

THE GOOD NEWS



CASA mission report



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SPRING [PRIMAVERA] 2020

COVID-19

IMPACT ON CASA

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It seems that dark, forbidding storm clouds, in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic, have gathered and commenced raining havoc throughout the world. While the storm rages on in the lives of all too many, God faithfully holds out the silver lining: His Son, Jesus. Jesus, who offers hope and peace for all, under any, and all circumstances.

COVID-19 recently reached our little corner of the world at Casa. The pandemic has essentially wiped clean our previously full calendar of groups scheduled to visit Casa during this year's spring break and summer. Casa has been on complete lockdown for weeks now, with a range of protocols in place addressing staff, visiting government officials and essential service providers: doctors, nurses, the LP gas man, electrical meter readers, etc. We also have new protocols for staff trips off campus to purchase supplies.

For the time being, family visits to our children have been suspended. This change has affected those few children who have nearby family members. These visitors will not be allowed on campus until we determine that it is safe for our children. Most of our children do not have visiting family members so for them this change has made little to no difference.




A few COVID-19 cases have been reported in nearby Anahuac, with many more in Cuauhtémoc, the city of over a hundred thousand people which is seven kilometers up the road. Testing is virtually nonexistent, so it is impossible to determine the extent to which the virus has permeated our area. With this in mind, we are taking extra measures to protect our children. Staff returning from purchasing supplies are being sprayed down with disinfectant. All staff are regularly using hand sanitizer, everyone is wearing a face mask, and there is no non-essential physical contact with the children.

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27

GROUPS



Understandably, the spring break and early summer teams scheduled to visit Casa this year had to be canceled. With the loss of team visits comes the loss of much more than just construction funds and volunteer labor. Visiting groups have taken on an essential role over the years in making Casa the wonderful place it has become — for the children and visitors alike. The spirit of Christ that accompanies each group is the basis for the overarching love the children experience through their interactions with the visiting groups.

The children at Casa have flourished, in part, because of these interactions and the love each visiting team pours into the lives of each child. For most of our children, the hugs, special attention, and holy kisses are what was missing in their lives before entering Casa. The results of the outpouring of love that the children receive are extraordinary. The kids see the teams as much more than once-a-year visitors. For many, the experience is lifechanging. With the help of Facebook and other social media, meaningful and lasting friendships have evolved and are maintained across borders.

The combined impact of daily life at Casa and the influence of loving brethren visiting over the last twenty years has led many of our children to a lifelong relationship with Christ and a lifelong journey of faith. The absence of visiting brethren is a great loss to our children and one of the biggest fallouts of this pandemic for our Casa community.

Judging by the countless letters, and other forms of feedback we receive each year, the experience of working, playing, hugging, singing, laughing, and sharing in devotionals with our children is also life changing for many visitors. It is certain that doing the Lord's work of practicing "pure and undefiled religion" as stated in James 1:27 is reciprocal in nature; blesses the visitor and visited equally.

We look forward to better days ahead, when we once again can enjoy the hugs, love and embracing arms of both old and new friends alike. Take courage and come again soon. We have begun scheduling for Christmas and next summer, so it is never too soon to get on our calendar, since we work on a first come, first serve basis.

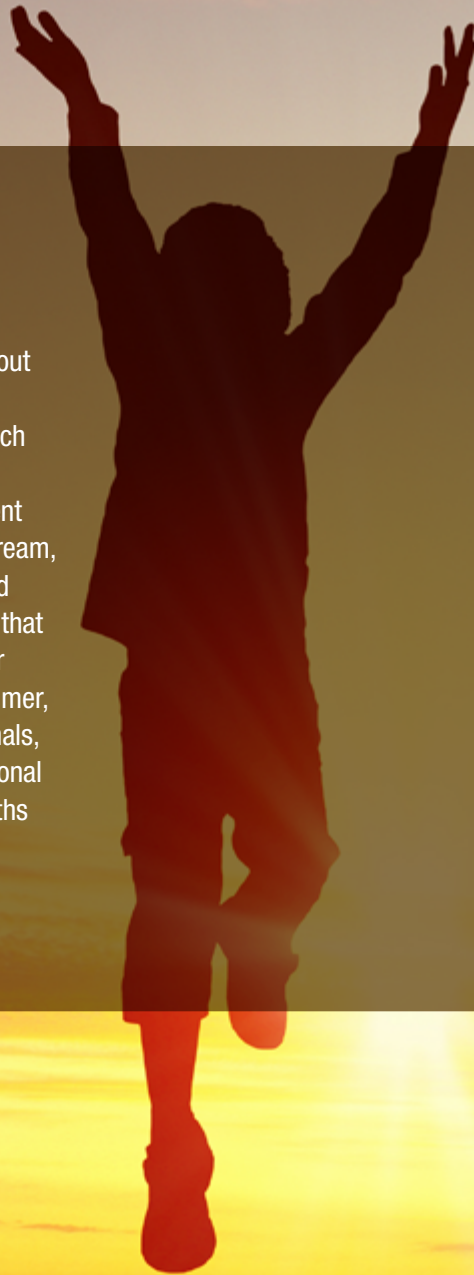
As reported, we had a full summer of visiting groups scheduled before the virus hit. Given how contributions have dropped substantially due to COVID-19, we are asking groups who were previously planning to visit this summer to consider sending any support that they might have brought with them as a love offering. This support will help sustain the current level of care for our children.

Your consideration is deeply appreciated.

DAY

OF THE CHILD

The Day of the Child is celebrated throughout Mexico on April 30th. In celebration of this special day, we assembled a packet for each child containing a special gift and candy. We also organized a day long series of event including movies, a piñata, popcorn, ice-cream, outside Olympics games, board games and pizza. At the end of the day, we all agreed that “it was an exhausting day but great fun for all”. In the absence of the visitors this summer, we have worked up a schedule of devotionals, work and play time, cookouts and recreational activities aimed at filling the summer months with Casa family memories.



MOTHER'S DAY AT CASA



The women caring for the children at Casa can hardly be regarded as just employees. They are also great mothers in their own right. These women nurture our children and play a critical role in shaping their lives and we value their service beyond measure. For Mother's Day we honored each of these wonderful ladies with a bouquet of flowers, a catered meal, and a special gift. God has blessed Casa with a dedicated, hardworking group of mothers who have been faithful in their service to our children.



Mother

(muth-er) (n) a person who loves unconditionally; the maker and keeper of *precious* memories; a person much loved and *greatly admired*.

MEDICAL MISSION

2020



A medical mission was held at the Church/Community Center in Anahuac on February 20-22. Participants included a dentist and several volunteer from the Granbury Church of Christ, two dentists and two doctors from Chihuahua and Anahuac respectively, as well as three volunteers from Westside Church of Christ. Notices announcing the medical mission were distributed over the course of two weeks, targeting the very poor in Anahuac and the surrounding area. A total of 313 of our neighbors in need were served over the course of three days. Prescription drugs were dispensed by a local pharmacy — free of charge to the clinic participants. A range of over-the-counter drugs were supplied on site, 250 bags of food were given to those in need and 400 bibles were handed out! This medical mission was a great blessing to the underserved poor who are our neighbors and friends.



NEW MEMBERS OF THE CASA FAMILY

NIÑOS

*All your children shall be taught
by the Lord, and great shall be the peace
of your children.*

Isaiah 54:13



Alma Cristina



Anali



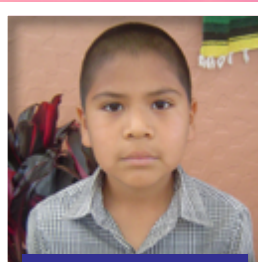
Andres



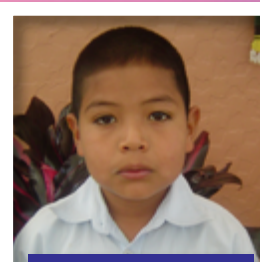
Briana Karely



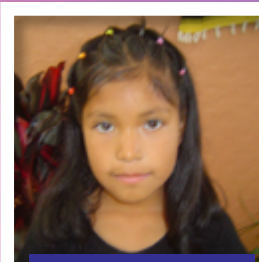
Carolina Mateo



Cristian Jesus



Edgar Saul



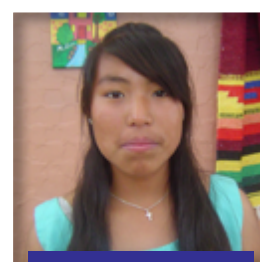
Elizabeth



Esteban



German Nevarez



Gloria



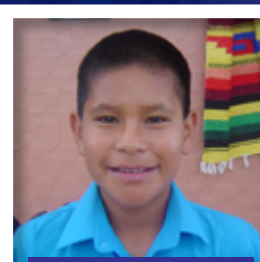
Jesus Rodrigo



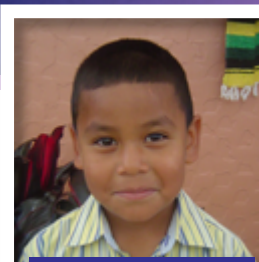
Jose Daniel



Karla Berenice



Rogelio



Sergio Osmar

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

With the advent of COVID-19, and the cancelation of summer groups, our renovation and construction plans have been adversely affected by both the lack of financial resources and the lack of volunteer labor. In spite of these circumstance, some progress continues, albeit at a much slower pace. Framing and insulation of the extended school wing, infirmaries, and multi-purpose area continues. At the current rate of construction progress (and if financial resources hold out), our goal is to have this area available for use by this time next year.





CASA'S NEW WEB SITE

The new Casa de la Esperanza web site is now online! As before, the web address is ahouseofhope.com. Please take a moment and visit our new web site. We will be continuing to work on the development and expansion of the web site and on providing additional content. We now have a link for you to be able to give to Casa electronically. Soon we hope to have information on the web site regarding online vehicle registration, as well as links to the Mexican registration site. This would also include information on obtaining the visa for your visit online. We also hope to add information regarding summer team visits and much more!



Contact Information

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Attention:

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Email:

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casakids01@yahoo.com

Web Site:

www.ahouseofhope.com

Overseeing Congregation:

Southwest Church of Christ

Needs List

As work progresses on the Anáhuac Church of Christ and Community Center and the three duplex units, furnishing the housing units still remains a priority. Thank you for generous donations that have been made by our supporters. If you are able to donate any larger items, please contact us as soon as possible so pick up or delivery can be arranged, as moving certain items through the border crossing process can be quite time consuming.

Current needs:

- Coats
- Tires for our school bus
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Toothpaste/tooth brushes
- Boys underwear ages 3–16

Ongoing needs include:

- Twin-size fitted sheets-10
- Rice
- Sugar
- #10 size cans of vegetables and fruit



As always,
I am overwhelmed
by God's provision and
your faithful support
of the mission at
Casa de la Esperanza.

Wanting to Visit Us?



If you plan to visit Casa, this is a friendly reminder that we operate on a first come first serve basis. If you are not certain of your exact arrival and departure date, we will schedule you on a tentative basis reserving your spot. As in previous years, we will provide assistance with border crossing and travel from El Paso to Casa and back again if necessary. Unless you plan on traveling to Casa on a chartered bus, we are using the Santa Teresa border crossing located on the far west end of El Paso avoiding travel through Juarez all together.

Hope to see you this spring or summer.

*Come and see what God has done,
how awesome his works in man's behalf.*

Psalm 66:5