

Children of Hope

As we close the books on 2019, we begin to anticipate how the Lord will work in 2020 to change the lives of the orphaned, neglected, abandoned, or abused children of Mexico. There are amazing stories of lives changed by the consistent generosity of donors, by fundraisers and teams who give their time to work year after year, tradesmen who bring their specialized skills to bear on projects, youth teams who paint, specialists who share their knowledge with caregivers and the persistent love and care by each ministry worker. May our Lord bless each one of you!

Rodrigo (16) Pan de Vida



Hi, my name is Rodrigo. I am 16 years old. I do not remember why Social Services took me away from my family because I was very young when I arrived at my first orphanage. When I was 11, I began to misbehave and rebel. The DIF moved me to Pan de Vida. I like living in this home because here I have many opportunities and I feel loved. Last year I had the opportunity to go to Canada to serve at a summer camp. It was incredible for me because I like to experience new places. Now I am in high school and I would like to continue studying to be a physical trainer. The best thing that happened to me when I arrived here was that I met Jesus Christ. As I hear about Jesus every day, I try to follow Him more.

Pan de Vida Boys' Dorm



The cement work for the boys' dorm is finished! Now all we need are the inside details:

doors, windows, plastering, floors, lights, bathroom fixtures, and any number of other things. We will need funds and work support to reach the finish line. Our completed projects include extra solar panels that produce 100% of our needed electrical energy, a church storeroom, three new play areas for the boys' dorm, girls' dorm and the school and to the continual joy of the children the installation of a pool we were gifted. We received three Canadian teams with seven more to come. It is a great blessing to have them at Pan de Vida!

Juan (10) Casa Otomi



I am in Grade 5. I live with my mother, Angelica, and father, Rafael, and my brother, Isai (6). I enjoy drawing and painting cartoons and in the afternoon, I love to ride my bicycle near my house. Sometimes I play soccer with my family, which is great! I would like to be a police officer to catch criminals and to help support my parents. My mom registered us for the Christmas sponsorship program this year

and I will never forget opening my box and seeing so many things in it. My mom is a Bible teacher and all of our family are Christians. I really like to learn Bible stories at the Otomi House, and to play with other kids. They lend us bicycles and give us breakfast. My mom is now the Ministry Education Director.

Casa Otomi



Each year we work to bless children through activities and events as we proclaim Jesus and provide

necessities and fun. In January, we had two events that included the Mexican essentials: piñatas, candies, balloons and fun. We invited 100 children that missed the Christmas parties and gave them clothing and new toys. At another event, we invited 500 children from a new community to present them with toys, balls, and games. We always present the Word of God to reach the heart of those prepared by the Holy Spirit. We praise the Lord for opening wide doors of ministry among the Otomi as we show them the love of God in practical ways!

Claudia (7) Brazos de Amistad



Claudia started coming to the soup kitchen one year ago. In this short time, we see already the Lord's work in her life and that of her family. When Claudia first came to the soup kitchen, she was very withdrawn and at other times, aggressive and defiant. With time and love, the Lord has softened her heart. How, she plays

with the other children, loves to dance and participate in Bible studies.

The Lord is doing incredible things in the lives of Claudia's older brother, Fernando, and her mother, Elena, as well. Her mother is an active volunteer at the soup kitchen. In November 2019, Elena invited the Lord into her life. Now Elena, Fernando and Claudia regularly attended church and discipleship groups.

Please pray for Claudia and her family that they may grow in the Lord and walk close to Him. We continue to pray for Claudia's father, Geraldo, who is not yet a believer.

Brazos de Amistad



We give thanks to God that we are very close to finishing the construction of our sanctuary. This space will provide a place for us to congregate as a church, share the word of God and have

our children's club. For now, we meet in the soup kitchen area; which means that we frequently set up and tear down everything that we need for our church services. We see the Lord work in so many ways and we continue to trust his provision and timing for our plans. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Jesus (7) Esperanza para Ti



Jesus' mother is disabled and his older brother abused him. Jesus spent some time in another orphanage before arriving at Esperanza last summer. He is just beginning his education in Grade 1 and struggles in school but he thrives on hugs, love, and spending time at church getting to know God. His enjoys building with "Lego" and playing soccer. Please pray that Jesus will

come to know the God who loves him.

Esperanza para Ti



We welcome 2020 with high hopes and dreams. We continue to wait for the completion of the final step in the process of obtaining the property title. Once we have the title, we will start construction of new boys' and girls' dormitories, a new kitchen, an office and apartments

for our visiting volunteers. Four students are in the final semester of Secondary school (Grades 7-9) and three in High school (Grades 10-12). The children are happy, healthy and doing well. Duane and Maribel joined the staff at Esperanza. This summer two teams plan to help with bathrooms for the auditorium, a storage shed, and other projects. We thank God for all the blessings that He pours out on us every day.

Julio (12) Ancla de Amor

Speaking of how the children are developing, many of you know that Julio qualified to go to nationals this year! Thanks to the love



and support of many of you, he received that opportunity! Julio is now 12 years old. He arrived at Ancla when he is only 8 years old, right after his mother passed away. He arrived here uncertain about his future as he faced his new reality: life in an orphanage. Four years later Julio swam for his state at The National Swim Competition in Veracruz! Praise the Lord! Julio is a perfect example of

how God can transform the broken lives of kids. Love does overcome! We have learned repeatedly that it takes unending love to lead our children through their valleys of pain, rejection, abuse and neglect. Through God's love, we can lead them to grasp their own identity and understand their own purpose. Once they accept and embrace their identity in the Lord, their journey takes wings. We are so proud of the man Julio is becoming. Please keep him in your hearts and prayers.

Ancla de Amor



We finished the construction of our first children's home. We are so excited to inform you that the "Grand Opening" occurred as scheduled on, March 1, 2019. As anticipated, we had a great time gathering with many of our 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!

Celina (8) Casa Ammi



Celina is the newest member of the Casa Ammi family. Her parents moved to Querétaro hoping to improve their living conditions; then instead her parents demonstrated physical, mental and social instability in forcing Celina to beg on the cruise ships. If she did not meet expectations, her parents beat her. Her older sister decided to take her in but, soon after, for unknown reasons, her sister committed suicide.

Please pray that Celina can heal

from the abuse and sadness that were her life from such a young age, that she adapts quickly to her new home and finally, that she is welcomed and cared for by her new brothers and sisters.

Casa Ammi



We work continually to better prepare our boys and girls to become people who contribute to society in a real way, instead of people trapped in a life of poverty, welfare, violence or criminal activity. We start with our "House Parents", who undergo an extensive interview process, and train them for several months in excellence, innovation and professionalism before they start a new "family". For the children, their life lessons include healthy eating, age appropriate sexual abuse prevention, spiritual education and practice, school lessons, homework, and study and how to interact in society without fear. We bring in Christian adult volunteers to demonstrate healthy interpersonal relationships. Finally, we involve them in social, cultural, recreational and sports activities to introduce them to all the wonderful possibilities that surround them.

Prayer Requests

Mexican children, in care, are often not true orphans. Instead, they are neglected, abandoned or abused. Pray...

- For their physical, emotional and spiritual healing
- That they come to know and respond to the great life-changing love of the Lord
- For recognition, guidance and education of their individual strengths and talents as they grow to take their place in Mexican society

Being a full-time caregiver can be exhausting. Pray...

- That they will take time to be refreshed
- That their relationship with the Lord stays strong
- That they receive wisdom from God that will bear fruit in the lives of the children

It's Mission Trip season. Pray...

- That this unique experience would have a lasting positive impact in the life of each team member
- That they will be well rested and healthy
- That they will connect and work well together



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