



# Noticias from Mi Casa

A Newsletter from the Mi Casa Foundation

Helping others help themselves

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## Griselda finds Peace

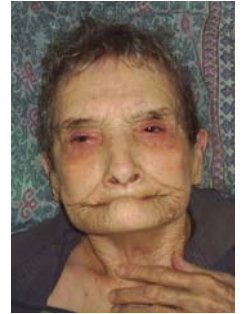


Griselda is the middle of three children. Her mother is single and each of her siblings has a different father. Due to her father abandoning her mother, Griselda's extended family of grandparents, aunts, and uncles all reject her as a family member. They ridicule and emotionally mistreat her. This abuse has caused her to want to give up

on life, friends and school, at the tender young age of nine. She is far behind her peers in education and frequently falls asleep in class. She longs for the love of her father, who continuously breaks his promises to visit her at the mission. When her mother comes to take her home for a visit, she cries and begs her mother to let her stay at the mission so that she doesn't have to experience the torment of her maternal extended family. She loves living at the mission because she has friends and adults who truly care for her, and receives the psychological help that she desperately needs. The mission has become "home" where she finds serenity in her life.

## Maria receives Compassion

Maria Luisa Cardenas Gonzales is 90-years-old and is physically and mentally unable to care for herself. Two years ago, her sons abandoned her at the mission because they did not feel that they could care for her. She is very appreciative for the love and care that she receives at the mission. Each day, she thanks God for the generous people that give her the opportunity to live in a compassionate home.



*Thank you for helping reach across borders to help needy children and elderly like Griselda & Maria.*

## 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.*

## Bienvenidos

A special welcome to our newest board member, Margaret Lopez, who joined our Board of Directors in September. Margaret attended our mission trip in June and wants to help make a difference in the lives of the needy children and elderly that we serve.

## Another Weeklong Mission Opportunity

Join us for a week this fall on our mission trip to Saltillo on November 15-22. Projects include sewing blankets, painting, carpentry, and plumbing repairs. If you would like to participate, download a flyer from our website and mail it to us, or give us a call. *Important: A U.S. Passport is not required for this trip. However, you will need a certified copy of your birth certificate and picture ID.*



## What you made possible...

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

- Provide funding to finish the construction at the Casa San Jose Mission.
- Provide funding to help Casa San Jose Mission meet its monthly obligations.
- Prepare and send forth our six new yearlong missioners to serve in missions in Chihuahua and Saltillo.
- Welcome back our four yearlong missioners from this past year and prepare them for the difficult re-entry into our U.S. culture.

**Muchas Gracias**

**to**

**Xerox agent, Century Business Equipment,  
for printing our newsletter and  
Gala publications.**

## Our 2008-2009 Missioners

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

### Deanna Jones\*

Deanna comes to us from Bartlett, Tennessee. This spring, she graduated from The University of Memphis.



Blessed with a family grounded in faith, Deanna has been involved in some type of Church ministry for most of her life. She is passionate about Pro-life issues, and her desire to protect God's children led her to service as a lay missioner. Assigned to work with girls at El Buen Pastor Mission in Saltillo, Coahuila with commissioner Laura, Deanna is utilizing the Spanish she studied during high school and college. Her best resource, however, is being the eldest of four sisters. That experience transcends any language barriers. Deanna feels that she will consider her service as a missioner a success if she can help even one of the emotionally damaged children come to an awareness of God's great love and mercy.

### Maribel and TJ Burdick

Growing up in Juarez, Mexico, Maribel was deeply affected by the suffering of old people and children she



saw begging in the streets. At the age of 18, Maribel and her family immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Michigan. She enjoyed playing and coaching soccer, and because she wanted to continue working with youth, she volunteered at a school. This is where she met her husband, TJ. As an inner-city school teacher, TJ was able to merge his leadership talents, his skills as a competitive athlete (basketball captain in high school and college), and his knowledge of Spanish to motivate his students. TJ and Maribel were drawn to serve others, and are fulfilling their calling at Casa Hogar de los Pequeños San José in Saltillo, Coahuila. They serve as house parents to dozens of boys at the mission.

### Luis and Janiene García

Luis is a first-generation American whose parents came to the U.S. from Mexico and clung to their traditional



values, instilling in their children a responsibility to give to others. A 2007 graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Luis spent a semester as a high school chemistry and environmental science teacher. His wife, Janiene, also graduated from Eastern Illinois University. She recently worked as a special education aide in an Illinois school. Janiene strives "to leave this world a little better than it was when I arrived". Luis and Janiene's parish community work was important to them, but they felt they could rekindle the fervor of their college volunteer efforts by serving as missioners. They are now at La Granja Hogar in Chihuahua where they are dedicated to caring for dozens of abused and neglected children.

### Laura Ward

A University of Scranton graduate with certification as a Spanish teacher, this Pennsylvania native decided to



delay her career in order to "have a good impact on the world, to do something good for people, to live simply..." In addition to being a Resident Assistant in college, Laura pursued her love of music as a DJ and alternative music director for the college radio station. She and her parents were involved in their parish activities, and Laura served as a lector for 9 years. A summer in Oaxaca studying Spanish and adapting to minimal comforts proved to be an experience that convinced Laura to seek work as a missioner in Mexico. Laura is now serving with commissioner Deanna in Saltillo, Coahuila, at El Buen Pastor and working with 6-12 year-old girls who need love and stability in their lives.

\* Read Deanna's moving Gala presentation at [www. MiCasaFoundation.org/stories/deanna.html](http://www.MiCasaFoundation.org/stories/deanna.html)

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