layman

action

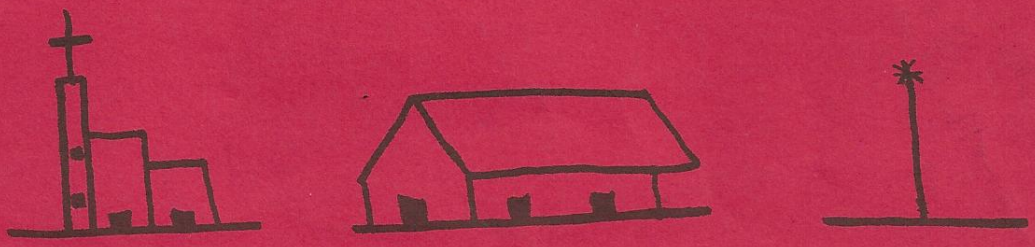
for children, inc.

JULY - DECEMBER 1987

OUR 21st YEAR OF SERVICE

P.O. BOX 83023, LOS ANGELES, CA 90083

Feliz
NAVIDAD



W.S.F.

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y AÑO NUEVO!

That is the Christmas and New Year wish from the children in Mexico. Your gifts have made a difference in their lives during 1987. More than 80 children were supported in the "La Familia" and "Mama Paulita" homes and were given love and the opportunity to go to school. 45 more were given support so they could receive an education which would raise them above the poverty level of their surroundings. Many more children were touched by Mexican volunteers who went out to the poor areas to teach children and parents how to find a better life. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MANY LIVES cannot be said enough.

Every Christmas we give additional funds to the homes so that this time will indeed be a special occasion for the children. An additional $5 to your regular donation will bring joy to a child - please help.

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P.O. Box 83023 Los Angeles, CA 90083

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As a non-profit, interdenominational organization, it is our goal to respond to the needs of the underprivileged children of the world. It is our belief that these needs must be met at all levels in a child's life - we must relate to the total being: the physical, the mental, the spiritual. When put into ACTION, this means providing food, shelter, and clothing to meet the children's physical needs; providing educational opportunities to enrich and enhance the mental capacities of the children; and providing the opportunity for worship thus encouraging spiritual growth.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

The dedication of our Mexican house parents always amazes me. Just imagine being the parent 24 hours a day with no scheduled time off, working day and night trying to keep up with the needs and problems for 30 to 50 children. That is what our home Directors do with some helpers coming in for only part of each day. All of our program Directors have decided to dedicate their lives to the children of the poor in their home land. We have asked each to tell us something about themselves so you can get to know them better. I will try to summarize their stories in the upcoming newsletters.

LOURDES GARCIA ROJO
Director of the home "LA FAMILIA" in Serdan

(Lourdes with her late husband Maurillio)

Lourdes and her husband took the job to direct the home ten years ago. They had four children. Three years ago, her husband was robbed and murdered when he was on an errand for the home. Lourdes asked if she could continue the work. We did not know if she could do the job at the home in Serdan without a man at her side, but we said O.K. With Faith in God, she received extra strength, patience and courage, and she has done an amazing job. Here is her story:

"I wanted to tell you how I got involved with children's homes. Ever since I was eight years old I used to dream about children. I did not know the reason for these dreams but they kept on till I was eighteen. Sometimes these dreams made me afraid.

When I was little, I had to stay home and do the housework because my mother had to go out to work. In my spare time I used to sneak over to the neighbors asking to let me take care of their babies, always making sure I brought them back before my mother came home.

Later I became a Sunday school teacher in my church. I invited all the kids in our area to come. I had more than forty five and I really enjoyed what I was doing. Still later when I was a student and living away with a missionary couple, I helped them counsel run-away teens till they would get back with their families. After I got married, my husband and I took two boys who had nowhere to go. God was surely preparing me for the future!

I also remember one time in our church we prayed for some distant childrens home which needed a couple to work as house parents. We never knew then we were praying for ourselves!

Three months later, a stranger from far away visited our church. He told us we were the couple that should go to Serdan. We were so surprised. We prayed very hard asking God to tell us his will. I started to think about many things: My family, children, house, friends, and

comforts of our city to go to a small town where we didn't know anyone or their customs.

I am sincere when I say that I was afraid to say yes to God. On the other hand, I did not have any material things to give God. I then remembered a verse in the Bible that said: "Give the best to the Master, give Him your youth, give Him your strength." After that, I didn't think about my doubts any more and my husband and I said YES! The whole church supported us.

When we arrived in Serdan, I felt like I was lost in everything we did. It was such a big change. I started to cook for seventeen people in our new family. We always worried if we had enough food for everyone. Many times I had to go around the table to redistribute the portions to make sure all had fair shares of the food. Our small pay just was not enough, and was often used for needs of all.

After a few years I could connect my job to my young girl dreams. I could see that the Lord had been preparing me. I know He must have had a plan for me to serve children even before I was born.

Here I am. Ten years have gone by, a few of them not so good for me. I know that God is always keeping an eye on me, lifting me up when I fall down and encouraging me to keep on working. I know this home is the right place for these children who have nobody else caring for them in their life. I give thanks to God for you, in far-away places, that send your gifts for the needy ones."

Lourdes is a good woman! Let us help in her Call from the Lord. This letter was translated into English by David Aguilar. I took the liberty to clarify some of his translations based on seeing Lourdes as a Christian in action.

Tor

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"MAMA PAULITA HOME"

Mrs. Hernandez writes that all the children were promoted to the next grade this semester except for two. Four graduated from the secondary school. Two of the graduates will be sponsored for continued education and two will go to work and live with relatives.

This summer the home received a special gift to send 47 children to a Presbyterian Church camp. They really loved to get away for a while and they came back with many stories of new experiences.

The older girls and neighborhood women also went to our technical school this summer to learn how to prepare soya beans. They made milk, cheese and substitute hamburger meat. The home is now serving these products to the children and believe it or not, they love it! The older boys learned about the elctrical trade.

Someone also donated 80 baby chicks for the children to raise. A chicken coop was made and the children are enjoying the fast growing birds.

Several new children have come to the home, replacing those who have left. One day a father dropped off four children: Mario, Cristobal, Julio and Amanda Lara. Their mother had deserted them. They were so undernourished because all they had eaten for a long time was tortillas. Amanda, the youngest, was so skinny that she "looked all eyes" wrote Mrs. Hernandez. They are all secure now in a home.

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