

layman

action

for children, inc.

1966-1971

FIVE YEARS AFTER - - -



"MAMA PAULITA" the new building

TRYGVE D. JANSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD of TRUSTEES

in the
United States of America

EVELYN W. LINDSTROM - President
WILLIAM E. NEDRY - Vice President
MARTHA E. HEAP - Treasurer
CONRADINE L. NEDRY - Secretary
TRYGVE D. JANSEN - Exec. Director

+++++

Foreign Representatives:

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES:

OLAF JANSEN
Bergen, Norway

ENGLAND:

R. W. RICHARDSON
Penrith
Cumberland, England

CANADA:

MAUREEN RICHARDSON
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada

Editorial

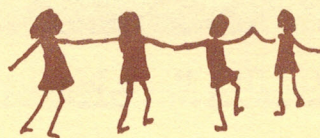
The well-known missionary to
Lambaréné, Africa, Dr. Albert
Schweitzer, coined the phrase
"reverence for life."

He was traveling in a small
boat down a river thinking
about the life of all kind in
the jungle as well as in the
civilized world - how could
men show greater reverence for
life. The boat drifted in
among a flock of hippopotamuses,
and suddenly this phrase struck
him "reverence for life".

This genius of a man gave up
all the possible careers that
he could have had in the so-
called civilized world - com-
pletely giving himself to help
others.

I cannot help but asking my-
self, as I travel, see and meet
the many needy children in
Mexico, "How much have I given
of myself?" "How much have I
given of my means to help some
of those who are in dire need?"
My answer is, "I must do more
for others."

Would these be questions for
you to ask yourself? What kind
of an answer do you give your-
self?



M. Richardson

HOW DID IT BEGIN ?

About twelve years ago a distraught mother came to Mrs. Matilde Ruiz in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and asked her for help. She brought her three daughters and asked if Mrs. Ruiz would take the children into her home.

Mrs. Ruiz had a good home. Most of her children had grown up and moved out of the home. The woman told Mrs. Ruiz that the man who lived with her in the hut was not the girls father. He had no interest in them. When he came home from work he threw them out, and they roamed the streets. They didn't have regular meals. They had to find food where possible, either by stealing or digging in the garbage heaps. Not only that, - they were always in danger of being molested in the dark evenings. The mother was desperate. That was the reason why she came to Mrs. Ruiz for help.



MATILDE RUIZ

As a fine Christian and humanitarian it was difficult for Mrs. Ruiz to refuse the plea. She also knew that there was no welfare office that would take care of them. She decided to take them into her home, and she took the full responsibility for the girls. At that time Mrs. Ruiz didn't realize that this was the beginning of a home for girls.

As time went on it became known in the neighborhood, and it didn't take long before others came to ask for help. Mrs. Ruiz used of her own means to support the girls. Mrs. Ruiz' relatives helped her with some support. More children were taken in, and as the group became larger the space diminished. Mrs. Ruiz' father's old house stood vacant. It was an old, dilapidated building across the road. She asked her relatives if she could use this building for the girls. They agreed, and helped her repair the house so it could be used as a home for the girls.

About sixteen girls moved into the old house and it was called "Casa Hogar" (good home). Mrs. Ruiz got a wonderful helper in Miss Cipriana Sanchez who became the matron of the home.

The children attended public school in the little village El Limón. The girls were industrious and eager to learn. At the home they learned how to cook, clean house and wash clothes. The home was always kept neat and in order even though it was poor. They went to Sunday school and church regularly.

The time went on, the girls grew up, and it was time to decide on a vocation for the older girls. Several of the girls wanted to attend commercial school, others wanted to become teachers. But all this did cost money. The day came when a decision on the part of Mrs. Ruiz had to be made. She asked herself, "Can I continue this work with such meager means?" "What will happen to these girls if I discontinue this work?" She answered herself, "I know they will be lost and probably become prostitutes if I let them go." "No, God has asked me to do this work, and I'm sure He in some way will help me to continue." Her relatives at that time advised her to quit because of the heavier financial burden.

It was at this critical point a letter arrived from Los Angeles, California. Some teachers at a school in Los Angeles inquired if they could be of help. Mrs. Ruiz answered immediately and said, "This is a direct answer from God." "Now we can continue."

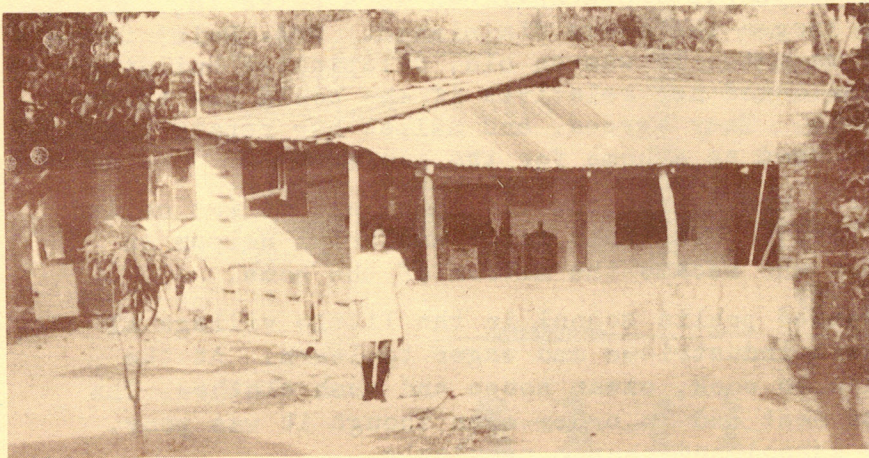
Many things have happened since the day i 1966 "Layman ACTION for Children, Inc." contacted Mrs. Ruiz. She is not alone any more. After our director's visit to Mexico the summer 1966 a legal board was organized. Mrs. Ruiz became the treasurer and her sister, Mrs. Celia Hernandez, the executive secretary. Plans were made for a new building, and now - 1971 - the children are living in a beautiful and practical building called "MAMA PAULITA". One of the older girls is now teaching in the city of Monterrey - other girls have grown up and have moved out and have various positions in society. Several of the girls are attending teachers' college. Ten new girls have moved into "Mama Paulita" and replaced those who left. Life moves on and many girls stand "in line" for admittance to this new beautiful home.

Mrs. Ruiz concludes one of her letters in this manner, "We trust that God will continue to be with us as He has till now." "We pray that He will bless all those who have sent contributions and in this

way helped to support these girls, and helped with the building of the new home."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The photo on the left shows the old "Casa Hogar". Compare it with the new building (see front page).



WHO IS BEHIND THIS ?

This is a question people usually ask when they are confronted with a non-profit or charitable organization. WHO STARTED THIS? WHO IS BEHIND THIS? WHAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTIONS USED FOR, AND HOW ARE THEY ADMINISTERED? People have the right to ask these questions, and also to know that the donations are used properly and not squandered away.

The article "How Did it Begin?" tells about how the home "MAMA PAULITA" was started in Mexico. In this article we like to explain how the group "Layman ACTION for Children, Inc." was formed and how it also was introduced to the Scandinavian countries as well as individuals in England.

Supervising teacher Trygve D. Jansen was born in Bergen, Norway. His education was equivalent to junior college education when he came to the U.S.A. In Norway he had three years teaching experience, and he was very much involved in Christian student circles as well as in missionary work. When he arrived in Los Angeles he became a student at the University of California (U.C.L.A.) where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Master of Arts degree. He became a teacher in the Los Angeles city school system.

At the school where he is teaching there are many children of Mexican decent. He became especially fond of these children. Many of them came from families with ten to fifteen children. And they were poor. Occasionally he felt he should help some of them, and he bought clothes and other things to help them out.

One Christmas the faculty had a party and they donated toys to needy children. They felt that this was a good way of showing the Christmas spirit. As time went on Trygve Jansen had become better acquainted with the conditions where the Mexican children came from
- MEXICO.

In 1966 it came to our attention that a home for girls in Mexico needed help. A colleague of Trygve Jansen, who knows Spanish very well, investigated the situation. We found out that the founder of the home, Mrs. Ruiz, was on the brink of giving up. Several teachers at the same school, and some other interested people, got together and formed the corporation "Layman ACTION for Children, Inc.", in order to solicit funds legally, to help the needy children. As Trygve Jansen had had some experience in this line he was asked to direct the activities of the corporation.

To begin with it was mostly the teachers at the school who contributed. Later brochures and newsletters were printed. These were mailed out to friends and relatives as well as neighbors. Now donations are received from different individuals. Some churches

This is a voluntary organization. No remuneration or salary is paid to anyone. We see the importance of having the donations go to the purpose for which they are designated. Administrative expenses such as postage, printing, etc., are covered by the contributions given by the members of the board of trustees.

Five years after we began it is with tremendous gratitude we look back and consider what has been accomplished. The children have moved into a new and beautiful home. Many of the girls have been educated, and are now fine, working citizens in their country. New children have taken the place of those who left. And it is an ongoing activity in helping the children to help themselves.

In these five years we also have had the opportunity to help the home "SUNNY HILL" in Hong Kong. Mrs. Anny Skau Berntsen is so thankful for the help she has received. The need is great also there.

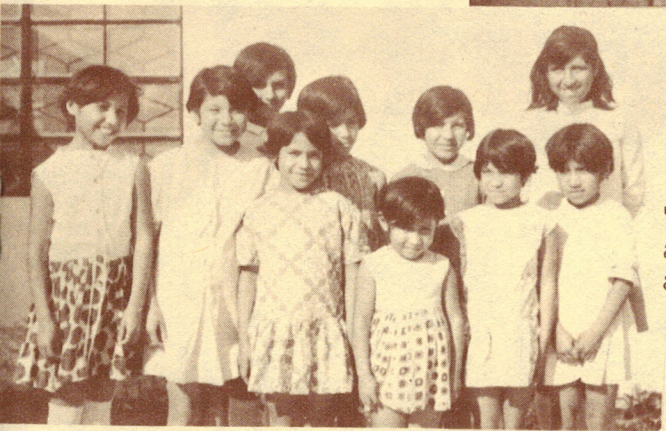
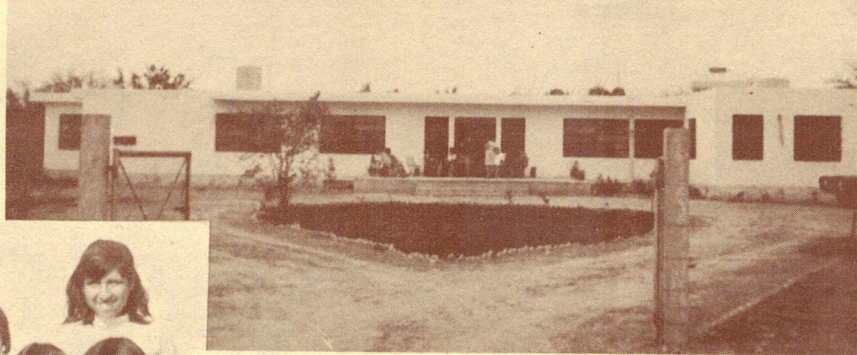
Millions of children all over the world are in need of someone who would care for them.

Here you see our director with a few who have been helped. These are some of the new girls at MAMA PAULITA who now have a happy home.

6



View of "MAMA PAULITA"
from the front gate.



These happy and smiling children
are the ten new girls recently
admitted to the home "MAMA PAULITA"

The children happily
playing in front of
their new home.



What can we do?

Looking at this lovely home and these happy children one realizes that this is something that MUST go on. YOU have had a part in making this possible. Together we have accomplished something. ARE WE GOING TO LET THESE CHILDREN DOWN NOW ?

If we had a set or definite budget we could work so much more easily. If we had one thousand persons who would give \$10 a year, we would have \$10,000 to work with.

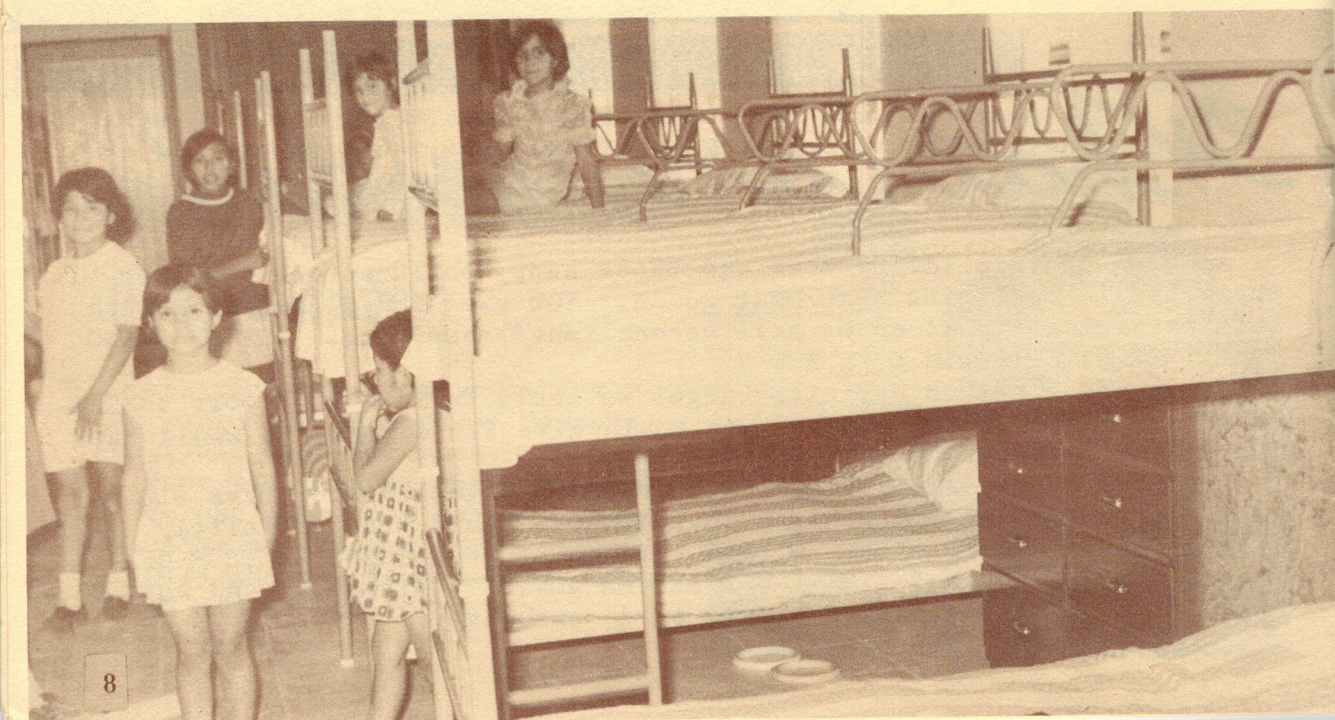
Our plan is to recruit SUSTAINING MEMBERS. Each member pays \$10 a year and receive a membership card. Then we would know definitely what we have to work with. WILL YOU BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMEBER OF LAYMAN ACTION ? WILL YOU BECOME ACTIVE? Please do, and ask some of your friends and relatives to do the same.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU RIGHT AWAY!



Above: The Mexican Board during the dedication of the new building.
Mrs. Ruiz to the right, and Mrs. Hernandez to the left of the table.

Below: Part of the dormitory. There are twenty beds in this room.
Five bunkbeds on each side.





Above: The new kitchen - a dream of a kitchen, with Gerarda and Elizabeth helping the matron - Cipriana Sanchez.

Below: The new washroom with seven wash basins. Next to this room are shower room with four showers, and toilet rooms.





NEW PROJECTS

CHILD LABOR. Thousands of children in Mexico are not in school but out in the field working to help support the family. The boy in the picture (right) is working full time in the sugar cane field. He is ten years old, and should have been in school. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE BOYS.

INDIAN BEGGARS: The picture to the right shows an Indian woman on the street of Mexico City begging to support her children and herself. In the remote villages the Indians live in sad conditions. WE WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE INDIAN CHILDREN.



She Needs You...

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Many women like this one sit in their huts with very little to feed their youngsters.

WE WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR PEOPLE LIKE THIS.

What about you ?





THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The Good Samaritan is an orphanage for boys in the little village El Limón, Tamaulipas, Mexico. It is located in the same area as the home "MAMA PAULITA". It is run by a devoted Mexican couple, Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Hernandez. The boys live in small adobe huts. The huts look like dirt heaps. The inside of these huts there is darkness and they use candles to light them up. In the kitchen, which also is an adobe hut, they cook on open fire. "It was a sad sight," said our director when he visited this place. These children deserve better conditions. WE LIKE TO HAVE THIS AS A NEW PROJECT. It all depends!



I wish to become a **SUSTAINING MEMBER**

NAME _____
(Please print)

STREET AND NUMBER _____

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE (Zip code **MUST** be included) _____

Send check or money order to

layman **action** for children, inc.
P. O. Box 25040 Los Angeles, Ca. 90025

COMPLETE THIS
FORM, WRITE
YOUR CHECK OR
MONEY ORDER
FOR \$10, AND
MAIL IT RIGHT
AWAY TO US!

