

## Caring **Action** for Children, Inc.



SEPTEMBER 1997  
31 years in Mexico



Dear Friends of Children and Youth in Mexico,

During the summer, we received letters from our two newest homes to let us know that more children are being received. Martha Rojas, the coordinator for The Shelter reports that they now have 19 children under 5 years of age. All are from the area of Monterrey with a population of over two million. Most are from single mothers that are not able to give their children the care they deserve. The volunteers at the shelter try to counsel these women if they come to visit the babies. They are always invited to live with their children, but after a short time they return to the streets. With this many children, we have increased our support to the home to \$1000 per month.

The Esperanza Home for Children in Bonfil, near Cancun also reports an increase to 17 children over the summer. The members of the new "Patronato" or Board, with Esther Mancilla as the president, are promoting the home to serve the whole Yucatan Peninsula. Our support for this home also increased as we pledged for you that we would give \$55 per child per month to pay for the housemother, helpers, food, school expenses and other operational costs. Next year at this home, we will start our system of reduced contribution so that the Mexicans can find ways to raise money for an increasing share of expenses.

The other homes, "Mama Paulita", "La Familia", "Cinco Banderas" and "Mano" with about 120 children and youth continue to receive your donations. When we include the Student Aid and the Out-reach "Breakfast for Children" programs, Caring Action contributed a total of \$ 65,897.57 last year. We can report that **100% of your donations went for the mission projects in Mexico** because our administrative expenses were covered by the investment income of the reserve contingency fund. Thanks to all of you in Norway, Sweden and USA who make this mission to the children of Mexico possible!

This year, we expect an increase in support need of about \$20,000. We hope you can continue and expand your part in this venture to make God's World a better place for His Children! Most of the contributions come from individuals like you who read about the children in our Newsletter. Some churches from Lutheran, Methodist and Independent denominations give from groups within the church. We receive from Confirmation Classes, Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Men and Women groups. They often give collected funds for specially designated projects such as for beds, clothing, school supplies, toys, paint, repair, bibles and teaching materials. If you have an idea for your organization in the future, let us work with you.

Each child in our care has a story of past neglect. We can not print them all, but in this Newsletter are three stories which I came across on my Spring visit to Mexico. May God continue to bless you as you pass on His blessings to others!

*Your director of Caring Action, Tor*



# Caring Action for Children, Inc.

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## OPERATING STAFF

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**EVELYN 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, 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.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS CAN BE MAILED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.  
The federal tax registration number is 95-61155992

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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*Mimi and Jose just before their mother left them at Esperanza.*

## BACKGROUND STORIES OF CHILDREN

by Tor

I am going to tell you about three case stories of children and why they came to Caring Action supported homes. Last Spring I met these children, saw some of the parents who left them and heard stories from the Mexicans in charge. The experience really touched my heart. I hope you also will realize that our investments in their lives are investments in the Kingdom of God.

### STORY ONE

Pastor Ascencio Mancilla told me about three children now at the Esperanza Home. Workers from the government social service organization had brought two boys and one girl, all under 7 years old, from a city on the Yucatan Peninsula. They could not find any relatives that were willing to raise the children. Such commitment would be very difficult for relatives, because it would mean several years of care without any governmental support. The government social workers had heard of the Esperanza Home and did not have any other home for the children.

The father was in jail, convicted for murder. The mother was also in jail for dealing in illegal drugs. Both were expected to be held for a long time and therefore could not care for their children. We have been given an opportunity to help the Mexican Housemother raise these children with our donations.

### STORY TWO

One day I was at the Esperanza Home constructing a separating wall in the boy's dormitory. During a restbreak, I went downstairs and met three ladies with a baby and two children. Two of the ladies were social worker volunteers from our board in Cancun. The other lady had plain clothes and appeared very uncomfortable and I soon found out why. I had a chance to talk with her and this was her story: "I have 11 children and since my husband has died recently, I can not feed them all! Can you please help me with Jose and Mimi! They are 8 and 6 years old and have not started school yet because we could not afford the expenses. These nice ladies paid our busfare from the town of Valladolid, two hours away, so I could bring the children. Por favor (please) can you help with these two and I will try to take care of the others at home!"

The ladies from the board asked for birth certificates for the children so they could be registered in school. "I don't know about such papers" said the mother, but promised to be back "next week."

The social volunteers knew the meaning of "next week". They had a job to convince the school to accept the children without papers. Inside I cried with Jose and Mimi when the Mother and baby sister quickly departed with the social workers. We can just imagine how that mother felt leaving the two. Perhaps happy and sad at the same time.

The next day, Sunday, I met the children again. They had received clean clothes and were all smiles when I saw them in church with their new brothers and sisters. Perhaps they discovered that this new life with enough food, a clean place to sleep and a caring housemother was good for them. Your contribution made it all possible!





*Innocent children deserve a home with love and securtiy.*



*Flory Canul, the housemother of 17 at Esperanza, and two of the girls show that "Caring Action is Love!"*

### STORY THREE

I stayed at the Shelter for Babies and young Mothers when visiting Monterrey. This home has extra rooms because the organization running the Shelter is just becoming known in the community. At the time I was visitng, there were 13 children and babies at the Shelter and currently no mothers. Seems like the teen mothers are not ready to accept the discipline and responsibility required to voluntarily be rehabilitated to a new lifestyle.

One day I noticed a young lady receiving a motherly talk by Martha Rojas, our coordinator of the Shelter. The young lady was very sad and as I found out later from Martha, she had come to visit her young baby. She had intended to pick up the baby but had nowhere to stay but the streets of Monterrey. She could not go home because she had run away from her family which lived in a village far away. Her father was the father of the baby. Martha convinced her that the baby should stay at the Shelter. She was also trying to convince the 17 year old to stay at the Shelter with her baby. The teen mother would be helped to attend a school to learn basic reading and writing to get an employable skill. I don't know the end of the story but I pray she took the opportunity to let us help her find the Grace and Peace of God at the Shelter.



*The little children at the Shelter learn to sing and play musical instruments.*



## VOLUNTEER HELP FOR THE MAMA PAULITA HOME

A young lady, Susan Fischli from New York, is now helping the Houseparents Celia and Arturo for a few months. The Board at the home approved her application processed through Caring Action. Susan discovered the opportunity to volunteer from our write-up on the World Wide Internet. Many responded at first, but when Caring Action informed them that they had to raise their own money for travel, pre-pay one month expense for the stay and receive no pay, only a few considered serving the Lord in this way.

Susan Fischli from New York was the first to qualify. She just graduated from high school, but her letters indicated a strong desire to serve immediately. Her recommendations from parents and the youth counselor of the Bruderhof Foundation, a Christian Community, were convincing.

Thanks to Susan for volunteering. She will give children attention and love they crave so much. Volunteers fly to the USA-Mexico border. There they are met by a former Mama Paulita child, now the owner of her own business, who will give a quick briefing and direction to the bus for the Mama Paulita Home. Please pray for Susan. She is learning Spanish fast from the children!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Marlen Gomez of the Mano Home!

She graduated from the Nursing School July 17 with a 96% grade point average. She says she is dedicated to help others as a result of the ministry of the Mano Home and you who supported her. Thanks!

MORE PICTURES



*The young men at Cinco Banderas have formed a singing group.*



*Games at the girl's dorm of Mama Paulita*



*A picnic with the children at La Familia. "Who likes the sodas?"*