

CASA mission report

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AUTUMN **[Otoño]** 2021



In September, Casa de la Esperanza had its annual review by the Social Assistance Centers for the Mexican National System for Integral Family Development (DIF). As part of the process, a government psychologist from DIF interviewed **80%** of our children privately and independently.

Casa's annual review



At the conclusion of their review, every child, without exception, was said to have expressed a high degree of happiness and satisfaction with living condition at Casa. DIF further indicated that it was only in the rarest of occasions that they find such broad-based satisfaction existing among the entire population of children living in a children's homes.

Psychological tests were also conducted on all of Casa's staff, and our administrative and internal operating procedures were scrutinized, as well.

The Casa building was also reviewed by DIF staff, fire and safety personal, and an engineer for structural safety, cleanliness, order, and safety practices. Electrical, water and gas installations were also evaluated. The outcome of this portion of the review found that we needed to replace two electrical outlet covers. The rest of our facility was deemed to be in exceptional condition.

The final results of this review?

All our children were found to be content and prospering while living at Casa. The children consider the food, clothing and care provided them to be very good. The staff were found to be well trained in their respective roles, and the facilities and systems were determined to be safe and well developed. DIF concluded "Casa de la Esperanza was found to be free of violence or denigration of any kind while providing children with a loving environment".

Following this review, we were issued the certification to proceed with another year of serving children at risk.



Welcome our New Casa Family Members





THE LORD'S Church in Anahuac The fruit of their spiritual maturity and knowledge are increasingly guident through and knowledge

We are pleased to introduce Alonso Rivera, who joined Casa de la Esperanza as an evangelist this September. Alonso studied at the Monterrey School of Preaching in1990 and has collaborated in planting Churches of Christ in Mexico City, Monterrey, the city of Chihuahua, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Alonso served for fifteen years at the Church of Christ in Santa Fe. Alonso and his wife Lucia bring a high level of spiritual maturity and years of service to the Anahuac Church of Christ. The fruit of their spiritual maturity and knowledge are increasingly evident throughout the ministry. This fruit is evidenced by the quality of our worship services and a continued growth in attendance. It is also evidenced by the quality and growth of both our mid-week women's bible study and our congregational bible study.

We are delighted beyond measure that our church members are demonstrating ever-increasing commitment and involvement in other areas of service. Some of the areas our members are participating in include collaborating in projects such as donating and distributing clothes and food to the underprivileged. Members are supporting our Saturday blood sugar testing in the town square. Our members are visiting Casa regularly and spending time with our children. Our church family is meeting in the church building to cook and share a meal during the weekly group bible studies.

They are also visiting brethren who do not attend Sunday worship to take them the Lord's supper and fellowship with them. The Good News is being demonstrated and shared through the loving service of our brothers and sisters in Christ. With an eye on growing increased communication and cooperation among churches in the state of Chihuahua, we have been working on the development of an area Church of Christ Directory. This is being done with the aim of fostering collaboration among the surrounding congregations to achieve a greater impact on the dire problems facing our society and with the goal of developing a fraternal relationship between our congregations, just as the churches of the first century did. The cooperation of the first century church led to the Gospel being shared around the world, and we hope our cooperation will have a similar impact in Mexico.

Despite the distance, churches of the first century maintained a bond of service and love in Jesus Christ. In keeping with this example, we are planning a spiritual retreat that will be held in April of 2022. Preachers of the Churches of Christ in Chihuahua and neighboring cities, towns and villages are being contacted and invited to share a weekend focused on edifying one another, sharing lessons on Christian discipleship and church leadership. During the three-day Spiritual Retreat, the guests will be provided food and lodging at the facilities of Casa de la Esperanza.

ADDED TO THE Book of Life Briseida

13 years old, has lived at Casa for two years

> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

Mattthew 28:19

"



School

COVID conditions in Chihuahua only allow our elementary and high school students to attend classes intermittently. The monitoring of symptoms is done daily at Casa and in the schools where they attend. Precautionary measures are now part of daily life and each of our children carry disinfection kits in their backpacks.

The past school year has been a challenging one. For all our children, this season has been an opportunity to strengthen their academic knowledge and skills on-site at Casa, where we continue with daily classes. Our high school students are only able to attend class in town part time but continue with additional classes on-site at Casa from Monday through Friday with a licensed teacher. They rest of our children also attend supplemental classes at Casa. In addition, we have teacher's aides who come to Casa daily to tutor and assist the kids with their homework.

In this new school year, the children of Casa de la Esperanza have excelled with exceptional grades, outstanding classroom skills and admirable mannerisms. In addition, when they attend school in town, their cleanliness of appearance reflects the care and excellent nutrition they receive. Unsolicited feedback from school administrators and teach have continually commented to this effect.



VAUGHN GRAHAM EDUCATION CENTER

Progress continues, and the **Vaughn Education Center** is ever so close to being ready for occupation and use. The Center promises to provide Casa children of all ages with a wide range of educational experiences including robotics, laser technology, computer science, and hydraulics to mention a few.

The Center also includes a clinic and two infirmaries to house children requiring isolation and special care due to illness. Finally, a grand multi-purpose room will serve our need for a crafts and "rumpus" room. Also, we will finally have a place for conducting devotionals where we do not have to compete with noise from the kitchen.

Casa received a kind and thoughtful donation enabling us to proceed quickly with bringing this project to a close by Christmas



Celebrate their uinceañeras at Casa

We recently had the joy of celebrating three quinceañera — a celebration of a young woman's fifteenth birthday. Gloria and Carolina, two of our baptized Casa children, and Katia were our lovely quinceañera. Katia, who lives in town, recently decided to follow Christ by being baptized at the Church of Christ in Anahuac where she and her family are active members of the congregation.

The celebration of this event took place in the facilities of Casa de la Esperanza, where the Staff, brothers and sisters of the church community in Anahuac, and some members of the Church of Christ in west Houston helped with all the preparations, and with whom the young ladies and guests "shared and ate together with joy" as in Acts 2:42. Our Lord Jesus Christ is, and will continue to be, front and center to all our activities. Therefore, we began the celebration with the word of God, encouraging the quinceañera to mature spiritually and to let Jesus Christ be the only standard of life worthy of being imitated in this new chapter of their lives.

We can only feel honored to enjoy and share these moments of love and fraternal joy between the Church of Christ and Casa de la Esperanza that form, thanks to the blood of Jesus, one body, one mind and one heart. The celebration of this event took place in the facilities of Casa de la Esperanza, where the Staff, brothers and sisters of the church community in Anahuac, and some members of the Church of Christ in west Houston helped with all the preparations, and with whom the young ladies and guests "shared and ate together with joy" as in Acts 2:42. Our Lord Jesus Christ is, and will continue to be, front and center to all our activities. Therefore, we began the celebration with the word of God, encouraging the quinceañera to mature spiritually and to let Jesus Christ be the only standard of life worthy of being imitated in this new chapter of their lives.

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Pictured top to bottom.

Carolina

Katia



West Houston Church of Christ Visits Casa

The following was written by Kent Baggett, West Houston Church of Christ Missions Committee Member and Casa del la Esperanza Foundation Board member. A group from West Houston Church of Christ visited Casa de la Esperanza in October. It was a fantastic experience! We were fortunate enough to be there when a precious young lady from Casa was baptized at the new church in Anahuac. We were also blessed to be able to attend a quinceañera for three special young ladies! Two young women from Casa and another from the church in Anahuac were treated to a celebration of their fifteenth birthday—and they were kind enough to let us be part of their special day. The young ladies looked gorgeous, and all the family, Casa kids, and guests loved the party!

There is always something that needs to be done on the Casa campus. For us, that something turned out to be apples. We cored, sliced, and bagged apples for the freezer; bagged apples for distribution to needy families; and made applesauce with some that were a little past their prime.

One afternoon we took several of the older kids with us to the church building, and working with some of the church members, we packaged food for distribution to the poor in the community. We put together well over 100 bags of food (rice, beans, and potatoes) along with bags of apples. Then, working with the church members and the Casa kids, we handed out the food to some of the needy families in the area.

Being with the children during meals, devotionals, and on the playground is what makes visiting Casa so special. In our group, we had one individual who spoke good Spanish, a couple of folks who had some basic Spanish, and a few that didn't know much beyond gracias and buenos días. However, combining smiles, hugs, and pantomime, we found that everyone could communicate. On our last night there, we had a pizza party and then sang and cheered as the kids took turns whacking a piñata.

A couple of the ladies in our group mentioned that our trip to Casa ended up being their vacation. We all came down expecting to give the kids a little something—but realizing that we received way more in return from them!

Contact Information

Needs List

As work progresses on the Anáhuac Church of Christ and Community Center and the three duplex units, furnishing the housing units still remains a priority. Thank you for generous donations that have been made by our supporters. If you are able to donate any larger items, please contact us as soon as possible so pick up or delivery can be arranged, as moving certain items through the border crossing process can be quite time consuming.

Mailing Address:

For mail, packages, boxes

5844 Angel Street El Paso Texas, 79932 (719) 252-9423

Attention: Gil Sanchez, Casa de la Esperanza

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Gil Sanchez, Director

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Mexico Telephone: 011-52-625-585-0068

Email: children01@prodigy.net.mx casakids01@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.ahouseofhope.com

Current Needs:

- 1 All-Clad BD55512 D5 Brushed 18/10 Stainless Steel 5-Ply Bonded Dishwasher Safe Stock Pot with Lid Cookware, 12-Quart, Silver (Amazon)
- 1 23-quart pressure cooker
- 1 Large Stainless-Steel Strainer and Mixing Bowl Set (Amazon)
- 2 Viking 3-Ply Stainless Steel Stock Pot, 12 Quart (Amazon)
- 1 HOMICHEF 10 Quart Stock Pot with Glass Lid Nickel Free Stainless Steel 10 Qt Pot with Handle - Mirror Polished Stock Pot 10 Quart - Induction Pot Cooking Pot with Lid -Healthy Stock Pot (Amazon)
- 1 Husqvarna 128LD or like model 17" Cutting Path Detachable Gas String Trimmer

As always, I am overwhelmed by God's provision and your faithful support of the mission at Casa de la Esperanza.



Wanting to Visit Us?



If you plan to visit Casa, this is a friendly reminder that we operate on a first come first serve basis. If you are not certain of your exact arrival and departure date, we will schedule you on a tentative basis reserving your spot. As in previous years, we will provide assistance with border crossing and travel from El Paso to Casa and back again if necessary. Unless you plan on traveling to Casa on a chartered bus, we are using the Santa Teressa border crossing located on the far west end of El Paso avoiding travel through Juarez all together. **Hope to see you this spring or summer.**

Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf.

Psalm 66:5