

## Caring ACTION for Children, Inc.

A non-profit interdenominational organization dedicated to helping Mexican Christians care for the under-privileged children in their country.

### OPERATING STAFF

<b>TOR W. JANSEN</b> Executive Director	<b>MIA VARONE</b> Donation Secretary
<b>BENJAMIN and MIRIAM VALDEZ</b> Coordinators in Mexico	<b>HELGE JANSEN</b> Coordinator & Publication in Norway
<b>INGEMAR BERGSTROM</b> Coordinator in Sweden	<b>TURID ASKEVOLD</b> Treasurer in Norway

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### OUR TWO-FOLD MISSION

- To respond to the needs of children in Mexico by providing food, housing, clothing, an education, and spiritual guidance.
- To assist concerned Mexicans in taking full responsibility for property and operations of the Children's Homes.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:  
P.O. Box 7277  
York, PA 17404-7277  
OR  
made online at [www.caringaction.org](http://www.caringaction.org)

The Federal Tax Registration Number is 95 6155992

For additional information, please contact  
**Caring Action for Children, Tor W. Jansen,**  
**38 Elsie Drive, Southampton, PA 18966**  
or e-mail us at [caringaction@juno.com](mailto:caringaction@juno.com)  
**[www.caringaction.org](http://www.caringaction.org)**



# Serving Abandoned and Orphaned Children in Mexico for 45 years

## February 2012

### DEAR DONORS TO CARING ACTION FOR CHILDREN IN MEXICO

As we start our 46th year helping abandoned children in Mexico, you may ask: Has the situation not improved? Yes, it has; a little, but finding jobs for the growing population is still difficult, especially for the poor.

The population of Mexico is more than 100 million with 50% living below the poverty level. An estimated 75% of the people are children under the age of fifteen. Many families struggle to survive while living with dirt floors, some without electricity, running water, sanitation, refrigeration or transportation. In many cases the children are deprived of family attention, education, spiritual and moral guidance.

Wages in many jobs may be around \$5.00 per day with unemployment among the poor as high as 70%. Many children are forced to scrounge, sell, steal and do anything to survive. The Mexican government estimates the number of homeless children in Mexico City to be one million.

Your donations make a difference for almost 200 children and youth each year. In 2011 you contributed US\$ 61,086. All of your gifts went to the missions in Mexico, while the Caring Action's expenses were paid by accumulated interest income.

In this Newsletter we are going to share some reports which we received from persons that have experienced living among the children and youth who you are supporting.

Let the smiles of the child express the appreciation of all your Mexican friends .

Tor Jansen, Your Caring Action Director



## .....In Memorial

Three of our faithful workers named below went to be with the Lord last November and December. We honor their service and those who contributed to Caring Action in their memory.

\* Martha Pedroza, pictured, a former teacher in Los Angeles and last survivor of the founding members of Caring Action for Children.

\* Raquel Iberra, our coordinator of missions to feed children and to help start the La Fe Home in Torreon, Mexico

\* Christine Wennstrom-Newson who visited the Homes and helped raise funds for a library and books for the Shelter in Monterrey, Mexico.



[www.caringaction.org](http://www.caringaction.org)

### A new look for Caring Action for Children!

Moving into 2012, Caring Action has added a web page, updated it's logo, created a new newsletter look, and made possible a way for you to donate on-line. Check out our new website at [www.caringaction.org](http://www.caringaction.org). You'll find stories from the various Homes we support throughout Mexico, photos of the children and young people we help, and the opportunity to make donations through Pay Pal.

# LA FAMILIA HOME FOR CHILDREN

*An edited reflection from a visiting mother, Shannon Lee Smith after a week long visit.*

## ***Am I raising my kids for service— or to be served?***

My father, Bill Lee, has been helping support a Home for Children in rural Mexico for over ten years. He has been on many mission trips to the La Familia Home, but due to caring for my own young children, I have never been able to travel with him. This past December I joined a group of volunteers to visit this home for formerly abandoned children. What I experienced there, left me thinking deeply about how I was raising my own kids and if what our Western Culture teaches, is really the best for our next generation.

## ***If I focus all the time on being MY best - then how can Jesus be seen?***

As a mother of two girls ages 6 and 8, I often feel stretched beyond my limits managing the chores and responsibilities of my household. In observing how the married directors at La Familia manage their family of 30 children, I realized that God can expand the capacity to love and serve beyond what anyone can imagine. If I rely more on God and less on myself, perhaps I can do a better job for my family in showing love and being the Christian example my children need.

## ***Is our culture of excess harming our kids?***

I am not a mother who buys a lot for my children. Even so, the items that our kids collect from birthday parties, happy meals, school treasure boxes, dollar check out bins, and trinkets from Daddy's last trip, add up. Prior to leaving on my mission trip I went through the closets in our house and was able to make 30 bags of silly bands, little stuffed animals, costume jewelry and candy that my kids, frankly, have never even noticed were gone. The children of La Familia were grateful for each and every item they received. They played with the items throughout the week I was there and made me realize that having less helps you to appreciate what you do have.

## ***Am I depriving my children of the opportunity to appreciate themselves and their things?***

If you pull out a picture phone at the home, be prepared for a crowd. The kids love to see pictures of your children and to get a glimpse of your life in America. While flipping through my pictures I was embarrassed at the excess in which we live compared to those at the La Familia. I realized that my kids may be taking for granted their quality of life and lack of appreciation for their things that they have. The personal possessions here are few but the children appreciate what they have very much! The picture of the triple bunk bed and limited personal storage tells their story!



## ***Redefining Happiness.***

What makes these kids happy is not a trip to McDonalds or the Mall for personal stuff. Each kid in the home is assigned to one of three work groups each day: Dishes, Clean-up or Laundry. They know their responsibility and do it without asking why. They are not closely supervised nor are their tasks evaluated every minute. They just do it with pride in a happy and fun way because they contribute to their family. That sort of happiness and pride may not be found in eating out or in a "happy meal". See the picture of fun crew, cleaning up after a meal!



## ***Manners are essential .***

Meet Chris. I sat with him at lunch one day. He was served his sandwich and was looking forward to his favorite desert, a chocolate cake. All he had to do was finish the sandwich and he would get what he loved so much. But Chris didn't take a bite of his sandwich. Why, you ask? Because, everyone else hadn't been served yet. He waited patiently for 40 of his family to be served and then waited for the House father to pray. Chris also waited for every single person at his table to complete their meal before he got up to get his chocolate cake. Did I mention he was only four? I need to tell my girls about Chris.

## ***Boldly Proclaim "I am a Christian."***

My Dad describes the directors, Juan and Silvia of this home, as "Shining Lights of Jesus Christ". Now I know this to be true because their 30 children reflect what they see. They pray without hesitating, speak of Jesus with ease and before our departure they laid hands on us in prayer to receive God's blessings. I believe that, despite a lack of material things, these children are better off than mine in so many ways. Many volunteers at La Familia are high school or college youth who have grown up in local churches that supports missions. They dedicate a part of their life to serve God at La Familia. I pray that I am raising my kids to be that selfless and willing to serve the Lord. I pray I have learned enough to return to my home and teach those things that have been taught to me in this wonderful place.

## *A report from the* **MANO Home for Girl Students** *local Board of Directors*



We have 10 girls of which one recently graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology. Besides keeping up with their class schedules, the students have other duties to help with housekeeping and meal preparation. They also have Bible study once a week and attend a local church. With the church, they participate in missions to poor areas of the city. They provide breakfast to children, tutoring, and distribute toys and blankets at Christmas. These activities are done as each of the girls can provide after fulfilling their commitments to school. "We are blessed to bless!" is their motto.

The goals for 2012 is to encourage additional participate in mission projects according to their gifts, interests and aptitudes. Such experiences and human caring relationships will make them better professionals in their future careers. Last year we had the opportunity to have singing lessons in the house and some of the girls really enjoyed that. This year we will try to continue this activity on a more regular basis.

We would also like to help the girls with their goal of learning to speak English with a computer program such as Rosetta Stone. The girls can then have unlimited access to English lessons without the cost of tuition and transportation. For this we need help to buy the program and some computers.

Recently we got a monthly contribution in groceries from our State Welfare. It is also one of our goals to encourage more Mexican people and organizations to support our work. Last year we had a meeting with graduates of MANO to invite them to be part of this vision with contact development and support.

We want to thank you for the love and gifts, without which, it would be impossible to continue this mission. It has given so many ladies from MANO a way to reach their dreams of a secure future!