



Noticias from Mi Casa

A Newsletter from the Mi Casa Foundation

Helping others help themselves

Vol. 7 Issue 1

www.MiCasaFoundation.org

Winter 2009

Touching Lives, Young and Old



Adrián is seven years old and just finished his first year of school. Early in his life, his father abandoned the family, forcing his mother to start working and be the sole provider for her four children (Adrián, his two older sisters and younger brother). Because she worked so much, Adrián's mother often

neglected the children, and eventually made the decision to place them in different homes.

Adrián entered the mission in September, and his performance in school has been impressive thus far. His mother loves him very much, but she knows that right now he needs nurturing support and a good education, which he is receiving at the mission. For this reason she has put his well-being and future first, despite the distance between them throughout the week.

Don Pepe's Prayers

José, or "Don Pepe" as he is known at the mission, is 85 years old and blind. He has no children and was first brought to the mission two years ago by neighbors. In the past year, his brother Manuel (90 years old and also blind) and Manuel's 93-year-old wife, Nieves, have also come to the mission. A third brother, Catarino, previously received care at the mission as well, but passed away last year.



Don Pepe has a damaged hip and cannot walk, so he receives a great deal of help from staff who carry him to and from his bed and assist in his daily living activities. During the day, he stays at his special sitting place, and while impaired by his many ailments, he is still able to eat on his own when served meals. Don Pepe likes to pass the time chatting with Manuel and Nieves, and sometimes speaks about visiting the ranch that, according to Pepe, is waiting for him out in the countryside.

At his age, Don Pepe is not one to stay up late; he is usually taken to bed at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but not before completing a ritual. Each day at 3 o'clock, those at the mission gather to pray the Rosary. Don Pepe is unable to remember the words to the prayers, but when the congregation sings, he always claps his hands. In the words of Sister Claudia, director of the mission, "*es su forma de orar – aplaudiendo*" (that's his way of praying – by applauding).

Thank you for helping to improve the lives of Adrián, Don Pepe, and others like them.



Missioner Deanna Jones Reflects on the Call to Serve

Deanna Jones is a yearlong missioner at the Asilo del Buen Pastor in Saltillo. Here is a part of the presentation she shared during our 2008 Gala:

"I remember the moment that Laura, my mission partner, and I walked into the room of girls and met them for the first time. My heart was racing as we turned the corner and saw their curious and smiling faces. For about a month I had known that I would be serving my year at a mission in Mexico... but I had not been able to put a "face" to the mission, until that night."

"What I felt on my heart that night was not only a reassurance that we were exactly where God wanted us to be, but also the reality that each one of those 25 girls has something incredible to offer the world. But the question is, *Who will help them?* Who is going to help these children become the women God is calling them to be... the mothers, teachers, doctors, leaders, professionals of the future? As Mi Casa Foundation missioners we have been sent into the fields by the Master to love these children and to help them *grow* in God's love, God's mercy, and God's compassion.

We have been sent. He will give us the tools we need to reap a good harvest."

Read Deanna's entire presentation at www.micasafoundation.org/stories/deanna.html

2009 Mission Trips - Come Join Us!

When: June 27-July 4
Where: La Granja Hogar Mission (Chihuahua, Chihuahua)



When: November 1-7
Where: Casa Hogar de los Pequeños Mission (Saltillo, Coahuila)

For more information, click "Weeklong Service Trips" on our website.

Want to Make a Lasting Tribute?

Several of our donors have celebrated memorable milestones in their lives by making our ministry a central part of their celebration. In lieu of gifts for their birthday, wedding, and baptism, or flowers for the funeral of a loved one, they requested that donations be made to the Foundation. These gifts have helped the children in the missions we support have a loving home, and the elderly have a dignified life. You also can make a difference in their lives by offering your gifts to them. Simply ask your family and friends to make a donation to Mi Casa Foundation as a tribute to your memorable occasion. You will receive a tribute card for each donation made on your behalf. Your generosity will help a child or elder receive some of the blessings that you receive daily in your life!



Front row L-R: Jesse Sandoval, Arnold Escobar, Samantha Larson, Alicia Martinez, Effie Williams, Lynda Cook, Mary Beals, Janet & Ray Otto, Erika Tarin, Laura Ward, Janiene & Luis Garcia, Deanna Jones. Back row L-R: Rick Jones, Elizabeth Larson, Ed Larson, Sandra Kualls, Jane Perea, Juan Ramirez, Tom Van De Walle, John Dieterle, Doug Harrison, Maribel & TJ Burdick, Daniel Jones.

“*Recuerdos*”

2008 Mission Trip to Saltillo, Coahuila (Hogar de Niños)

A trip undertaken to help others affected our *own* lives. Tom Van De Walle says it was “a trip to cherish forever! A challenging, spiritual, and worthwhile adventure...The children singing with smiles ended my week on an emotional high.” Janet Otto reflects that 20 individuals left their comfort zone for one week, but the experience of community and camaraderie was more than anyone envisioned: “Weeks afterward, each of us still draws inspiration from the memories of those most grateful children.” Elizabeth Larson, who accompanied her grandfather and her sister, enthusiastically offers a college student’s perspective: “It was great to be God’s hands and feet for one week”, and simultaneously “humbling to see how little they have, and how much I have.” She wouldn’t hesitate to do it again.

Projects accomplished on the trip:

- Painting all the living areas of the home
- Resealing the roof
- Setting up a computer lab
- Making bedspreads for 43 beds and curtains for the boys’ and girls’ dormitories

¡Bienvenidos!

Mi Casa Foundation would like to extend a very warm welcome to our two newest board members, **Rev. John Owen Moloney** and **Rick Salgueiro**.

Muchas Gracias to:

- Xerox agent **Century Business Equipment**, for printing our newsletters and Christmas cards from our donors to the children.
- **Marshalls**, for a \$5000 donation to help the needy children at the homes.

A Year in Review

Thanks to your generous support, Mi Casa Foundation was able to aid several missions in Mexico and in turn, the children and elderly those missions serve. The following is a list of the accomplishments that you made possible in 2008 (some of which were mentioned in previous newsletters):

At the Gotita de Amor mission in Jalpan, Querétaro:

- Improved facilities by constructing a group bathroom, as well as entrance doors and shower doors for privacy in the other bathrooms
- Installed a reserve water tank to help cope with difficulties in water service
- Painted the inside of the mission and constructed six closets
- Built a firm driveway to the building which was not previously accessible when raining
- Provided much-needed school supplies, clothes, and bed sheets for the children at the mission

At the Casa San José mission in Linares, Nuevo León:

- Funded construction of caretakers’ lodging, staff salaries, and utilities
- Provided funding to help the mission meet its monthly expenses and continue to care for its elderly residents

At La Granja Hogar in Chihuahua, Chihuahua:

- Furnished the mission with dressers so that the children have a place to store their clothes

Other accomplishments:

- Provided over 11,000 volunteer hours at the different missions that we aid
- Prepared and sent forth six new yearlong missionaries to serve in missions in Chihuahua and Saltillo where they are brightening children’s lives with their loving care
- Completed several projects at the Hogar de Niños mission in Saltillo (see opposite for details)

Missioner Blog Sites

Want to know what our missionaries are up to? Visit their **blogs** for the latest news from Mexico:

TJ & Maribel Burdick: www.tjmaribel.blogspot.com

Deanna Jones: <http://madamemerci.livejournal.com>

Laura Ward: www.aboutayearinmexico.blogspot.com

Luis & Janiene García: www.ljgarciafamily.blogspot.com