

## Children of Hope

Our Eastern Canadian friends would laugh at us; but it was a particularly cold, windy winter and we suffered with multiple power outages that left some places in the cold without heat for over a week. We are grateful to the crews who worked in the cold to restore power and we look forward to warmer weather to come. Equally, we are grateful to our donors, mission teams, missionary families and volunteers who all work to create a welcoming home environment where displaced children can be cared for and feel loved.

### Mauricio (4) Casa Otomi



Mauricio is a happy, busy four-year-old who was malnourished due to a low family income. His mom, Natalia, works in the field for about \$8.50 a day when she is able and sells her embroidery in the city. His

father works as bricklayer's assistant, rather than going to the US to work illegally due to the danger and separation from his family. They first came to Otomi House when Mauricio was one. Now they come regularly and participate. Because he is one of the five children being sponsored through Children of Hope, we provide groceries for him and his family. Natalia is moving toward receiving Jesus, but but does not yet feel worthy of Him. May the Lord reveal His love to her and convince her that He loves to accept the unworthy.

### Casa Otomi

Because of your gifts we showed the love of God by giving fabric, industrial sewing machines, and lessons for an Otomi women's cooperative. The



lessons taught them how to turn their beautiful hand sewn art into modern designed clothing with an Otomi accent under the name **Thok'Ye** (Handmade). A Facebook page promotes the products, a group of young people handle the online marketing, suggest new ideas and designs, and the women attend Expos and special events to promote

and sell their products. Our hope is to improve their family income for the better wellbeing of their families.

### Karen (7) Brazos de Amistad

Karen is the oldest of three children. She was two when she first came to Brazos. We pray for her family regularly. She loves to praise God in church and at the soup kitchen. She is very diligent in school and always comes to our "Homework Club" on time. She is a very happy girl and is always smiling despite her difficult family situation. Karen's father is a drug addict and he does not take responsibility for his family. Karen always prays for him. Please help us pray for her and her family.



### Brazos de Amistad



Recently we began Samaritan's Purse discipleship training for the children who participated in the "Shoebox" event called "The Great

Journey". Each Sunday afternoon the soup kitchen fills with children who need the love of God. The children listen to Bible stories, sing, dance, play, redeem tokens for prizes and to simply be children. For all who complete the program, there is a graduation party with diplomas and a surprise. It blesses us to minister to each child through this program, and to see God's Word sown like seed into their hearts for the glory of God!

### Wendy (17) Pan de Vida



Home was not a good place for my siblings and I, because we were often on the streets, day & night. Sometimes we stayed with friends. Our mother hit us often and eventually abandoned us. We went to an orphanage but I was not happy there. When we moved to Pan de Vida (PV), it felt strange, as I did not know anyone. A woman in charge at

Pan de Vida talked about God's purpose for our lives. I thought she was crazy. What was worse, we had to go to church. At first, I did not like going at all, but now I love it. I was baptized last year and now, God gave my siblings and me a great

blessing. Despite my past, God restored me and gave me, a family here at Pan de Vida and a family in the USA that is going to adopt us. I am doing well in high school and weekly discipleship is building me up. I can see how my life has changed since I began to know God more.

### Pan de Vida



Construction on the second story of the boys’ dorm is underway. We have two construction workers assigned to the project. The plan is to build another room big enough for 10 boys, a library for homework time and an apartment for the caretakers.

The Aquaponics system is complete. We planted things like strawberries and onions, which receive naturally enriched water from the fish tanks. We purchased 2,000-baby tilapia for the tanks. Soon there will be great harvests!



### Edgar (6) Esperanza para Ti



Edgar’s mom had to leave him in the care of others so she could work, as she had no spouse or support from her family. As time passed, she entered a common-law relationship with the hope of forming a family to the benefit of all.

However, within a short time the man began to demonstrate his rejection of Edgar through abuse and beatings. The mom demanded that he stop and

he responded with violence toward her as well. As is all too common, the mom was afraid to lose the support that the common-law husband provided and continued to endure the situation for another two years. Eventually a neighbor reported what was happening to the authorities who discovered that Edgar was enduring a great deal of abuse and brought him to us. We pray that God will hold Edgar in His hands and cause him to flourish.

### Esperanza para Ti

In Mexico, Feb 14th is called the day of “El Día del Amor y la Amistad” – The day of Love and Friendship. What better day

to celebrate the love and friendship in the Esperanza family and with the friends of Esperanza. Here the girls are learning how to make cookies which are very rich, because they are made with the cream from our own cow. After the demonstration, the girls went to work making lots of delicious cookies.



### Diego (7) Casa Ammi

Diego came to our home in 2015 due to family violence and neglect. Testing showed health issues, a low IQ and a personality disorder. Child Services (DIF) requested an EEG study. The results showed a potential for violent outbursts and/or epilepsy. They prescribed sedatives. Our last report described how the next review showed no epilepsy or other brain issues and all medication stopped. Diego improved academically and is now among the best readers at Casa Ammi. Today Diego plays the violin in the DIF Philharmonic Orchestra.



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### Casa Ammi: Caregiver Abigail

We often talk about the central role that our caregivers take in our "Family Care Model" in training the children to be caring and contributing members of their new family. However often, we say little or do not even recognize the contribution that our own children make when they willingly become involved in the mission because they see God at work. Such is the case of our 17-year-old daughter, Abigail, who works hard to fulfil her



responsibilities as an athlete, high school student and older sister. In addition, she works with the children as a homework monitor and a spiritual mentor. She sees them as her family and she is a favorite with them too; but unlike other sisters, Abigail must adapt quickly because these siblings come from situations of abuse or neglect. It is not an easy road; but she shows understanding and maturity. Because she clearly identifies negative and positive thoughts and actions, it allows her to make good decisions for the benefit of herself and others. We see how her testimony clearly affects even her friends.

## Ancla de Amor

As staff, God blessed us with the opportunity to receive on-site training from Melinda, from Texas Christian University. The "Trust Based Relational Intervention: (TBRI) is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses "Empowering Principles" to address physical needs, "Connecting Principles" for attachment needs, and "Correcting Principles" to disarm fear-based behaviors. The basis for the intervention is years of attachment, sensory processing, and neuroscience research; but the heartbeat of TBRI is connection. This training has opened our eyes and provided us with tools to better understand and care for our children. TBRI principles and training fit hand-in-glove with the family structure created at Ancla de Amor in addition to some of the programs that we offer.

One of those programs is our competitive swim team, "The Hurricanes". Competitive swimming goes hand in hand with TBRI. Swimming provided us with another avenue to connect with the children. It introduced our children to a different society of people and gave them the determination to make lifelong decisions that will be a benefit to themselves. As they continue to mature, they understand that the world is at their fingertips. They understand that the decisions they make today will change their future! They are learning that their faith is real and that God is alive as they put their trust and confidence in Him. This year our oldest child, Juliana, experienced God opening the door for her to attend private school, "Colegio Americano". Under normal circumstances, this would not be within our means but we give thanks that the Lord sent a couple that believed in Juliana so much that they invested in her education. This is a testimony to the other children as well. Trust in The Lord!

We finished the construction phase of our first children's home. We are so excited to inform you that the Grand Opening occurred as scheduled on Friday, March 1, 2019. As anticipated, we had a great time gathering with all of our many friends and family to celebrate what the Lord has done here at

Ancla de Amor! While the home was under construction, we did not allow our children to enter the home. During the ceremony, they saw it for the very first time and they were very excited.

This home will help us to do an even better job of raising the children. We want to thank all of you who participated in this project. We would not be here without you! What a blessing you are to all of us and we sincerely thank you!

## Prayer Requests

- **That the missions trip experience would have a lasting impact on the life of each team member.**
- **That the specialized training the Caregivers receive will bear fruit in the lives of the children.**
- **That the children would personalize their faith**
- **That people would understand the great difference that the Hope for Children Thrift Store in Langley, BC makes in the lives of children in Mexico and lend their helping hands to the cause!**



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

Check us out on our website or like us on Facebook.  
Children of Hope accepts online donations via **PayPal**

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