



WINTER NEWSLETTER

# Children of Hope



December 2023

## Caring for Kids



### ONTARIO & MANITOBA PRESENTATIONS

So much gratitude and joy fills our hearts as we reminisce on this group picture! This photo is filled with a group of individuals that we get to call our colleagues, but more importantly, our friends. Davin Post, Jeremy Van Beelen, Kris and Lucy Jongsma, Rosa Martha (the famous team cook), and Duane Visscher all enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship in different churches in Ontario during the month of September. A special thanks to Faithworks and everyone who supported our Children of Hope team with planning the presentations, hosting, feeding, and taking the team sightseeing - our team felt very welcomed! Duane Visscher also visited different churches in southern Manitoba sharing about his work at Esperanza para Ti and with Children of Hope. The fellowship that was experienced was a tremendous blessing for our team. Thank you very much brothers and sisters in Christ for loving us so much!



**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MINISTRY  
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THE QR CODE BELOW**



EPISTLE NEWSLETTER

### ABOVE AND BEYOND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Here we are in December already! This means the Above and Beyond campaign is starting! With this in mind, we ask that you consider allocating your year-end donations to the Above and Beyond fundraising campaign. These funds will help our seven ministries with their monthly general expenses in 2024, fund pressing projects, and cover the costs of other physical needs the children may have. If God puts it on your heart to help the children, please do! Some of our ministries are struggling with their daily needs. Your response to our donation request has been overwhelming the past two years and we thank each of you! Please consider giving online, sending a cheque with "Above and Beyond" in the comment line, or calling to donate. We are grateful for your consideration of this request.



ABOVE AND BEYOND DONATION



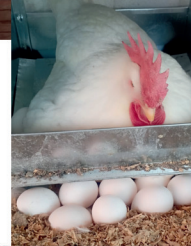
**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!**



How do I begin to tell you about the wonders that God continues to do in the lives of His precious children? Here is a small summary of the lives of two siblings who first arrived at Pan de Vida in 2005. Abril (April) was five years old, and Jose was three years old. After some time they became part of the Esperanza para Ti home where they continued to receive love and were taught in paths of righteousness and discipline. Glory to God for what He has done in the lives of Jose and Abril! Now, Abril has graduated from university with a degree in communications and Jose is starting a new stage in his flying career by getting hands-on experience flying! Yes, Jose is studying to become an airline pilot! And in his free time, he dedicates himself to being a mechanic! I have no words to express the gratitude that is in our hearts and the privilege it is to witness the immense faithfulness of God in the lives of those who were lost and without hope!!! Your love for us is great, Lord!



We are thankful that the caregiver couples from both homes were able to take a course in communication. This course has strengthened the unity and love of God towards our girls, boys, and everyone around us. Also, we are involving girls and boys in caring for the farm animals, specifically caring for the laying hens, by assigning the children to different responsibilities. Most of our children are in their adolescent years, so their responsibilities on the farm help reinforce values such as responsibility, affection, and respect, all important family values in the upbringing of our children!

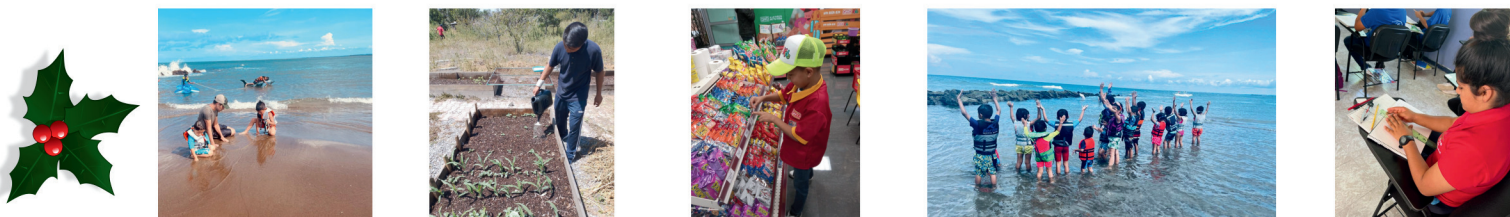


“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:



God has always been faithful in our lives and in sustaining this ministry. We have seen this recently, due to a fire in a nearby nursing home, resulting in the government authorities requesting Pan de Vida to invest in expert inspections and certifications. These improvements in the home are needed to avoid potential future accidents. Security film has been installed on the windows. Smoke detectors, non-slip tape, and other safety measures have been implemented as well. Additionally, the entire staff have received training in first aid. We continue to work on other requirements, such as installing fire alarms and various signs and conducting fire drills among other things. After completing these requests, Civil Protection will conduct an inspection to determine if we are complying with these new standards in order to operate safely.

We have also recently bought new pots and utensils for the kitchen. We are thankful to God that we have installed blinds on most windows, taking advantage of a manufacturer's discount. The children have received school supplies for the new school year, and have had opportunities for social learning activities outside the home. Several teenagers have become involved in a Bible study club at a nearby church, providing them with spiritual leadership and support, while developing relationships with other Christian youth.



Russel is turning 18, which means as an adult he cannot continue to live at our home. Typically, before a child turns 18, we prepare them for this next big step of independence by finding a job or a university for them to attend. However, Russel is a unique case as he has been diagnosed with autism. We have been in communication with social services (DIF) about his options and sadly, he has none. Can you believe that? Mexico does not have any facilities for boys like Russel in Sonora. There are some located in Mexico City, but they are privately run and are generally used for wealthy families that can afford to register family members there.

After he is an adult, DIF will wash their hands of his situation and life. For all of us, and anyone who has met Russel, this is absolutely devastating! In a way, it feels like a death sentence because Russel needs a care provider as he is not capable of caring for himself. We need a miracle! I do not know what exactly that means but we ask you to pray with us. We have to find a better solution for him. We know that God is good and that He loves His child, Russel. We are resting in hope and faith that there is some way we can make sure Russel is safe and taken care of.

It is clear that Russel needs a home where there will be people trained to take care of him, supporting him to live a beautiful life. Please pray that if it is the will of God that Russel stays at Ancla de Amor, He will provide all that is needed in order to keep Russel in the home. If God has different plans for Russel, pray that those plans will unfold. God is always in control, indeed!





We are a few weeks away from celebrating our biggest event of the year, the Christmas Shoe Box Outreach. The board and volunteers are working hard in the planning of this event to be a successful celebration.



The goal this year is to find more than 2000 shoe box sponsors for the children in la Casa Otomi. These children will receive a personalized Christmas gift with school supplies, personal hygiene products, a game or toy, cookies, sweets, and a Christmas letter. They will also receive a food hamper with granola, instant oats, chocolate, cereal, energy bars, and more. We do not have anything else to say other than, "Thank you, Jesus, for using this ministry to bring so many children and their families to you".

We are hosting another community event where 250 native seniors will listen to the Good News in their own language by a local pastor. In addition, they will receive a new scarf, winter gloves, and a food hamper. We pray to the Lord that they will receive Jesus in their hearts as their savior. At the same time, we thank God for pouring His mercy upon this ministry in the mountains of Central México. We have seen so many lives being changed by God's mercy.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For the healing of the hearts of all the children who live in the orphanages and soup kitchens, for their families, and for their salvation.
- Pray for the different teams that plan to visit the ministries in Mexico next year from Canada and the United States.
- For more caregivers and volunteers to help at our ministries
- For the family of every volunteer, for their marriages, their health, physical and spiritual strength, and for courage so they can follow God's will in their lives.
- Let us pray for the safety of all those who live in the different ministries and the economic provision of each of them.
- Wisdom for the CoH board members and office staff to use their God-given abilities so Children of Hope gives glory to our wonderful heavenly father in every decision and action.
- Pray for more child sponsors.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE ABOVE AND BEYOND CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES**



**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
 PO Box 2643, Stn A  
 Abbotsford, BC V2T 6R4  
 (604) 853-6001

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



# Children of Hope

**WISHES YOU ALL  
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# BLESSED 2024

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