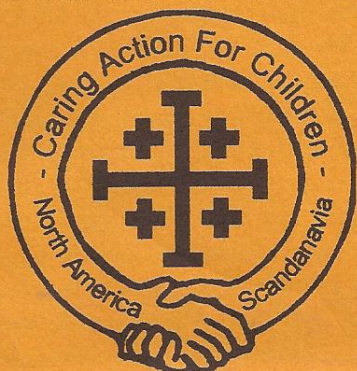


Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.



Anniversary Issue
October 1996
30 years in Mexico



SENIORITA MEXICAN PRESENTS YOU ANNIVERSARY FLOWERS OF THANKS!
and your director Tor Jansen presents you with an anniversary summary.

It is difficult to believe that 30 years have gone by since we started this work. Our Lord has given us so many miracles during these years. Our symbol above, of five crosses and two hands, represents Faith in God, Action for Children and International Cooperation. It has been our motivation for the achievements we are celebrating. Let me try to recall how it all happened.

I am often asked, "How did the idea of helping children in Mexico get started?". Perhaps God sent a special angel to the Nora Sterry Elementary School in Los Angeles, California. That little angel got a message of compassion into the hearts of some teachers. They probably shared their feelings in the teacher's room and decided to do something for unfortunate children of the world. At the Christmas staff party in 1965, the teachers of the school gave each other toys which were then sent to an orphanage of Amerasians in Korea. The idea of action for needy children was born in the "City of Angels".

This idea grew and in 1966, teachers founded a nonprofit charity called Layman Action for Children, Inc. It is now named Caring Action for Children, Inc. The Mexican-American students were telling stories about relatives in Mexico and the teachers listened. Before long, the angel had the founders on an airplane to visit homeless children and dedicated Christians who cared for them in Mexico. They then knew where their volunteer work should be concentrated. The following Christmas, school gifts went to Mexico. This charity became important in the lives and spiritual growth of the founding teachers.

Trygve Jansen, Martha Pedroza, and Evelyn Lindstrom were three of the teachers who became the core of this charity. They translated their *Faith* into *Action* by using their talents and connections to organize supporters. Trygve, who was elected the director, made connections with friends in Scandinavia. He had been a teacher in Norway a few years earlier and with his background, Caring Action for Children became international. Financial gifts to help homeless children were received as a result of personal visits and letters to tell about the children. Our records show that in 1972, after six years of volunteer work, the founding teachers sent \$3,603 to support neglected children. In 1995 that figure was \$59,601.

Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 64324 Los Angeles, Ca 90064

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MEMBER	MEMBER

EVELYN LINDSTROM AND MARTHA PEDROZA
HONORARY ORIGINAL MEMBERS

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 - 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 GIFTS CAN BE MAILED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

The federal tax registration number is 95-61155992

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
CARING ACTION FOR CHILDREN, INC., TOR W. JANSEN
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These dollar amounts for daily support of children do not tell the whole story. Much additional money was raised to obtain building funds. Volunteers spent many hours writing letters and using vacation days for travel to obtain building grants and donations from organizations in USA and the Scandinavian countries. The work of *Faith* and *Action* produced miracles.

Let me start with an excerpt of a 1968 report from Trygve on how the first building project was initiated.

August 16, 1968. "I had time off teaching summer school and took a plane to Mexico City. Mrs. Ruiz and her daughter, our interpreter, met me at the airport. All evening and the next day, we discussed plans for children at The Mama Paulita Home. On Sunday I went with them to a church service. It was all in Spanish and very confusing to me. A Mexican member of this church invited us to his beautiful home in the afternoon. He was a hotel owner and a banker. Mrs. Ruiz and I placed our tentative plans for a new building before him and his wife. We conferred a long time. Suddenly he exclaims, "My wife and I will give the building project the amount of \$16,000!", I almost fell off the chair. After catching my breath, I could only say, "Thank you, and thank you God!"

Money from Mexico, from you in Caring Action and grants from Norwegian Church Aid and Swedish Mexico Mission built the Mama Paulita Home for girls and boys which could

started in 1969, followed by expansion for boys in 1977. An adult Trade School including Primary School rooms was added in 1982. The home is located in the village of El Limon about 300 miles south of the USA, Texas border.

Our Lord has rewarded *Faith* and *Action* of His people with our **first miracle**.

Next came a call to help in a different part of Mexico. A young man, Eliser Bravo, and his family came to our attention. He had worked with Mexican Indians and felt the need to help neglected children. In 1976 this family took the initiative and rented a house in the City of Serdan, Puebla, four hours by bus from Mexico City. They called it The Maria Luisa Home for Children. Caring Action responded by paying expenses. After three years of negotiation and many prayers, we received a building grant from Norwegian Church Aid for a new home we now call The La Familia Home for Children. This home for about 40 children was dedicated in 1980. The house parents at this time became Maurilio and Lourdes Flores. Again, the Lord gave us a **second miracle**.

Twenty years of faithful support for these two homes, individual students and other projects were collected by the founders. Friends in the Westchester Lutheran Church, Los Angeles and the many donors in USA, Norway and Sweden encouraged the teachers to continue. During these 20 years, Trygve, Martha, Evelyn with the help of an expanded Caring Action Board of Trustees had given a life opportunity of food, shelter, education and the good news gospel to more than a thousand Mexico children.

Trygve Jansen was 70 years old during our 20 year anniversary. With diabetes, failing eye sight, and walking with difficulty, he kept on travelling and directing the work. He passed away that year, in Mexico trying to organize responsible leadership for the La Familia Home. Like the apostle Paul, "He had fought a good fight, he had finished the race, he had kept the Faith!" A new generation saw his example and results of his work and were ready to continue.

New projects for the children and youth of Mexico were started with the encouragement of the retiring teachers. Donors continued and increased their support. During the last ten years we had continued the *Faith*, *Action* and *International Cooperation* examples used by the founders. A home was needed for older boys where they could live and attend trade schools. In 1989 donors in USA, Norway and Sweden responded with funds to purchase and expand a home in the industrial city of Monterrey. This became a Christian student home where up to 22 teenagers could live and be coached spiritually and counseled in skills needed for an occupation. This home for students was called Cinco Banderas (Five Banners) named after the banderas of those who made this home possible (USA, Norway, Sweden, Mexico and the Church). The Lord had provided a **third miracle**.

Next was the same type of student home for older girls in 1991. It was also in Monterrey. A housemother who had

30 YEARS OF MEMORIES

1966 - 1996



The signing of the Cinco Banderas purchase contract in 1989.



The founding director of Caring Action, Trygve Jansen enjoys Christmas 1979 in Mexico.



Jovito and Jorge were the first graduates in 1992 to come from the Children's Homes and complete their trade school education at Cinco Banderas.



The dedication prayer for the new Trade school in El Limon, 1983. Participating are: Tor Jansen, Celia Hernandez, the past director of Mama Paulita, William Smith, the President of Caring Action for Children and his wife Linda.

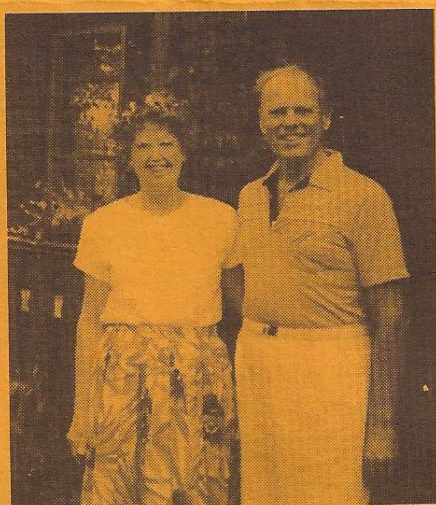
30 YEARS OF MEMORIES



The first Breakfast and Outreach Program to children living in poor areas started in 1989.



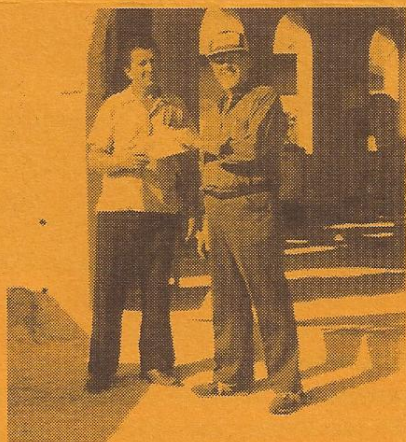
A volunteer Mexican Baby Doctor examines the first child admitted to the Clinic of the Shelter. The first pregnant young lady was admitted as a resident in July 1996.



Our coordinators, Holger and Ingrid Hansson from Sweden who in 1993 helped raise \$120,000 to build the Shelter and Clinic for Mothers and Babies.

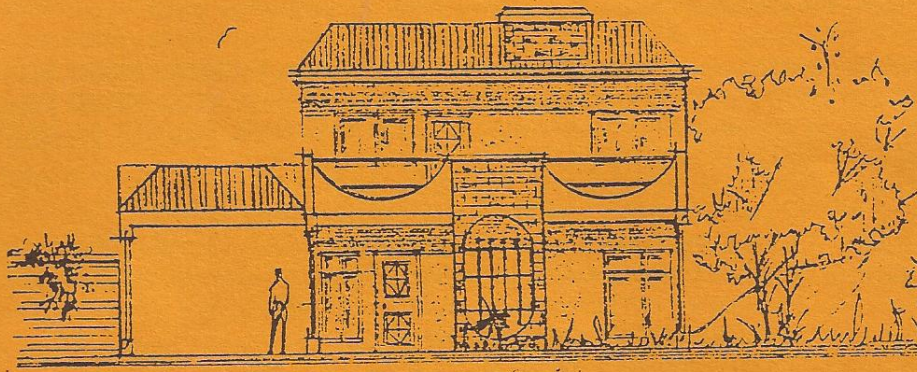


Tor & May Jansen sometimes dress Mexican when visiting churches and schools to raise funds, collect toys and clothes for the children.



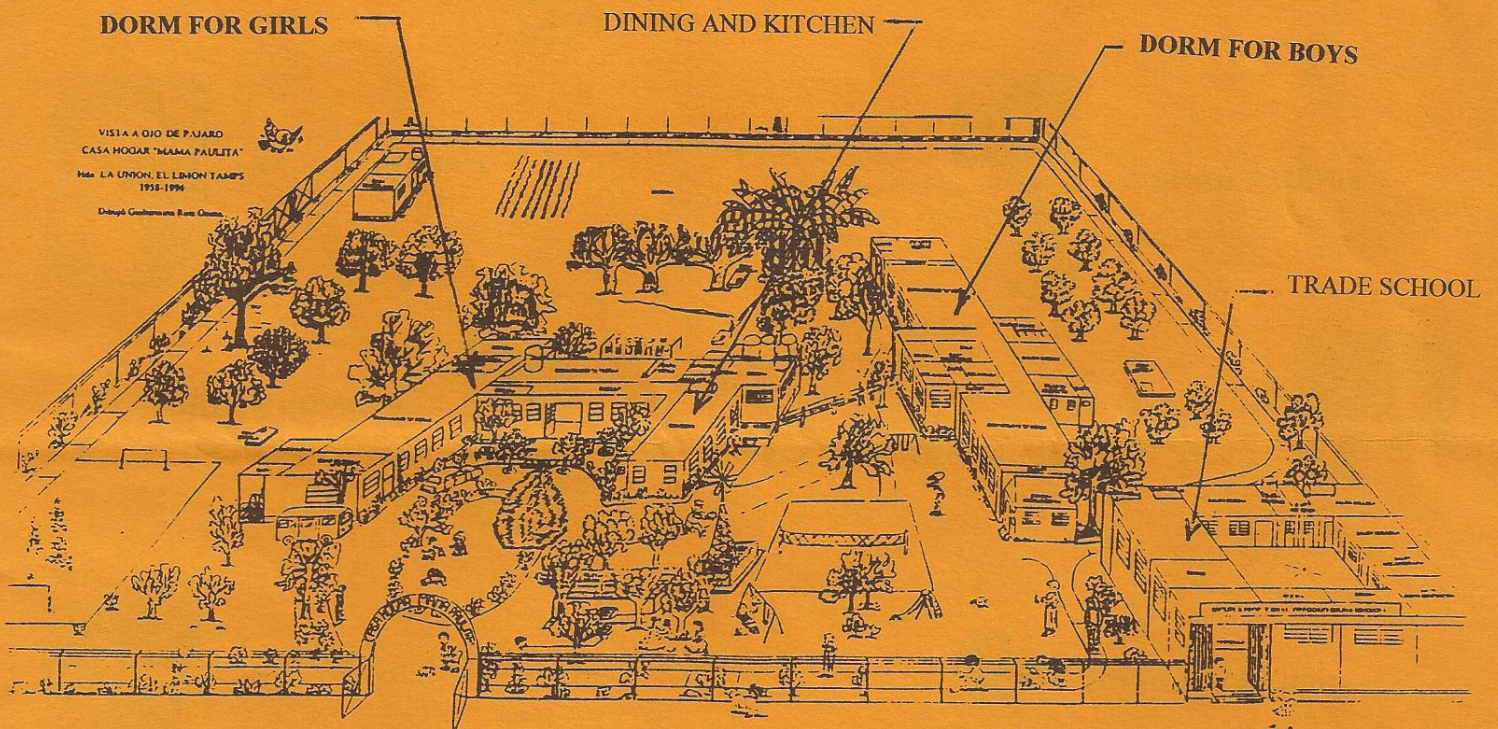
Pastor Ascencio Mancilla receives a construction check from USA volunteers to start building the Esperanza Home for Children on the Yucatan Peninsula in 1991.

**THANKS FOR YOUR
GIFTS!**



MANO STUDENT HOME

THE LATEST HOME WE HELPED BUY



MAMA PAULITA HOME FOR CHILDREN

THE FIRST HOME WE HELPED BUILD

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY HONOR ROLL OF OUR MEXICAN CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.

All have faithfully served with Caring Action for Children for five years or more.

Thank you so much. Please also thank the many who served with you!

SRA. CELIA HERNANDEZ	DIRECTOR, HOUSEMOTHER, SECRETARY, MAMA PAULITA & TRADE SCHOOL (30 YRS)
SR. ESTEBAN VALDES	HOUSEFATHER, MAMA PAULITA, CINCO BANDERAS, ACCOUNTANT (20+YRS)
SRA. DORA VALDES	HOUSEMOTHER, MAMA PAULITA, CINCO BANDERAS, STUDENT PROGRAM (20+YRS)
SRA. LOURDES GARCIA	DIRECTOR, HOUSEMOTHER LA FAMILIA (20 YRS)
SRA. CORDELIA BROWN	DIRECTOR, HOUSEMOTHER MANO (6 YRS)
ENF. MARTHA ROJA,	COORDINATING DIRECTOR, SHELTER & CLINIC (6 YRS)
SRA. MARIA GONZALEZ	TREASURER, MAMA PAULITA (15+YRS)
SRA. RAQUEL YBARRA	STUDENT PROGRAM, TORREON (5+YRS)
SR. ELISEO RIOS	PRESIDENT PATRONATO, LA FAMILIA (5+YRS)
SRA. OLGA RIOS	CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, LA FAMILIA (5+YRS)
SRA. MARIA DAVILA	PRESIDENT PATRONATO MAMA PAULITA (15+YRS)
SRA. ELIZABETH BAQUEIRO	PRESIDENT PATRONATO CINCO BANDERAS (7 YRS)
SRA. MARTHA FLORES	COORDINATOR, CINCO BANDERAS, STUDENTS, SHELTER (10 YRS)
SR. OSCAR FLORE	ADVISOR, CINCO BANDERAS (7 YRS)
REV. ASCENCIO MANCILLA	DIRECTOR, ESPERANZA (6 YRS)
SR. LUIS CASTILLO	COORDINATOR, ESPERANZA (6 YRS)
DRA. GRACIELA GONSALEZ	DIRECTOR, GOSPEL OUTREACH (10 YRS)
SR. BENJAMIN VALDEZ	CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANT (7 YRS)



CELIA HERNANDEZ



CORDELIA BROWN



LOURDES GARCIA



MARTHA ROJAS



DORA VALDES



MARTHA FLORES



ESTEBAN VALDES



ELIZABETH BAQUEIRO



MARIA CRISTINA GONZALEZ



ELISEO & OLGA RIOS

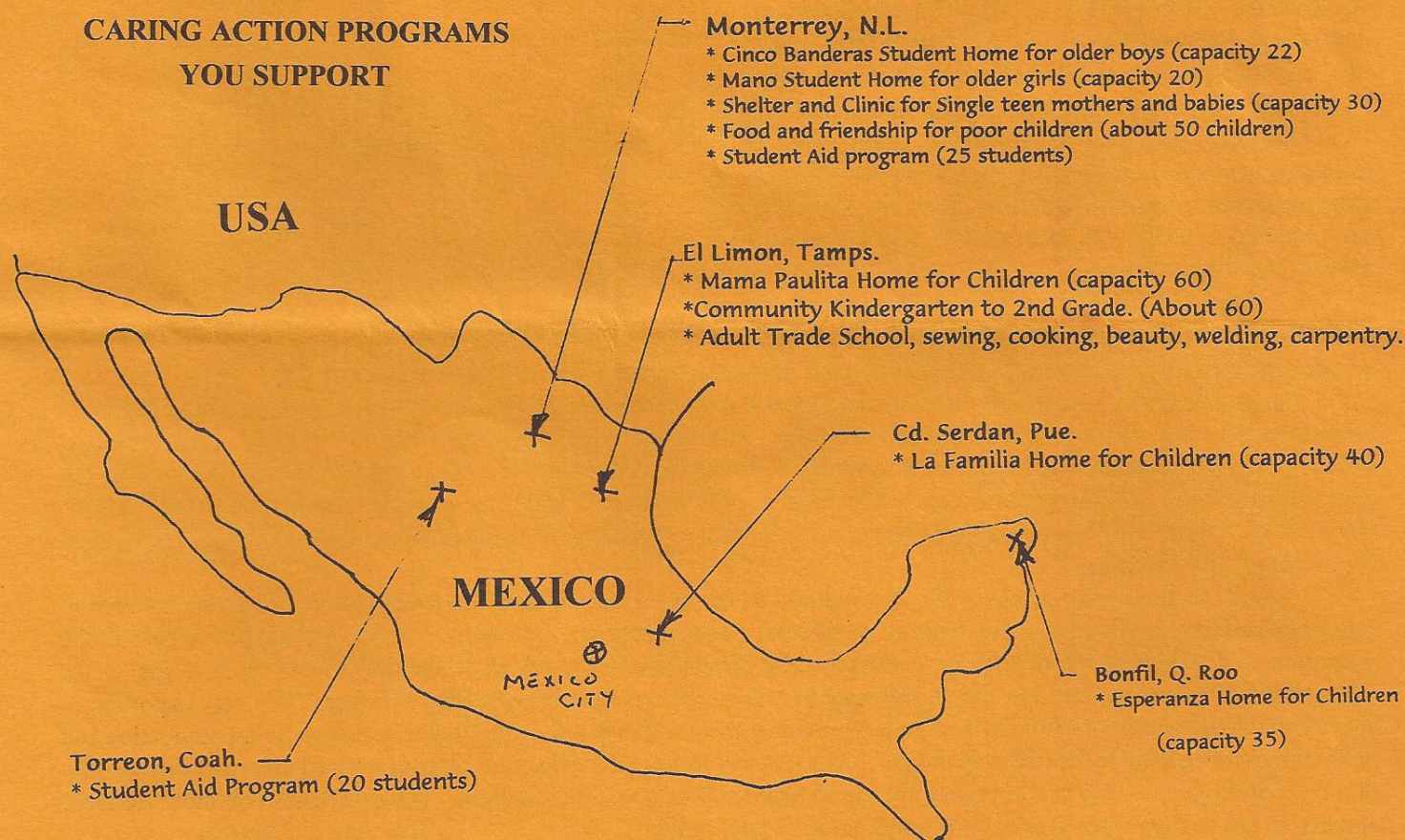
taken in 12 girls asked for our help to organize a home and to receive help with expenses. You responded and the girls stayed in a rented three room apartment for five years. This anniversary year our prayers were answered and these students have a new home. A government agency in Norway (NORAD) provided a grant to purchase a house for the girls. This student home is called MANO which means "Hand" in Spanish. With your prayers you moved that the "hand" to make it possible. When we finish expansion, the home will hold 20 girls plus the housemother. We have a **fourth miracle**.

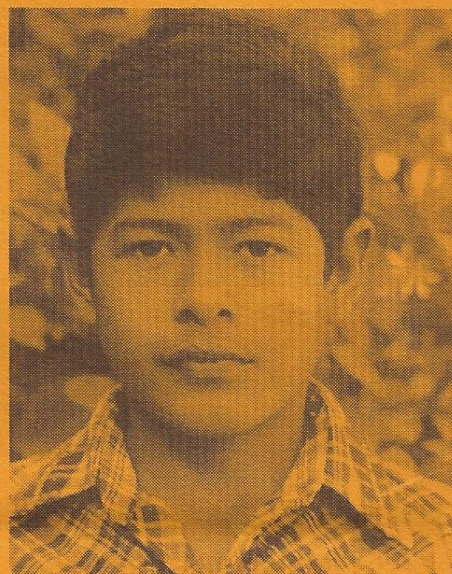
We also helped another home for children get started on the Yucatan Peninsula, near Cancun. Volunteer work groups from USA provided labor and building material funds. With mission support from our Mexican friends, this home, named "Esperanza" (Hope) Home for Children, was opened in 1995 after four years of work. Your donations provide support for a housemother and children. Another work group will go this November to finish up painting and cement a playground. Praise the Lord for a **fifth miracle**!

The latest building project was the Shelter for Single Teenage Mothers and Babies. It was completed in 1996 and started operation this July. After six years of prayer and negotiation, a grant for building funds was obtained from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). The more than \$120,000 in building funds and free land from the city of Monterrey required a significant amount of coordination by all of our personnel in Mexico, Sweden and USA. Our *Faith, Action and International Cooperation* were truly tested. The Christian Nurses and Social Workers Association will operate this mission to provide care and teach moral and physical life skills to destitute teenage mothers. The **sixth miracle**!

Now we celebrate 30 years of mission. It is easy to see the six buildings, but not so easy to see the thousands of more important results in changed lives. We also started direct aid to hundreds of poor students living at home so they can improve the opportunities for their families. In addition, we helped volunteer Mexicans who were willing to go to poor areas with food and spiritual nourishment for children and their families. Visitors to our projects in Mexico have seen how the *Faith and Action* of you at home have made changes in lives of children and adults. You have given them and Mexico hope for a better future. Let's celebrate!

CARING ACTION PROGRAMS YOU SUPPORT





A letter from Jose Alberto Lechuga

Pictures show him as a Kindergarten child in Mama Paulita, as a boy, and then as a man working in a laboratory

"Hello! My friends call me Pepe and I am 22 years old. I don't have a family as far as I know. Currently I am living in Monterrey, N.L. I am working full time to pay my further studies in Electro-Mechanical Engineering at "Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon". I currently rent an apartment with friends who stayed with me for three years at the Cinco Banderas Student Home. Thanks for your help of support to this home and the Mama Paulita Home where I grew up. I appreciate the patience and the guidance the Cinco Banderas houseparents, Sr. & Sra. Valdez gave me during my stay the this home. They encouraged me to complete my college preparatory studies. They also showed us boys how to get along with other students and taught us to follow God's way of living.

I also would like to give thanks for the support I received from church friends who helped me with the habit of studying the Bible and the financial help churches gave to sustain our Cinco Banderas Home.

In a special way I would like to thank the Mama Paulita Home and all the people who helped me during the time I lived there as a child. I arrived at the home in 1976 when I was one and a half years old. I started Preschool at 5 at the Home and then I went to the school that was built next to the Home for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. I went to 3rd through 6th grade at the Alberto Villasana Elementary School at El Limon, a village 1 kilometer from our Home. After that I went to Gomez High School in El Limon. Then I transferred to the Cinco Banderas Student Home and finished college preparation High School with success.

I want to thank very specially Mr. Tor Jansen and his uncle for founding this great project of helping children in Mexico which has benefitted so many families in different states of Mexico. Through this letter, I would like to give all the supporters of Caring Action for Children my affection and recognition. I will always remember the many persons that in one way or another helped children like me. I also want to make an observation of what I have learned, "It is very important to help the children and persons from poor families, providing them with a home, food, studies, a chance for an occupation and principally leading them to the Pathway of God." The fact that these children learn to become self sufficient and successfully find their own places in life is a testimony for the Children's Homes you have started. The experience will motivate these children to help others when they have a chance to do so later in life!"

Jose Alberto Lechuga

