

# SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER



## Casa Otomi Update

Our hearts are full of joy and gratitude to our Lord, who gave us the opportunity to experience our biggest family event thus far. At our 2017 Christmas outreach, we gave 1,740 children a personalized gift. Your prayers were certainly answered, as the Lord was faithful to His promises.

Three hundred native grandparents listened to the Good News in their language by a local pastor, and received a new poncho, scarf, and food hamper. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Please pray that God will reveal himself to the children and to the senior citizens in a personal way.

## Ismael's Story . . . (7) *Casa Otomi*



Due to poverty, hunger and lack of love, Ismael grew up in a dysfunctional family. His father walked away from their home and his mother, angry at life, became bitter. This great bitterness in her heart began to show through mistreatment of Ismael and his little sister. Ismael and his sister, caught in the vicious cycle of his mother's verbal and physical abuse, were taken away multiple times by the Child Protection Services. This caused his mother to temporarily improve her attitude just to get her children back. Although this continues, Ismael comes to Casa Otomi every single day to enjoy

breakfast with us and every Saturday for activities. We are convinced the Lord has a plan for him and his sister; so we teach them about the Word and love of God. We pray for a "happy ending" to this story. Please pray for Ismael's situation.

## Brazos de Amistad Update



2018 has started with lots of excitement. We cannot wait to see what this year will bring for this ministry.

The renovation of the dining room is just about ready and soon we will be feeding up to 180 children in the one room. It is almost double of what it was prior to the renovations! We love seeing the smiles on the faces of the children that come to eat and hear the Word of God. God has been teaching us that He is our provider in times of need. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we follow God's guidance in the months to come. We are so blessed by the support we feel from across the globe. Thank you!

## Asaf's Story . . . (3) *Brazos de Amistad*



This joyful little boy has been connected to Brazos de Amistad his entire life because his parents' volunteer service here at the soup kitchen. For a long time, Asaf was generally unhappy, but we have seen a tremendous transformation in his life. Asaf

now loves to sing and lift his hands in worship. Not only does he profess his faith here, he also loves to tell people that Jesus saved him. If he notices anyone having a bad day, he is not only willing to offer a hug and a kiss, but also loves to pray for them. Asaf's shining light and excitement to meet new people teaches us of how we should live out our faith.

#### Pan de Vida Update

We give thanks for the progress on the hydroponic fishponds. Thanks to the help of a team, who stuccoed and sealed the five fish tanks, we now have forty tilapia minnows, donated by the Esperanza para Ti orphanage. We hope to have a thousand fish and to harvest fish every nine months. Everything that is grown or produced at Pan de Vida is for in-house consumption. With over 70 mouths to feed daily, we need all the help we can get.



Pan de Vida is opening its own dental clinic on the property for the exclusive use of the children and Pan de Vida volunteers. The same dentist who helps at the Esperanza para Ti orphanage will be in charge of the dental clinic at Pan de Vida. Having our own clinic will help the orphanage in many ways! The dentist will also be teaching a teenager who is interested in dentistry to be his assistant. This will teach the individual what it means to be a dental hygienist.

Pan de Vida hosts multiple teams each year. We are eager to meet these team members, some of whom have come many times over the years.

Teams are always a huge help as they provide the hard labour with numerous upgrades and projects around the facility.

#### Tanya's Story . . . (19) *Pan de Vida*



I grew up in a small town surrounded by forest. We were a family of eight, six girls and my parents. When I was nine years old, my older sister left the house because she wanted to continue studying, but my parents could barely afford to feed us. Later, my parents had marital problems and began fighting. My parents separated. We lived with our father, but he could not work and take care of us at the same time. My uncle offered to house, clothe, feed, and educate us. For some time this arrangement worked, but eventually it became unsafe for us. The Social Services took us to Pan de Vida. At first, it was difficult to adapt. I blamed myself for my past and I did not understand what they taught about God. When I turned 16, I began to understand God's greatness and purposes. I knew I had to forgive myself and those who hurt me. I gave my life to Christ. I have learned that in Christ I have a new identity, I am a strong person, and my past does not define who I am.

#### Casa Ammi Update

The Civil Society of Mexico allows ministries to inform, update and encourage their donors with some of the changes and challenges that happened at the ministry this year. We spent the evening with the children at the Hotel Plaza in Queretaro and shared our report

called “Acts of Faith AMMI”. Above all, we had the desire to state the role that our faith plays in our ministry growth each year. It was an evening to celebrate success with our entire Casa Ammi family, but more importantly, to give God the glory in a secular environment. It was a wonderful evening with the children and we are so grateful for the support we receive globally.



#### Esperanza para Ti Update

Every day at Esperanza is full of busyness and excitement. We have already hosted a couple of teams in 2018. These teams accomplished concrete plastering interior walls, painting the new shop door, and electrical work. The team members built great relationships with the children and we look forward to more visitors and volunteers coming this year. We are thankful for all your prayers!



#### Montse’s Story . . . (12) *Esperanza para Ti*

Before Montse came to Esperanza, she, her mother and brothers, attended a Christian church on a regular basis. They had accepted Jesus as their Saviour; however, her mother



made some unwise decisions that caused the entire family to suffer. Her mother went to prison. Montse was sent to an orphanage where she suffered abuse from the caregivers and refused to participate in their way of worship, as she had a close relationship with Jesus. As a result, the home complained to the Social Services and asked them to move Montse. Montse moved to Esperanza! Montse continues to grieve the separation of her family caused by her mother’s poor choices, but has faith in God’s plan. Her love and dedication to God is an encouragement to everyone at our ministry!

#### Please pray

- That the children would personalize their faith
- That God would reveal the heart of the children to the caregivers so that they can address their pain
- That all ministries will be renewed in their vision and focus on Christ
- For more volunteers to help at the Hope for Children Thrift Store in Langley

[www.childrenofhope.info](http://www.childrenofhope.info)

Check us out on our website or like us on Facebook.

Children of Hope accepts online donations through PayPal



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