his new friends and has found a refuge from the dangerous past that he left behind. Emilio is very thankful for his new loving family at the mission.

Thank you for helping to provide a safe home for him.

In Memoriam

In memory of Keith Miller, grandfather of Emily Boal, one of our missionaries from last year at El Oasis del Niño Mission. Emily's family requested donations to Mi Casa Foundation in lieu of flowers for their father/grandfather's funeral. May God welcome him home and bless his family during this difficult time of loss in their lives.



Muchas Gracias

Many thanks to Xerox agent, Century Business Equipment, for printing our newsletter.

Our 2007-2008 Missioners

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

Holly Davis

Holly comes to us from Three Rivers, Massachusetts. This spring, she graduated from Canisius College in New York. She wanted to improve the lives of people in a foreign country and feels that in turn, she will be helping domestically as well. At the El Oasis del Niño Mission in Querétaro, Holly works with the 2-year-olds in the morning. In the afternoons, she helps the schoolchildren with their homework and alternates with teaching English and supervising play time with them. Concerning her work at the mission, she writes: "I feel that God sent me here to make sure that the children have the best life possible and to be part of a loving home where the children don't have to worry if they are going to eat or where they are going to sleep."



Jessica Ranweiler

Jessica comes to us from Warminster, PA. She graduated this spring from Catholic University of America. She was involved in several service organizations there including her favorite, Habitat for Humanity. She was humbled by those that she served because they thought that she was doing something for them, when in reality, it was *they* who were providing her the opportunity to serve in an organization that she really loved. She feels that the most significant social issues today are poverty and hunger. Serving as a missioner allows her to help alleviate poverty and hunger in the lives of the children that live at the mission. Jessica works at El Oasis del Niño Mission in Querétaro, where she teaches the pre-school children in the morning and cares for the infants until bedtime.



John Willcox and Mary Pint

John and Mary got married last year and come to us from Denver, CO. After a conversion experience in 2001, Mary wanted to become a missionary for many years. She attended several of our week-long mission trips and yearned to have a deeper experience of mission work. She believes that her life must be acted out in love of God and neighbor and that she is answering the call to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and help the orphans. John eagerly agreed that serving as volunteers at a mission in Mexico would be a great idea. He feels that he has been very fortunate in life in many ways and is excited about helping others for a full year. He thinks that an important solution to social problems is to meet and live with people of another culture, and realize how very alike we truly are. Differences of language, color, denomination and culture are very minor compared to everything we share. John and Mary serve at La Granja Hogar Mission in Chihuahua. In the morning, Mary works in the laundry area sorting clothes for the daily distribution to the 150 children at the mission. In the afternoon, she puts the younger children down for a nap and takes them to lunch afterwards. Later in the day, she helps with the older children. John does maintenance varying from electrical to carpentry to plumbing. There is always something broken in a home and school for 150 children. In their "free time," Mary and John work as house parents on the weekends.





A Group with a Mission

Our mission trip to La Granja Hogar Mission in Chihuahua in August was a great success. The volunteers included (pictured l-r on top): Rick Jones, Patricia Ponce, Effie Williams, Doug Harrison (Board member of the Foundation), Daniel Jones, Diane Trippe, Theresa Campos, John Willcox (Colorado), (l-r on bottom) Kristy DeWinne, Delia Rodriguez, Mary Pint (Colorado), Courtney Trippe, Holly Davis (Massachusetts), Jessica Ranweiler (Pennsylvania), and Angela Villaseñor. The group painted office buildings, living quarters, garden framing, and a sitting area for the mission. They also made and hung curtains in the classrooms and the offices of the school. The Mission Director explained to the group how the work would enhance the self-esteem of the children since the previous color of the mission was the paint used to paint government housing for the poor. With the bright new colors, she said it would help the children understand that they can break the cycle of poverty and live in a home painted other than “government green.” May God bless each of these devoted volunteers that made a difference for many years to come.

Missioner Joins the Seminary

Jonathan Dooley, one of our missionaries from last year, joined the seminary after finishing his year of service.



Jonathan entered Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, TX through the Diocese of Austin. He writes: “My discernment was inspired and aided by my experience at El Oasis del Niño mission in Querétaro. By submitting myself

to the culture and the spirit of service, my eyes were opened to the reality of the Holy Spirit working in our lives daily. I observed the strong faith and special relationship to Jesus that the nuns and children had and a desire within me developed to follow in their footsteps and seek out my vocation in Christ, and I began to really pray for the first time in my life. When I arrived in Mexico, I noticed a certain new grace that I suspect came from the prayers of all the people that heard about my journey through Mi Casa Foundation. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you who have helped nudge me along the way in prayer to a very good place where I now reside.”

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rick Jones, Executive Director of Mi Casa, for being voted to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS). CNVS is a national association of organizations that recruit and send forth missionaries to missions in the United States and around the world. Rick was chosen for the board due to his experience and dedication in sending missionaries to missions in Mexico.

- 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 Mi Casa Foundation can serve as the beneficiary to provide 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 Mi Casa Foundation is not engaged in giving legal/tax advice. Advice from legal/tax counsel should be sought when considering gifts.

What you made possible...

Due to your generosity, we were able to aid the missions in the following ways:

- Provide dishes and two months of meals for the children at Hogar de Niños Mission.
- Provide orientation and transportation and set up accommodations for our yearlong missionaries at two missions.
- Complete the numerous projects that were done on the mission trip to La Granja Hogar Mission, none of which could have been accomplished without your support.