

THE GOOD NEWS

CASA mission report



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WINTER [INVIERNO] 2017

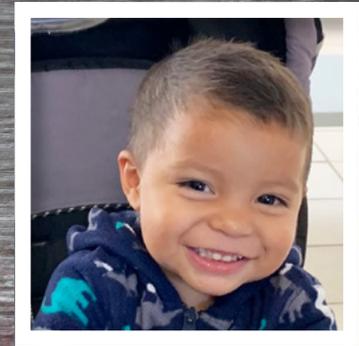
CELEBRATING

new members to the Casa family

We are very blessed when children enter Casa and Evelyn (12), Anali (12) and Mateo (2) are certainly no exception. We always feel a sense of privilege when we consider that through an act of our Father, we receive each child uniquely and beautifully made in His image.

With nothing short of great expectations, we look forward to seeing how the love of God expressed through life's daily routines at Casa renders a trusting relationship with each child. A child trust opens the door of opportunity for us to experience their amazing personalities and talents. Without sincere love and trust, the doors to affecting change in a child's life remains closed.

Welcome Evelyn, Anali and Mateo.



*"And He took the children in his arms,
placed his hands on them and blessed them."*

— Mark 10:16

Christmas CELEBRATION

Christmas is a much-awaited time of year for children and this holiday season served as the ideal occasion to show our children that they are loved by the family in Christ. This year, we were overwhelmed by the number of Christmas gifts and support received for special meals and activities. This outpouring of love is deeply appreciated beyond what words can express.

Each gift messaged love, affirming the special place each child has in the heart of our Christian family. Although most of you could not be with us when gifts were opened, your presence was felt. While our children could only read the name of the giver on the name tag, our Lord knows the love that was poured into each gift. One could see at a glance, that each gift received special attention with a spirit of generosity and love. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kind hearts.

After a full meal, it was just a few moments later that the children began opening their presents. Immediately after, we are standing in the mist of chaos, surrounded by a thunder of excitement and laughing faces.

It was in this moment that we are taken aback by feelings of deep joy and thankfulness to you for making this possible. If only you could experience this moment, you might more fully appreciate how much your gift of love means, more than you could ever imagine. Thank you!

Christmas, for many of our children, is an especially difficult time because life's circumstances has not been very kind to them. And while carrying a void in their hearts, having been abandoned, abused, and or being orphaned, your gift helps put a beautiful smile on each face ushering in moments of laughter and a pause to give thanks. Living where the love of Christ resonates in their daily life, so it will leave an indelible impression of our Lord's care and love that will resonate in each heart, mind and soul for the rest of their lives. God will see to that and as each child will eventually leave Casa and make their way in life, our conviction is that our Father journeys with them.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

— Luke 2:11



ACTIVITIES

at the church building

Few experiences can be more rewarding than that of being a part of a church plant. While it has its many moments of struggle, disappointment, and uncertainty as we are serving to grow a church in Anahuac, our trust and faith rest on Christ's statement recorded in John 12:32. **"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself"**. Our confidence rest in this statement of fact for His is the founding message of truth, hope and promise and therein lies our victory! It is exhilarating to plant the seed and witness God giving growth through the Spirits mysterious ways.

We are witnessing a growth, transformation and a sense of family unity developing in the growing number of Christians making up the church in Anahuac. We are conducting several bible studies with the emphasis on practicing God's word in our daily lives. Bible studies are being held at many levels among the Church family. Before worship service, Bible studies are held with our Youth Studies including our own baptized children at Casa and other teenagers from the community, Women's Bible Study Group and Men's Bible Study Group.

We have some seasoned Christians volunteering to teach our male and female adult classes. Our baptized children attend special classes aimed at maturing their faith

and our baptized young men are participating in church leadership skills while serving in Sunday's worship service.

The true measure of success for any of our endeavors to teach God's word either in Bible classes or by modeling Christian behavior is by the fruit rendered. I can confidently say that anyone visiting Casa has experienced our children and know them to be loving, kind to each other, hardworking, joyful, respectful and reflecting Christ like behavior. This is the fruit rendered by keeping the world out as much as possible and exercising our Christian love and faith in our home. This practice is also reflected in the church culture growing and reflecting the Christian virtues as part of our daily life in service to our Lord.

We collectively teach and understand that the Church is everyone's responsibility. During the week, our young, baptized men accompany the two Bible students knocking on doors and distribute invitations to church activities. They visit new members of the church to strengthen them spiritually, encourage members who for some reason stop attending regularly, share the word at the government sponsored community breakfasts and other activities that seek the organic growth of the church in the community. With this involvement, our children get a broader vision of the gospel and develop from an early age an appreciation and love for the great commission to which all followers of Christ were called to by faith.



While we join efforts in the Anahuac community, within Casa there is a strong sense of Christian identity that leads our children to practice teaching the Word from Monday to Saturday; with topics reviewed and programmed by us, our baptized children lead the songs, memory verses, Bible exposition and question and answer sessions during each Casa devotional.

God is blessing our endeavors to forge relationships with the community and with neighboring sister Churches of Christ in Chihuahua and Cuauhtémoc. Church leaders and members now regularly visit Casa de la Esperanza to preach the word, cook and share food, help our staff with cleaning and maintenance tasks and above all demonstrating the unity and love

that Christ teaches us. These and other visits are a blessing of unity, love and fruitful to the Kingdom. Visitors commonly say while leaving after spending a day with us: "Thank you for allowing us to visit you, we got much more than we gave." These results are the work of the Holy Spirit guiding and caring for His Church. Glory to him for awakening and growing his love in every heart of those who are part of His Church.

OUR HARVEST

Giving thanks to God, this year's harvest of feed grain and beans was exceptional. We were able to fatten a cow and two pigs for slaughter providing us with meat for several months. In these times of rising food cost and inflation, we are grateful to rest knowing that we can feed our children good, wholesome meals for the foreseeable future. This year's bean harvest was nearly 5,000 pounds, enough to cover 12 months of our consumption, and a surplus that will be shared with the neediest families in the neighboring community.





School & Community Parades

School is not all about books and good grades for our children, there is also time to have fun, dress up and participate in festivals and parades. Our children had the opportunity this year to participate in the Independence and Mexican Revolution parades, which were held in the streets of the community. These activities not only give us a greater presence in the community, but also increase the sense of belonging and sense of nationalism in our children.

It has become common place for teachers to express their compliments for the good behavior and general appreciation for our Casa children. But beyond that recognition, there are clear signs of their outstanding academic achievement and progress. In the month of November, 4 of our elementary school children won 1st place in a quick math contest in the municipality of Anáhuac and 2nd place in the city of Cuauhtémoc.

Also, four of our high school students were exempt from all final exams due to their excellent grades during the semester, enjoying an extra 2 weeks of vacation, which they have taken advantage of to take soccer and dance classes for the boys and girls.

School is a challenge for any parent, and at Casa de la Esperanza it is no exception. Glory to God for his guidance and strength in this ministry, and many congratulations to each of our children for their effort, perseverance and for taking the opportunity to study so seriously.

*Con Dios
todo es
Posible*





Sharing with Neighborhood's in Need

The day after Christmas, a few hundred flyers were distributed door to door throughout the poorest sections of town announcing a date later that week when food and cloths would be handed out from the Church building in Anahuac. Meanwhile, brethren from the church, members from a visiting group and Casa children got busy sorting cloths and bagging rice, beans, and potatoes in preparation for this event.

An hour before the event was to begin, people were lining up at the door. We were blessed and privileged to serve approximately 300 of our neighbors in need handing out almost 1000 pounds of food and 1500 clothing items. I pray that our neighbors receiving these gifts of food and clothing that cold and wintry morning were as blessed as we were giving it to them in the name of our Lord Jesus. Glory to Him!

You will be enriched in every way so that on every occasion you may be generous, and that through us your generosity may result in thanksgiving to God.

— 2 Corinthians 9:11

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

For mail, packages, boxes
5844 Angel Street
El Paso Texas, 79932
(719) 252-9423

Attention:

Gil Sanchez, Casa de la Esperanza

Telephone and Email Information:

Gil Sanchez, Director

USA Cell Phone:
(719) 252-9423

Mexico Telephone:

011-52-625-585-0068

Email:

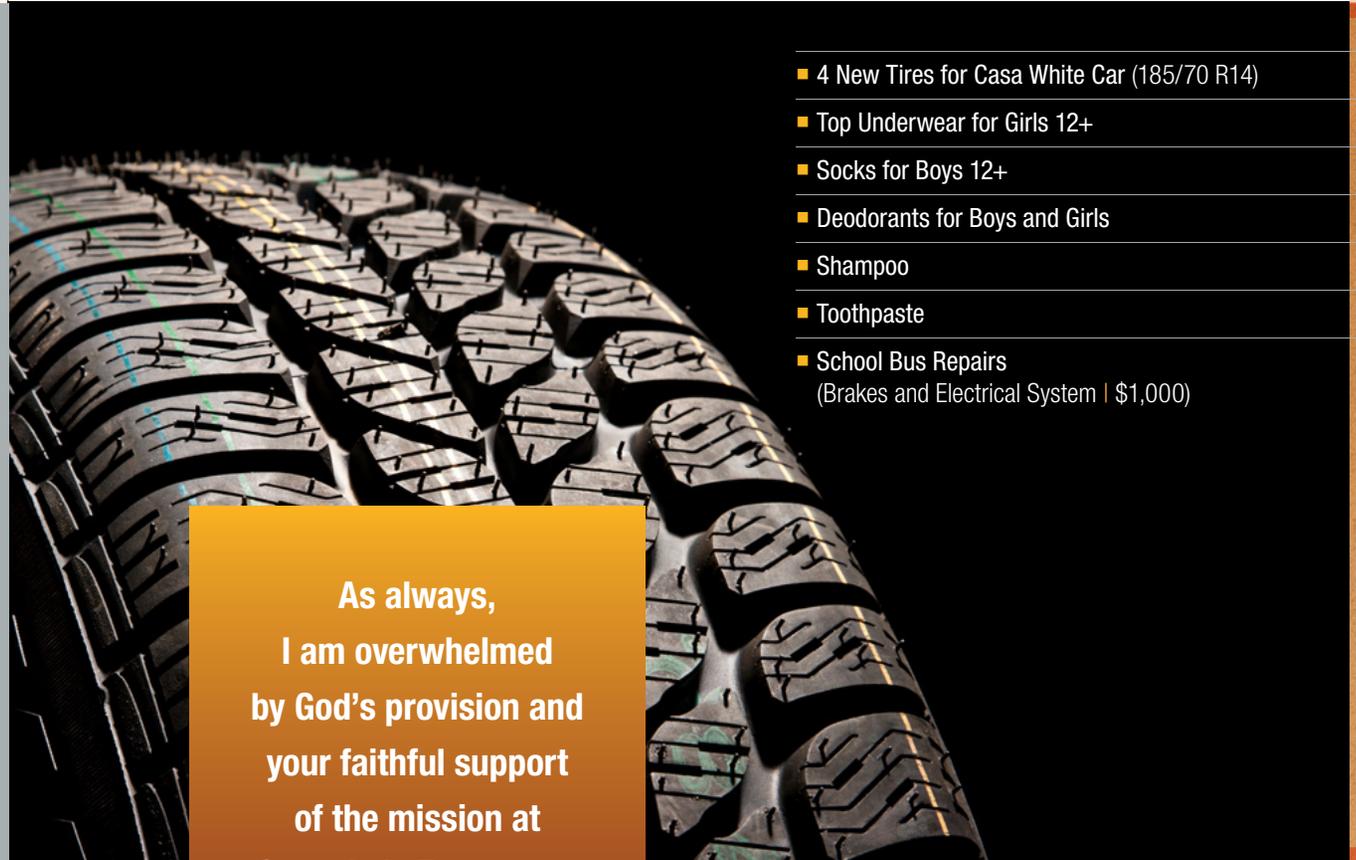
children01@prodigy.net.mx
casakids01@yahoo.com

Web Site:

www.ahouseofhope.com

Needs List

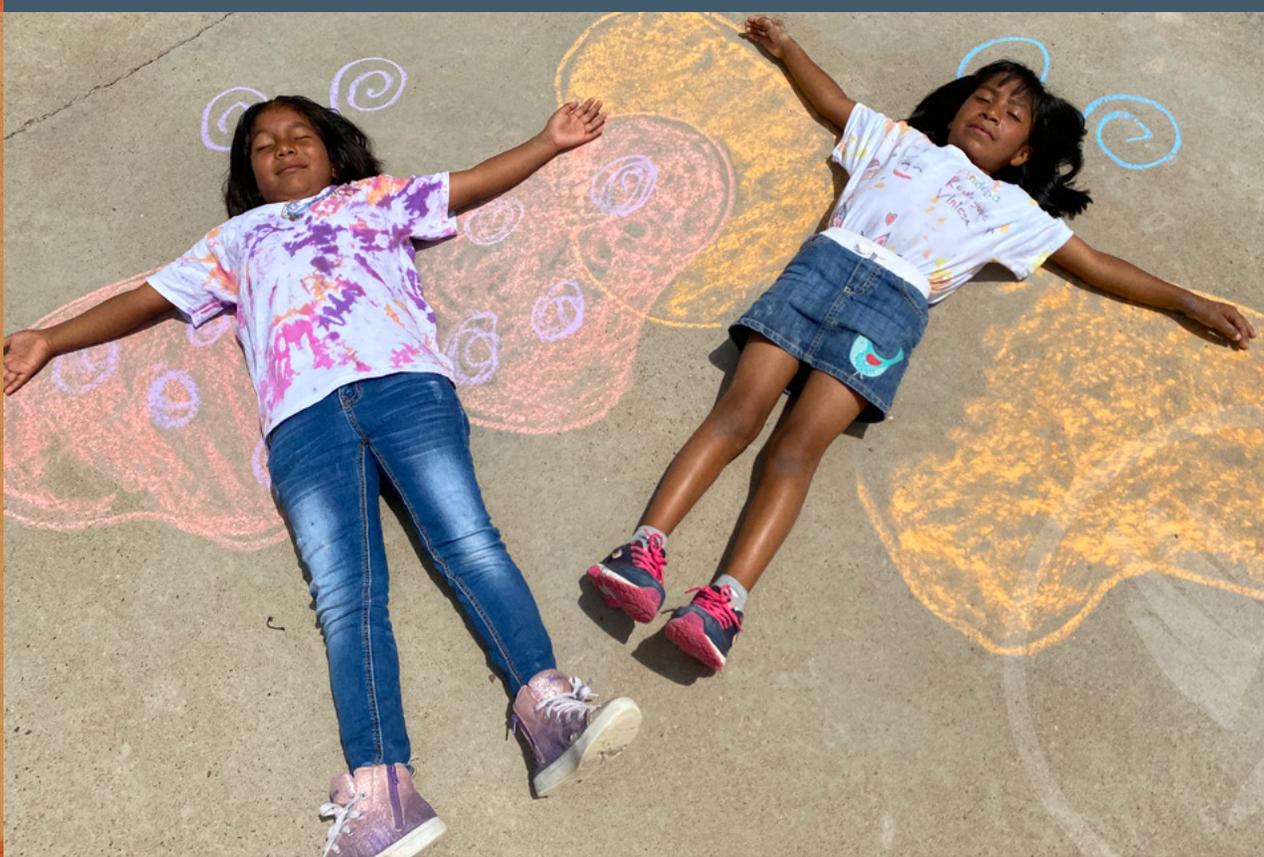
As work progresses on the Anáhuac Church of Christ and Community Center and the three duplex units, furnishing the housing units still remains a priority. Thank you for generous donations that have been made by our supporters. If you are able to donate any larger items, please contact us as soon as possible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



- 4 New Tires for Casa White Car (185/70 R14)
- Top Underwear for Girls 12+
- Socks for Boys 12+
- Deodorants for Boys and Girls
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- School Bus Repairs
(Brakes and Electrical System | \$1,000)

**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 Teresa 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