



Noticias from Mi Casa

A Newsletter from Mi Casa Foundation

Helping others help themselves

Vol. 8 Issue 1

www.MiCasaFoundation.org

Winter 2010



New Year, New Hope for Teresita

Teresita is a 9-year-old girl who has been at the mission since she was in pre-school. Teresita's mother abandoned her

when she was a baby. Her grandparents are very elderly and unable to care for her.

Even though she has experienced the pain of being rejected by her mother, Teresita is learning the love of God and how to love herself and others from the care and spiritual formation she is receiving at the mission. She is a strong leader and a very intelligent third grader. Without a doubt, Teresa will grow up to do great things in life... mostly because of the foundation and formation that she is receiving at the mission. *Thanks to you, Teresita has an opportunity to have the hope of a better future!*

Don Jerónimo's Journey



Don Jerónimo is 89 years old and has been at the mission since 2007. He has no children and was brought to the mission by his brother-in-law because he was no longer able to provide care for Jerónimo due to his Alzheimer's Disease.

Rather than living the last years of his life alone and without sufficient care, he is provided with the medical attention he needs, the companionship he enjoys, and the dignity he deserves, *at the mission supported by your generosity.*

Muchas Gracias to:

~The wonderful donors who gave so generously in the fall and during the holidays at the following churches: Church of the Nativity (Bartlett, TN), Our Lady Queen of Heaven (Macdona, TX), Sacred Heart of Jesus (Von Ormy, TX), and St. Pius X and St. Gerard (San Antonio, TX)

~Leticia Miller and "Los Padrinos" at St. Pius X Middle School for their donation to help install safe flooring at Hogar de Niños mission

~Patti Malcolm, for making Mi Casa the recipient at her Annual Christmas Party where attendees made donations in the spirit of the season

~Century Business Equipment, for printing our newsletters and Christmas cards

Make 2010 a Year to Remember!

A great resolution for the New Year is to make a difference in the life of another human being. With Mi Casa, you have several options of providing hope to destitute children and elderly who need your help. Do one or several of the ideas below and *make 2010 a year to remember:*

Donate: Donating cash, stocks, or bonds allows us to continue our aid to the needy children and elderly.

Volunteer: Join us on one of our mission trips listed below or call us to help stuff our quarterly newsletter or help with our annual Gala.

Host a Gathering: Celebrate for a cause! Invite friends for a good cause by organizing a social gathering: picnic, dinner party, etc. We can come and make a presentation to raise awareness of our ministry.

Honor a Loved One: Give a gift in memory or acknowledge a special event of a loved one. We will send a card to those honored, or a memorial card to the family.

Make a Planned Gift: Putting Mi Casa in your will or estate plan allows us to make a lasting impact on the needs at the missions.

2010 Mission Trips – Come Join Us!

When: June 26-July 4

Where: El Oasis del Niño Mission (Querétaro, Querétaro)

When: November 7-13

Where: El Buen Pastor Mission (Saltillo, Coahuila)



For more information, click

"Weeklong Service Trips" on our website.

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Wills are a very important part of estate planning. Whether you have a large estate or a modest one, a will makes it 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. Mi Casa Foundation can be 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 Mi Casa Foundation, 15600 San Pedro Ave Ste 401, San Antonio, TX, 78232." If you have any questions or would like to name 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/tax advice. Advice from legal/tax counsel should be sought when considering gifts.



L-R: Rick Jones, Dennis Kane, Humberto Bautista, Effie Williams, Alicia Martinez, Sandra Velarde, Deanna Jones, Marybell Martinez, Matt Bongiorno

2009 Mission Trip to Saltillo, Coahuila (Casa Hogar de los Pequeños)

Our trip to Casa Hogar de los Pequeños in Saltillo, Coahuila, was a success! Upon arriving, it was immediately evident that our experience would be made so much more fulfilling by the presence of the young boys running around the courtyard between classes. While we worked tirelessly painting buildings and sewing bedspreads, we were rewarded with opportunities to visit and interact with the children who benefited from all of our work! The boys were excited and swarmed around to ask question after question, tell jokes, and even speak the few English words that they knew in an attempt to impress their guests.

During one afternoon, as volunteer Marybell Martinez worked was finishing the outside of the chapel, one young boy came up to her and asked, "What are you doing?", to which she replied, "Painting this building." He thought for a moment and said, "Oh, so you're painting God's house." With this simple statement, the purpose of our goals and our work was made clear once again.



Projects accomplished on this trip:

- Painted the interior and exterior of the chapel where the boys pray and attend Mass, beautifying the place where their faith is nurtured
- Painted the building that serves as a dormitory for long-term volunteers so that they can feel proud of where they live and the work they are doing there
- Sewed 27 bedspreads for the older boys' dorm so that it can feel more like *home*



Thanks to You!

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 2009 (some of which were mentioned in previous newsletters):

Gotita de Amor mission in Jalpan, Querétaro:

- Provided funding vital to help keep the mission in operation so that they can continue caring for orphans during these difficult economic times

El Puente de Esperanza mission in Querétaro, Querétaro:

- Paid tuition for students so they can receive a high school education which was unattainable without the help of the mission
- Provided funding to help their outreach efforts in educating the children of the indigenous Otomí Indians; youngsters whose parents are undereducated and unable to help with their homework

Oasis del Niño mission in Querétaro, Querétaro:

- Provided funding for groceries, helping to ensure that there is food for the children

Hogar de Niños mission in Saltillo, Coahuila:

- Provided funding to purchase much needed food items for the children living there

Casa San José mission in Linares, Nuevo León:

- Provided funding for staff salaries and utilities
- Provided funding to help the mission meet its monthly expenses and continue to care for its elderly residents
- Provided funding for the purchase of personal hygiene items and medication

La Granja Hogar mission in Chihuahua, Chihuahua:

- Built large tables for the children to work on school projects
- Painted many areas of the home to help build the children's self-esteem and pride in where they live
- Made new curtains in bright, bold colors for the children's dormitories so they can start their days with a bright and positive attitude
- Made a bulletin posting unit so that the children's art can be displayed in the cafeteria giving them recognition and pride in their work

Other accomplishments:

- Provided over 11,000 volunteer hours at the different missions that we aid
- Prepared and sent forth two new yearlong missionaries to serve in Saltillo where they are brightening children's lives with their loving care
- Welcomed back six yearlong missionaries from the past year and prepared them for the difficult re-entry into the U.S. culture

