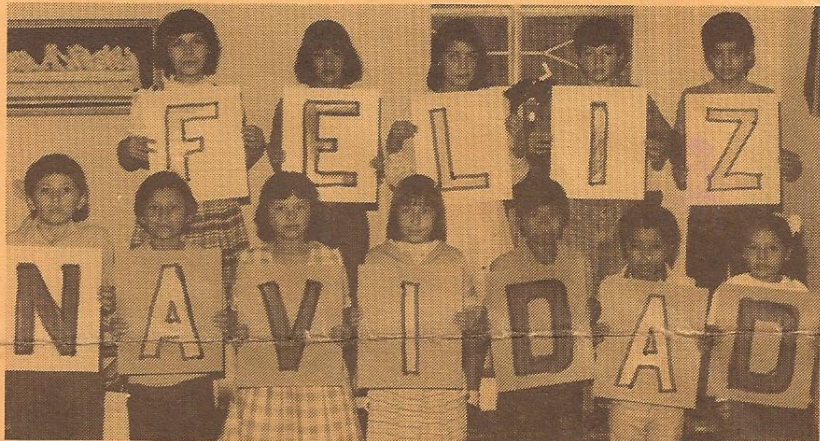


# layman action for children

FALL 1989

THE 23rd YEAR OF LAY PEOPLE  
REACHING OUT TO HELP GOD'S NEEDY



FELIZ NAVIDAD  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
GOD JUL!

*Financial help will be gratefully  
received at:*

*Layman Action for Children, Inc.  
P.O. Box 83023  
Los Angeles, CA 90083*

*For any questions, write to:  
Tor Jansen, Executive Director  
38 Elsie Drive  
Southampton, PA 18966*



These greetings go to all of you faithful supporters in Mexico, U.S.A., Norway and Sweden from the more than 400 children and youth you have been helping in Mexico. This year, your contributions have brought God's love to three children's homes: "Mama Paulita", "La Familia", "La Fe" and one youth home, "Cinco Banderas".

You also made it possible for 88 students to improve their education by helping with school expenses. Through designated gifts, you supplied teaching materials to 20 Mexican Gospel teachers who volunteered every Saturday to tell more than 150 children in the slums about Christ. You also gave between 50 to 90 children a good breakfast before school.

You remember, the Lord asked Peter three times: "Do you love me?" and after he replied, "Yes, you know that I do!", Jesus repeated three times, "Then take care of my Lambs!". (John 21, 15-17) Thank you for taking this command of Christ and making it yours. You gave, not only for the Christmas Season, but the year around for His Lambs in Mexico. The poor children and youth will surely have a better life and they will know the example of caring as shown by you.

As we have done for the last couple of years, we will give each child in our homes and each student in our programs, a Christmas Gift from you of 12,500 Pesos (\$5.00). They receive this money early and are taken to a big store where they are allowed to purchase whatever they wish. Many buy gifts for others. You can imagine the excitement of this yearly experience!

Our volunteer staff in USA, Norway and Sweden also wish you a Blessed Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year! We would love to hear from you and please continue your prayers for our work! Together we can make a difference!

. . . Tor . . .



layman **action** for children, inc.  
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 under privileged 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.

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MAILED TO  
THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

## NEWS FROM MEXICO

CASA HOGAR, "LA FE" (The Faith Home), Torreon  
In the last newsletter, we told you about Mario and Laura, with the many abandoned children we had met in Torreon. We told you how the children of "La Fe" were crowded in a very small house and property. In a picture, we also showed you how they were sleeping at night, body to body on the floor.

We were able to form a Mexican support group called PRONIMEX to help us serve the children of "La Fe". The children now have another house with more rooms. One member of PRONIMEX offered an unused house free of rent so the director, Mario, did not wait long to move the children. The house is very old and needs much work. All the windows were broken, the plumbing was rusted out and walls needed patching and painting.

Even before you responded with extra gifts for this project, we took a "step of faith". We pledged extra funds to get the house ready for winter and now donate monthly support of \$250 to keep the children in school and not begging on the street for food. They still don't have beds or their own blankets, but sleeping in a secure house under a roof is 100% better than before.

The house is located in another neighborhood. The directors and children have been well received by the community. The local school is also cooperating by donating the required uniforms. Merchants are giving surplus food to the home and local volunteers have come to help with repair and painting.

We expect to expand our support to the children of "La Fe" as you respond by your gifts.

## CASA HOGAR, "MAMA PAULITA" Childrens Home, El Limon

Three of the older boys transferred from this home into the new youth home in Monterrey where they will learn a vocation. Now there is additional space at Mama Paulita for others, with a capacity of 55. The children here are well cared for by the local Presbyterian Support Group. During the summer, they enjoyed special outing experiences provided by several local churches from the city of Mante.

## CASA HOGAR, "LA FAMILIA" Childrens Home, Ciudad Serdan

The director, Lourdes, writes us that two youth, Sophia and Eusebio, left the home this September. Lourdes was sad because their education had not been completed. In Mexico, any relative can come and claim a child from the home, sometimes just to work for them. In most cases, our homes have no legal right to keep the children or to protect their best interest. We just try to give them a good Christian home while we have them.

New children have come into the home, there are 35 now. Lourdes is the only every-day parent with a cook and a laundress for help. She needs your prayers for strength and patience. We are attempting to organize support groups.





NEW CHILDREN AT LA FAMILIA: MELLAMO AND ALICIA RAMIREZ IN THE LEFT PHOTO AND GEORGE ORTIZ ON THE RIGHT. THEY ARE SHOWING YOU THE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN THEY HELP MAINTAIN.

#### GOSPEL OUTREACH CLUBS in areas outside Monterrey

Packages of clothes and school supplies were sent by St. Andrews United Methodist Church PA. and Westchester Lutheran Church CA. The 10 Club teaching teams will make sure that the gifts reach the many needy families in the primitive housing areas they serve. Thank you!

#### STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM, Monterrey and Torreon

This year, 13 additional students will be supported bringing the total to 88. There are still many on the waiting list. Our coordinators, Dora and Rebecaa, have the difficult job of selecting the most promising and needy among many who wish for the help.

We receive many letters of appreciation from these students in Mexico. Here is an excerpt from one seminary student, Patricia Silva Vidana. "Each day I live with the assurance that God is with me and is depending on me here in Seminary. Before I met my Lord Jesus, my life was full of complexity and desperation. I feared people, I hated myself, and my parents, became anemic, an insomniac and could not eat normally. But in the most desperate point of my life, after various attempts at suicide, Jesus found me. He changed me greatly and now I am in the seminary to serve and give thanks for the grace I received! I appreciate greatly the attention and the economic help you are giving me to sustain my ministry.

#### BREAKFAST PROGRAM, Torreon

This program, which had provided food to more than 50 children per day, has been temporarily suspended. Rebecca, who last year prepared large pots of porridge and piles of tortillas, has not been well. She needs your prayers for healing of arthritis. She is attempting to enlist others to take up the heavy burdens of this work while the children still wait on the corner for the little Volkswagon with the "atole".

#### "CINCO BANDERA" Youth Home, Monterrey

The first 13 residents have now moved in and are attending their schools. They have written personal thank you notes expressing appreciation for the



opportunity you have given them to live in a Christian home and to learn a vocation. Some of them are finishing up High School, some are in automotive, radiology, refrigeration, computer and communication technical schools. Two are in pre-medical and ministry universities.

The house parents, Dora and Esteban, with the help of a Methodist Support Group, helped the young men register in schools and to find part-time jobs to contribute with the finances of the home. The plan for the home is to add a young woman's dormitory next year.

THE FIRST NINE YOUNG MEN  
AT "CINCO BANDERAS".

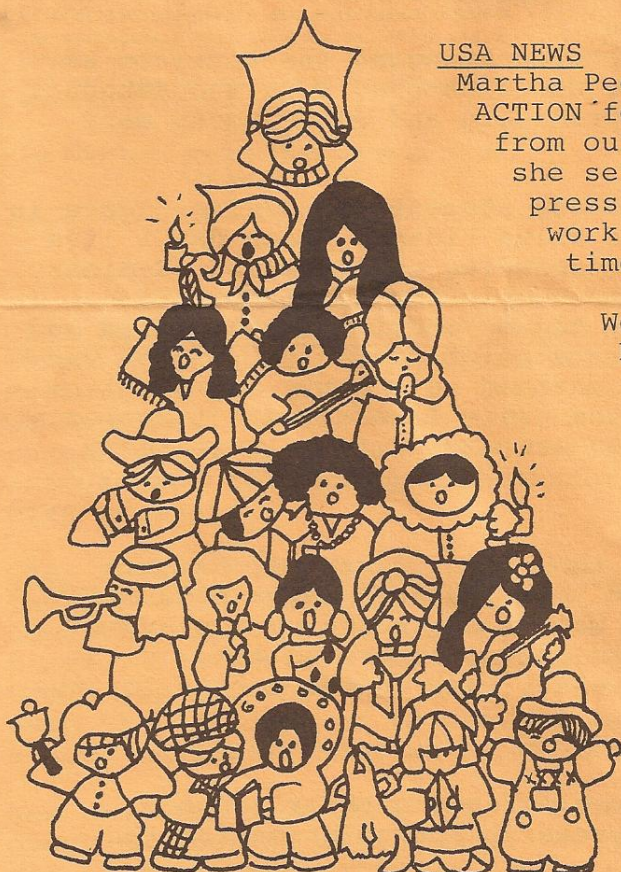
JOSE, VICTOR, ALFREDO,  
JOVITO, JORGE R., JORGE  
V., HERNANDO, HECTOR,  
AND AUGUSTIN.



USA NEWS

Martha Pedroza, one of the original founders of Layman ACTION for Children, Inc. has regretfully resigned from our Board. We and the multitude of children she served during all these 23 years want to express our gratitude and thanks for all the good work she did. Martha needs our prayers at this time for healing.

We welcome two new board members, Synnove Naess and Caroline Underwood, into our organization. They will help bring us into the nineties and into a new name:  
CARING ACTION FOR CHILDREN, INC.



WISHING YOU A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS  
AND A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH JOY,  
PEACE AND HAPPINESS.