

# FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



## **We tried something new this summer.**

Melinda Cathey specializes in children who have experienced trauma in their lives, which includes nearly all the children who come to our ministries. She spoke at a conference in Tennessee on the topic of “Trust Based Relational Intervention” and because we realized that this information would be a valuable resource for the caregivers of our ministries, we organized the first “Caregivers Conference” with Melinda as the featured speaker. 60+ caregivers attended from our ministries and other ministries. Repeatedly the caregivers said that this was exactly what they needed to hear. It was illuminating for them, as previously they did not fully know what was going on in the minds of the children. Please keep in prayer how we can help equip our caregivers in the future.

## **Brazos de Amistad Update**



Things are going great! Again, this summer we were able to take 65 kids to camp for four days. We played in the water and we heard from the word of God who we are in God’s eyes. We were able to take these kids out of the harsh realities of their daily life and give them the chance to be kids just the way God made them. They were able to express themselves and learn more about who God is and that he loves us no matter where we come from. They were provided with three meals a day and sleep without worry. It was awe inspiring to be able to watch each child grow. God is good!

## **Kenia’s story...**



Kenia was 6 years old when she arrived at the church next door to us. She came alone because her dad was into drugs and her mom was too busy working. When our soup kitchen opened, she faithfully came every day. She listened to the Bible stories, heard about the love of God, and realized that her life could be different. She prayed that God would open the hearts of her parents. God works miracles. About two years ago, her dad went away for drug rehabilitation. Her mom came to the soup kitchen to serve because she had a new baby and had to stop working. Today this family is reunited and all of them serve at the soup kitchen. It is amazing to see how God causes change through a child who is willing to plant seeds where she lives. It is a great blessing to see this family restored.

## **Pan de Vida Update**

God is good! At last, we connected our 120 solar panels to the electricity grid, covering almost all our electrical needs depending on the weather. Now we have \$1,200 CAD extra each month to go towards the children.

After many years of terrible acoustics in our auditorium, God brought Constantin Diekkamp, a German sound technician, to see how he could be of service. We installed 91 sound baffles allowing everyone to enjoy the church services so much more.

We attended a 3-day conference hosted by Children of Hope. Melinda Cathey facilitated “Trust Based Relational Intervention” and taught us that a baby’s childhood can affect the rest of his/her life. We learned how to understand what the children are feeling and the importance of

connecting with the children; so, that we can empower them to express these hurts.

We are pleased to announce that German de Marcos, a staff member at Pan de Vida, and Yerdal had their legally required civil wedding on August 3. We look forward to their church wedding on September 9.

### Isidra's story...



When I was living a nice, comfortable life with my parents, I thought money was everything and nothing was missing in my life. Now, I can tell you that being comfortable economically is nice but having God in my life is the most important thing.

Social Services took me from my parents when I was 11. It was hard and affected me a lot when I went to my first orphanage. I felt like no one cared about me, but when I came to Pan de Vida, my second orphanage, they taught me about Jesus Christ. I was so excited that I was doing my devotionals and prayers every day. Later I met some friends who influenced me in a negative way. I was constantly living with the consequences of those bad decisions. Worse yet, the directors had to take me to a youth detention center. While I was there, I learned to put value on all the good things I received from God. I was thinking that being a rebel was cool but I was mistaken. Now I am back at Pan de Vida, growing and learning every day and knowing how blessed I am to be living here.

### Casa Otomi Update

We are preparing for our big Christmas outreach. In August, we invited families from the Otomi communities to come for a picture of their children and to give us clothing and shoe sizes. Our goal is to find sponsors for 1,250 children and present them with a personalized Christmas gift of new clothing, hygiene products, an educational toy, and a Christmas greeting. We will host an evangelistic event in December where these Otomi families will come to hear the good news and receive their gifts from their

sponsors. We hold a separate event for elderly Otomi where a local pastor will share the gospel of Jesus Christ in their native language and they will receive gifts.

### Eduardo's story...



Eduardo is a happy, active boy who came to Casa Otomi very early in life. His father spends the few pesos he earns on alcohol. It is common to see Eduardo and his siblings with bruises. The father fears no authority and does not listen when we

visit his house to see the children. Tired of being mistreated, Eduardo's older sisters ran away to work as maids in a distant state. They never call home or visit, which causes sadness for the brothers who miss them greatly. Nevertheless, Eduardo and his brothers seek their comfort and joy in the Lord and in the simple things of farm life. These children wait eagerly for weekends to participate in classes, read children's books, and play with the equipment at Casa Otomi.

### Esperanza Para Ti Update



Our high school students finished their studies and attended a special graduation ceremony where they received their diplomas and recognition for their accomplishments. Some of our younger children participated in that day also in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Local organizations bless us regularly by sharing art lessons, outings, craft activities or a day of special physical activities with our children

## Casa Ammi Update

Recently, through professional people that God put in our path, we attended a parenting course. From this training, we held a seminar focusing on the training we needed for the children we have in Casa Ammi. The skills learned are helping us and bearing fruit in the children.

Currently we are in an ongoing process of certification for Casa Ammi. We are working with people, who are not necessarily Christians, who are documenting what we are doing to increase our level of professionalism to fulfill the certification requirements. Our lives of genuine and daily relationship with God are affecting them. They are documenting the changes they see in the children and the adults of Casa Ammi. We have a living God who transforms lives from the youngest child to the oldest adult. Some of our unbelieving sponsors have become Christians. We continue to work closely with the DIF (Child Welfare Services) toward the goal of receiving donated land where we can build a high impact Christ-centered community.



In addition, a couple, Juan Antonio and Paola who were searching for the call of God on their lives have joined us at Casa Ammi. We are training and preparing them to be house-parents for the first home that we will construct on the new donated property.

### Paulina's story...

Paulina is a beautiful girl who is always smiling, but this was not always true. She was physically, emotionally and verbally mistreated. No one made any effort to exercise her



short-term memory or teach her good health habits and there was no school structure or progress. She was full of fear and guilt. Since she arrived at Casa Ammi, everything has changed. Paulina is progressing in school, sleeping peacefully, playing freely, expressing her feelings, and becoming organized. She is very happy to be in Casa Ammi.

Casa Ammi is in need of more child sponsors. If you or anyone you know is interested in sponsoring a child, please consider Casa Ammi.

## Hope for Children thrift store



How thankful we are for the Hope for Children Thrift Store that funds so many projects each year to the benefit of the children in Mexico. Here the volunteer sorters at the thrift store found matching items that they had to try on. Would you like to join the team of volunteers? You will have a ton of fun!

### Please Pray

- That our care-givers who attended the conference will be able to apply what they learned effectively
- That the children, who returned to school in August, will transition well back into school life.

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