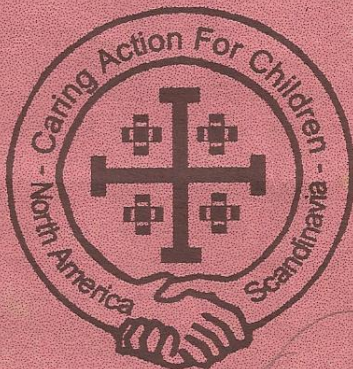
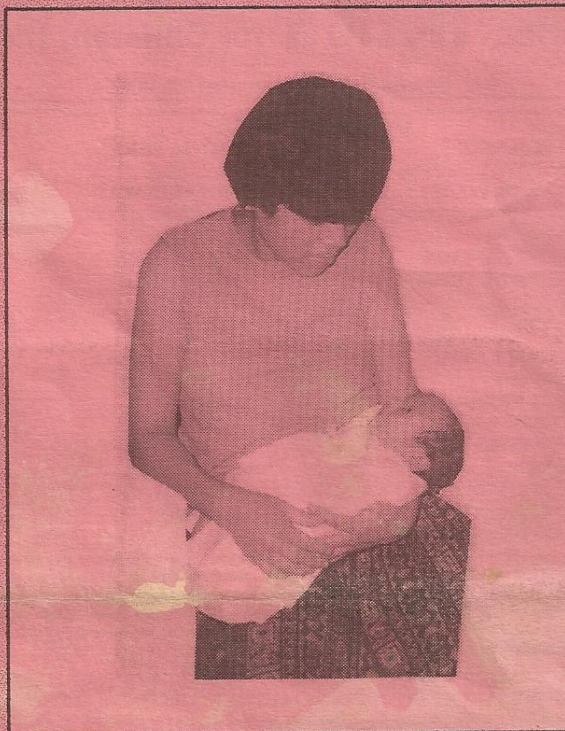


Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.



December 1996
30 years in Mexico



DEAR FRIENDS : FELIZ NAVIDAD! MERRY CHRISTMAS! GOD JUL!

2000 years ago Mary gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger because there was no room in the inn. Suddenly an angel appeared among the shepherds and said, "Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!"...(Luke 2)

Just this year Catalina, in the picture above, gave birth to her first child. She had been a desperate teenager on the streets of Mexico a few months ago with nowhere to go and nobody to help her. The Shelter was there just in time for her. The people in Mexico, Norway, Sweden and USA responded by providing a place for homeless teenagers and babies in the city of Monterrey.

This Christmas let us remember the good news of the angel. "**A great joy which will come to all the people.**" Catalina experienced the **great joy** when our Mexican friends found her, gave her a room where she could lay her baby in soft blankets, receive food, expert care and most of all love and understanding from caring adults. We who give of our financial blessings also experience the **great joy** when we see the results of our gifts for the Children of God. Life becomes meaningful. That is the good news of Christmas which brings joy for all the people!

The children and youth you serve in Mexico send their Christmas Greetings with Thanks for the opportunities you have given them for a richer spiritual and material life. Our volunteer staff in Mexico, USA, Norway and Sweden also greet you and give thanks for the opportunity to be your servants to the needy in Mexico. We are ready to start our 31st year with new opportunities!

Tor Jansen, Director

Caring Action for Children, Inc.

P.O. Box 64324 Los Angeles, Ca 90064

OPERATING STAFF

TOR W. JANSEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	SUSAN M. FISKE TREASURER
DORA F. DE VALDEZ COORDINATOR & TREASURER IN MEXICO	TURID ASKEVOLD TREASURER & PUBLICATION IN NORWAY
HOLGER HANSSON COORDINATOR IN SWEDEN	HELGE JANSEN COORDINATOR IN NORWAY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MAY JANSEN MEMBER	SYNNOVE NAESS MEMBER

LYLYN 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, 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
38 ELSIE DRIVE, SOUTHAMPTON, PA 18966

MISSION NEWS

Many changes have taken place at the homes during the last few months. Tor and May will have visited in November to get to know new directors at the Mama Paulita, La Familia and Esperanza Homes for Children. The Board in charge of each home assures us that the children are well taken care of during this time of change. Lourdes and her young adopted son Samuel have left La Familia after more than 11 years as director and housemother. An appreciation gift of \$1,100 was presented to Lourdes from the donors of Caring Action. We will continue to support Samuel until he becomes a young man.

The economic situation in Mexico is not well. The salaries of people who can find work do not keep up with the prices. Interest rates on borrowed money are over 50% and many mortgaged homes are abandoned. Many families break up as husbands leave families to find work in different locations. Crime and alcoholism are often results of economic frustrations. Children suffer and are many times abandoned to find their own "daily bread". Lucky ones find one of our homes with three meals a day, a secure place to sleep and an opportunity to go to school.

Caring Action has also had a hard time this last few months with transfer of money, an easy task we take for granted in our countries. Normally we send support checks to the homes by mail. Some checks have not reached the homes on time due to the communication systems in Mexico. The system to transfer bank-to-bank also has given us problems. Our treasurer has spent much time communicating with banks to locate and recover displaced funds. Please pray that each dollar you give will promptly reach a deserving home. Our staff is exploring alternate fund transfer methods.

We have provided extra money for gifts and treats from you to the children for Christmas. The young people of Cinco Banderas and Mano Homes will be given travel money to locate and visit relatives during the School Vacation. To make sure the money will be there on time, Tor and May, hand carried the checks when they visited the homes this November. They also brought about 300 stuffed toys to be given to the children of the homes. The toys are a gift from the children of the Hatboro U.M Church in Pennsylvania. 60 children and youth will also receive T-shirts imprinted with our 5 cross symbol donated by the owner of a shirt printing firm. A work group from Pennsylvania for the Esperanza Home, near Cancun, will help carry all these gifts in their baggage to save on shipping costs. One of our supporters, Mike Fischer, has volunteered to drive these pre-Christmas gifts along with Tor and May from Cancun to the other five homes.

We have one more story for our anniversary year written by Eduardo Ponce. When he was a little boy at Mama Paulita he was called "Lalo". You might remember him from the October 1994 newsletter.



TV TIME AT LA FAMILIA



Eduardo Juarez Ponce
Birthday : June 8, 1976

To the left we see Eduardo at work and in the picture below with his apartment friends.



"Hi! I'm Eduardo Juarez Ponce. I was born on June 8, 1976. I joined the Casa Hogar Mama Paulita in March of 1978 when I was two years old. When I arrived, I was ill, I had a problem with my stomach and they had to put me into the hospital (social security service). At that time, the directors of Casa Hogar Mama Paulita were Mr. Esteban and Mrs. Dora Valdez. They were as my parents to me. During my childhood they took care of me, they gave me their love and their time. When we cried or when we felt bad at night they were always by our sides.

I am really grateful to God and to them. People say I was a very shy but happy boy, always with a smile on my face. Around 1979, my uncle and brother wanted to take me with them, but I felt very well at Casa Hogar, with the other boys at the house. I played with them all day. They said that when I saw my uncle and my brother coming, I ran to the yard where Margarita was washing clothes. She was like a mother to me, she bathed us and took care of us. Margarita asked me what the problem was and I told her that some persons wanted to take me away and that I did not want that to happen.

Some months after that, a lady from Norway, her name was Astrid, came to Casa Hogar. We became very good friends. We used to go for walks together and she always held my hand. She wanted to adopt me, but I don't remember why it was not possible to do so. Currently, we write each other and she keeps on helping me whenever she can. In 1980 I started to go to the kindergarten to learn new things. At that time the kindergarten was inside the Casa Hogar. They were also building a school next to the house. The director back then was Mrs. Celia Osuna de Hernandez. Every year on May 10 we celebrated the Mother's Day with parties. I always wanted to participate on those celebrations and dance with a girl, a girl that I chose.

At Christmas time we had a special dinner. We sat down around the fireplace and adults use to tell us the meaning of Christmas and Christmas stories. Then we opened our presents, which at that time were a mystery to us because we did not know where they came from.

Those years were the best days of my life and I thank God for giving me the chance to finish my primary education and for you, who made this possible.

From 1990 to 1993 I studied high school at Moises Saenz School, it was a challenge to me and thanks to all the people who helped me I ended up with an 8.9 average.

During all those years I spent in Casa Hogar I understood a lot of things. The younger boys had the responsibility to pick up the garbage from the backyards and the older ones had the responsibility to cut the grass and weeds. The house was divided in two parts, one for the girls and one for the boys. Each of us had different activities to carry out, such as sweep and mop.

From 1992 to 1995 I studied a technical career in electronics and right now I am working at a hardware store and am renting an apartment where I live with Pepe, a friend from the Casa Hogar, and three other guys from Cas 5 Banderas. I am planning to study English also. Thank you for all your help!" Eduardo Juarez Ponce

FINAL 30TH ANNIVERSARY MOMENT

Volunteers In Monterrey



From left to right : Dora Valdez, Cordelia Brown, Tor Jansen, Esteban Valdez, and Oscar Flores

Board Members In Los Angeles



From left to right : Bill Smith, Susan Fiske, May Jansen, Shirley Becker, Tor Jansen, and Tricia Riordan



Dear sponsor:
Thanks for your help
May god give you a
Happy christmas and
a blessed new year

B. HORTENCIA MIRANDA.

*One of the many hand made
Christmas cards we received
from the children wishing you a
Merry Christmas.*

Some of your Happy Children In Mexico!

As we finish our 30th year of service, we would challenge you, our faithful supporters, to help make this a special Christmas for the children of Mexico. \$60.00 supports one child for one month.

**WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

