

layman

action

for children, inc.

P. O. Box 25040

Los Angeles, Ca. 90025

NEWSLETTER

May, 1973

TRYGVE D. JANSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

You haven't heard from us since we sent out the annual report in February. So you can't say that we are "pestering" you with monthly newsletters. We don't believe in that.

However, we are sure you like to find out how things are going. We are pleased to report to you that our work has not been in vain - and your support has not been for a lost cause.

In this report our director, Trygve Jansen, relates about the success that has been achieved, and some of the new projects that could be entered into if we have the right and possitive attitudes. He brought back, from his short trip to Mexico, greetings from several of the girls who now have completed their education, and have entered into the educational field, and others who soon will go into various positions.

He enthusiastically tells about the many open doors that we ought to enter in "doing for others what we want others should do for us."

If you haven't participated in this adventure recently - - don't let the blessing pass you by. The envelope enclosed is there for your convenience.

Greetings to you all,

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Layman ACTION for CHILDREN, Inc.



Photo to the left shows a number of new girls admitted to the home recently

A Gift That Returns

by T. JANSEN

We often think that our gifts and contributions to help others amount to so little. Sometimes we give and never or hardly hear anything about how the gifts were used or if they really helped someone.

This newsletter is a report about, and evidence of, how your gifts were used. During my last trip to Mexico I met many of the girls who have grown up and now have various positions in life. They gave me greetings in form of letters to express their thanks for what YOU have done for them.

These are four girls from the first group that was admitted to the home. YOU have accomplished this together with us. YOUR GIFT HAS RETURNED MANIFOLD.



OLGA LOPEZ was the first girl who graduated from teachers' college. She has been teaching in Monterrey for several years and concurrently she has taken graduate courses.. This June she will have completed her graduate studies and she will be able to take a position as a supervising teacher. She also will be married in June to a handsome young man who also is a teacher.

Here is her greeting to you:

"When I came to the home "Mama Paulita" I still had three years left of elementary school. After completing the elementary school I was sent to secondary school in the city of Valles. I went there for two years, and the third year I completed in Mexico City. I decided to become a teacher.

I moved to the city of Puebla where the teachers' college was located. I went there for one year, moved to the city of Monterrey where I completed my education as a teacher.

my life and my future."

With friendly greetings,
OLGA LOPEZ

THREE SISTERS

The following greetings are from three sisters who came from the same unhealthy environment. The mother came and more or less gave them over to Mrs. Ruiz and said she couldn't take care of them.

Just observing these three youngsters grow up, develop, and become educated is quite a return of ones "investment."



ARACELIA VELASQUEZ is the oldest of the three sisters who so successfully have been able to receive an education and done so well.

Aracelia sends her greeting from the little Indian village in the state of Sonora where she presently is teaching.

She wants all of you to know how grateful she is for the help she has received so she could be able to reach her goal -- become a teacher.

RUFINA VELASQUEZ is the second of the three sisters. Her dream was to become a kindergarten -- teacher.

In June she will graduate and finish her education. And even greater - she has accepted the position as kindergarten teacher at our new kindergarten that we will open at the home "Mama Paulita" in September. Rufina writes:

"In 1959, at the age of five, I came to this home, which I consider my home. I was given the opportunity to learn, and also taught what Christ could mean to my life. Every night, before going to sleep and in the morning we prayed together in order to have a sound spiritual foundation.

I went to elementary school. Later I had the opportunity to enter the school in Chihuahua to enter the school where I received my education.



the chance to study for the profession I wanted, and I entered teachers' college in Tampico.

This year, 1973, I will graduate from school which will mean the achievement of a life's dream and of the teachers' efforts in helping me.

I feel very happy - thanks to all of you who helped, and to God who never left me."

Greetings,
RUFINA



DORA VELASQUEZ is the third and youngest sister of the three. In the photo to the left she writes her greeting. Here it is:

"When I came to Mama Paulita there were eight little girls, including myself. I was six years old and I was a first grader.

Our matron in charge of this home is our beloved Cipriana Sanchez. I have finished elementary school, high school, and I am now in my first year of nurses' training. With the help of God I hope to finish my training successfully. I intend to help all those children who are in need of help and advice.

I'll now tell you about our daily schedule at the orphanage: We get up very early in the morning and we make our own beds. Then we wash ourselves and get ready for breakfast. After that we do our daily assigned chores. I cook breakfast before I go to a medical clinic to practice as a nurse from 8 to 10 A.M.

When I get home we have our lunch and then we go to school at 2 o'clock p. M. On Sundays and Tuesdays we go to church. We pray, sing and read the Bible.

We are all happy here and we feel very much at home.

We were very glad to have Mr. Jansen visit us again. He brought us many nice things. He played the piano and we sang hymns.

All of us are very grateful for YOUR help. You are a good example to us, and I intend to follow it.

With love,
Dora Velasquez

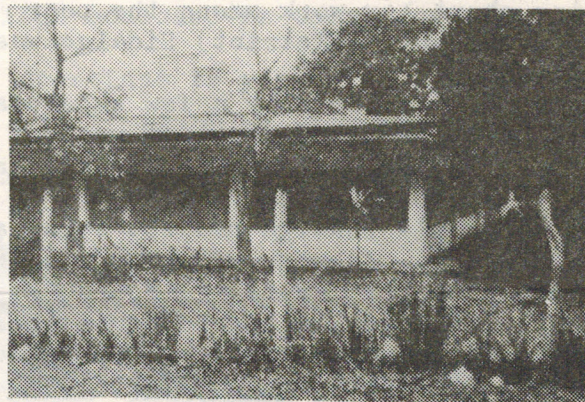
Projects Now Under Way

KINDERGARTEN. For a period of time we have been planning, hoping, working and praying to establish a contact with the community in the neighborhood of the home "Mama Paulita". We wanted to reach out and help the many little helpless children that live in the surroundings. Now our plans seem to become a reality.

As mentioned other places in this newsletter Rufina Velasquez is finishing up her education. She will become a kindergarten teacher. She has accepted the offer to teach in the kindergarten that will be started near "Mama Paulita."

We are also in the process of repairing the old building so it will be suited for this purpose. We have received some donations at the right moment so we could send \$1.100 for this purpose. Westchester Lutheran Church, our Scandinavian branch and Mrs. Anna Hannestad were the donators for this particular project. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

We hope to open the kindergarten this September. We need more than a building and a teacher. Rufina writes to us and she tells that they will need small tables and chairs, blackboard, papers of all kinds, children's toys, clay, and many, many more things. All these things should be purchased during the summer. We send her message on to you. We hope you will be willing to have a part in this new project.



The old building being repaired to be used for our new kindergarten.

STREET BOYS. The many needy boys - the boys who drop out of school in third and fourth grade, and later try to sustain themselves by begging, stealing and child labor have been of great concern to our director on his visits to Mexico.

During the last visit he looked into this problem. He visited many of the homes where many of these boys come from. One boy seemed very bright, and it is our hope that we can get this boy to return to school.

The reason for their drop-out is often because they do not have the means to buy

the uniform and the materials needed at school. They have free books, but other materials must be bought. Mother doesn't have the money and the boy is frustrated and embarrassed in front of his schoolmates.



We like to begin a program to help the many boys who need help. Our first boy in this program is Ramon (see photo on left). He is a brother of the three sisters reported on in this newsletter. We like to see him rescued and helped and given an educa-

tion. Our hope is that we may have many partners as we move into this project. We also hope that there may be people - maybe even retired people who would volunteer their service in our program in Mexico.

LOOK HERE



FRIEND, Read This!

COLONIA HIDALGO PROJECT. Talk about reaching out into the community! Sitting at the dinner table listening to Mrs. DORA VALDEZ telling about her work among the poor families in Colonia (district) Hidalgo was a revelation.

We have room for only a few excerpts from the report Ruth Hernandez wrote. We hope to give the whole report at a later date. Mrs. Dora Valdez relates:

"The Colonia Hidalgo project began as a group project. A group of women wanted to help other people directly, instead of just contributing money to a good cause. Colonia Hidalgo was chosen because it was a poor section of the city and a "foothold" had been gained by some social workers. A group of women selected a bare stretch of land beside the railroad for their work with the children. They arrived with balls, colors and coloring books, paper, etc. They soon had a regular group, and one day when it rained a resident allowed them to come into her house to work - - -"

"- - they were suspicious of the strangers, and disliked being told to do this or that, or believe anything specific --."

"The first thing we had to do was to gain the women's trust instead of attacking the way they managed their life."

"We taught them to make quilts. We got scraps from a clothing factory. Some of the women have now made five or six beautiful quilts. We taught them to cook good inexpensive and nutritional food."

"Last summer we had a special project for the children. We were offered facilities such as camp site, free bus transportation. We had some discipline problems (some of the social workers quit because of that). We had to get together the money for food - \$80-\$100 - We managed. The children were Big-eyed and silent as they descended from the bus among the trees high up in the mountain. They were obedient in the activities, and they quickly learned to sing grace before meals. They loved it! They want to get back this year, and my great fear is that we may not have the money to manage. We are preparing for the camp, though. But I don't dare tell them that I don't have the \$100 that is needed to feed them."

"It is hard to know what impression one makes in a short time, but one day a perfect stranger stopped me on the street as I was going to our meeting. She said, 'My little boy remembers the tune of the song you sang at the camp before meals, but he has forgotten the words. Would you write them down for me?' One of the women at our meetings, intelligent in her ignorance, insisted on knowing why I came to them. 'Do they pay you?' she asked. 'No,' 'Are you a communist?' 'No. . . . ' 'Then why do you keep coming?' It was a good question. It was pouring rain outside, and we were jammed into the crowded little kitchen, trying to cook and avoid the leaks. I told her, 'Christ told us we must love one another. I don't have things to give away, so I want to give of myself. Some of the little I have I want to pass on to you.'"

Dora Valdez tells that the discipline is much better now. Yes, the older boys and even the fathers have helped build a bigger kitchen to accommodate the group. It is now easier to assemble in the little home.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES LIKE THIS ONE THAT COULD BE HELPED. We want to help Dora Valdez and others in the same situation.

SUCH are the homes where they gather to meetings.

