

Caring Action



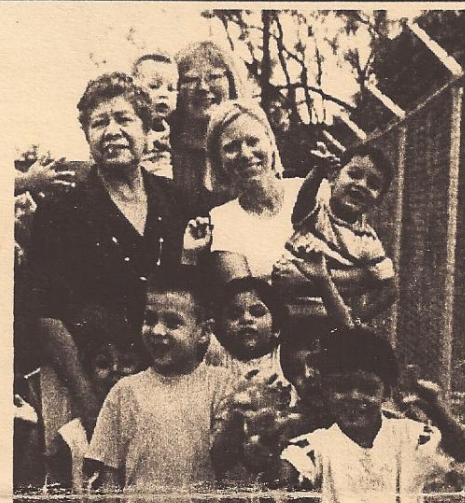
For Children

**Sept.
1998**

A Summer Trip to Mexico.

In the hot and humid time of summer, two board members Shirley Becker and Susan Fiske with two of their sons David and Kevin, went to Mexico to visit with the children and co-ordinators there. As our projects have expanded to many areas through-out the country, they traveled from place to place in buses, giving them the opportunity to see the many communities and lifestyles along the way.

The prevailing theme at all the children and student programs was "Back to School". The House Parents in each home were busy enrolling the children in school, purchasing uniforms and school shoes, paying the registration fees and supplying each child with notebooks, pencils and such. Many of these children would not have the opportunity to attend school as it is expensive. Even public schools have a registration fee! Your support helps pay for their education. The following is a report of their trip.



Martha Rojas, the Director of the Shelter, along with Shirley Becker and Susan Fiske, board members from the USA.

The first stop was 25 children under the age of 5!

Casa Hogar Para Madres Solteras, Adolescentes Y Ninos - Monterrey, Nuevo Leon : Here we were welcomed by many small children ready to burst out the door to greet us. We were overwhelmed and nearly knocked over by all by them wanting to be held and hugged simultaneously. There are currently 25 children living there ranging from 6 months to five years old. The home has some paid staff, but relies on volunteers and mothers to help. One mother residing at the home, Graciella, really had a busy job. With some help, she got the kids organized with baths, getting dressed, etc... and with all those young children it was a tremendous task. Another mother residing at this home, Juanita, is living with her infant who was born with a medical problem which will shortly require brain surgery.

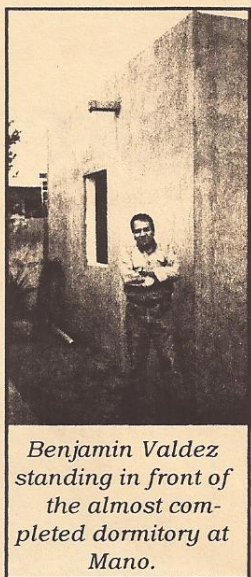


Juanita and her baby are fortunate to have the opportunity to live at this home with directors able to assist and guide her to the appropriate facilities for medical care.

We also met with Carlos and Angeles Ruiz who serve on the board of directors. Their tremendous love and compassion for the children stirred them into ACTION. With funds and employees from their own business, they constructed a small classroom outside of the home which is being used as a pre-school. They have plans to add three more buildings to eventually house the children as they get older. We can't thank them enough for what they have done!

Student Homes at Capacity

Monterrey -12 young women currently reside at this student home. They provided us with dinner and expressed their appreciation for your support. We met with the board of directors and were given a tour of the home and the addition of a separate dormitory in back. When completed, this dormitory will sleep 8 more girls, provide additional study space, and a full bathroom. We were given the final expense budget and wired the balancing funds upon



Benjamin Valdez standing in front of the almost completed dormitory at Mano.

our return to the states. We look forward to helping out more young girls!

Cinco Banderas houses 22 young men. We were greeted with several songs and music performed by all. They introduced themselves individually and told us which area of study they were enrolled in. This home just welcomed a new director couple, Pastor Florentino and his wife Gloria, the day prior and we were glad to have had the opportunity to meet them. While in Monterrey, we also met with Pepe who grew up in the

childrens home, Casa Hogar Mama Paulita, later attended school while living at Cinco Banderas, and is now employed and sharing a place with some friends he had made at Cinco. For this school year, Mama Paulita sent five boys to continue their education.

Following a child's progress until he (or she) becomes a self-sufficient adult is one of the main goals of Caring Action. We were able to realize this dream at these student homes.

Outreach Project

Almaguer, Nuevo Leon. We visited this project with Pastor Lara. It is located in an extremely poor area up the rocky hills of Monterrey, accessible only by foot. The homes in this vicinity are constructed of whatever material is available, a mixture of cement blocks, maybe some wood, and possibly sheet metal to complete. The city provides a limited source of water to this area with an exposed pipe (approx. 1-1/2" is diameter) which runs down the street and is in-

tended for everyone's use. We visited this community center and arrived in time to hear the completion of Sunday services. Caring Action had advanced funds to build



This little one received a toothbrush and sucker from us.

a roof so we were able to see the progress. Much work still remains though. To these needy residents, we have provided an opportunity. An opportunity for meals to students who can demonstrate that they are attending school. An opportunity for families to get together for services and music and an opportunity for the local women to meet and work on crafts they will then sell in the city.

Casa Hogar Mama Paulita

El Limon, Tamps. After a 6-1/2 hour bus ride from Monterrey, we were greeted at 11:30 p.m. at the station in Cd. Mante by Maria Cristina, the former treasurer of Mama Paulita. This home typically has 40 - 50 children living under the directorship of Arturo and Celia Carillo who are well organized and compassionate. We went with them to register the children up for school and heard Celia tell us how she was able to bargain with the school administrators to reduce the fees of the secundaria students to nearly 1/2. (She certainly knows how to stretch funds to their fullest



Celia signing the children up for school.

abilities!)

The children were very happy, whether they were performing home chores or playing. We enjoyed getting to know them by playing baseball one day and taking a trip to the river on the 2nd. During our entire trip, this was the hottest location of all so the swim was greatly appreciated.



Daily chores keep the home neat and clean.

La Familia



Enjoying ice cream treats!

Serdan, Pue. After an 11-1/2 hour bus ride from Cd. Mante to Mexico City and then another 4 hour bus

ride directory to Serdan, we met the directors Eliezer and Berna Bravo and the 29 children at La Familia. The majority

of the children living here were brought by the social services. We saw many letters from the government with stories of other children needing a place. The directors work a long day with the children helping with many of the chores. They assist in the kitchen with the meals and dishes, the garden, and with the care of the many animals which they are raising for food.

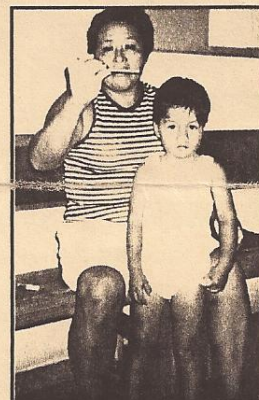
Esperanza "HOPE"

Bonfil, Q.Roo – Our final stop of this trip took us to a community just outside of Cancun to visit the children of Esperanza. Many families move to this area in hopes of finding jobs in one of the fancy resorts less than one hour away but find that there aren't enough jobs for all. The drastic change from the homes in Bonfil to the beautiful Hotels on Hotel Row is something one can only witness to believe. When lying on the beautiful beaches and enjoying all the comforts of a hotel, it is hard to imagine that a short

drive away will lead you to another lifestyle of poverty and hard work.

There are 21 children living in Esperanza ranging in age from 4 to 12 years. Five of these children had chicken pox during our visit, one even requiring hospitalization in the middle of the night. The house director, Flory, not only had her hands full with sick children but also with the preparation of school. On our 2nd day at this home, the students were up by 5:30 and out of the house by 6:30 to walk to school. We went to the

two schools and watched the eager students perform opening ceremonies.



Two boys give their viewpoint

In Los Angeles, California where I live, the city is booming with prosperity and industry. In Mexico it is like entering a totally different world. I visited places where people would just set down a fence and concrete blocks with a tarp and would call it home.

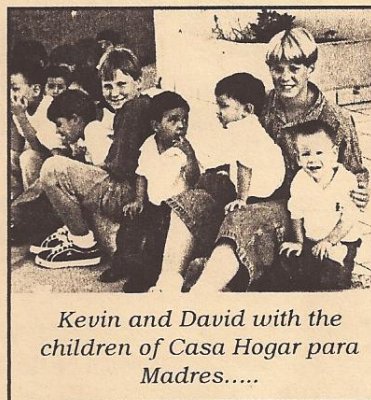
The projects visited helped children of all ages. One housed infants while others young adults. As we made our way through Mexico, I visited orphanages where children, some as young as six months old, lived. They arrived from either government services or because of poverty. I visited two homes where high school and college level stu-

dents stayed who otherwise would not be able to afford their continuing education.

At the end of this trip I felt very fortunate for the loving parents I have and the warm house that I have lived in since I was born.

—Kevin Fiske, age 12

I went on this trip with my mom and my cousins Susan and Kevin.



Kevin and David with the children of Casa Hogar para Madres.....

I found that many of the homes were very different from the USA – some were just shacks! The time I spent in each home was either spent playing with the children, or trying to help out where I could. It was difficult to communicate with the kids, as I haven't taken Spanish in school yet, but

found that hand signals worked just fine. I am glad that my family helps these children through Caring Action.

—David Becker, age 12

Caring Action for Children, Inc.

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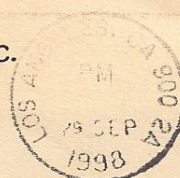
EVELYN LINDSTROM AND MARTHA PEDROSA
Honorary Original Members

As a nonprofit, 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.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE
MAILED TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE
The Federal Tax Registration Number is 95 61155992

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MEMORIAL : This summer we lost two very special people .

Dora Valdez went to be with the Lord on the 9th of September. She had served as the coordinator of numerous projects in Mexico. She worked faithfully with her husband, Esteban, on caring Action programs since the seventies. First as the House-mother for over 50 children at the Mama Paulita Home. She also helped start the Cinco Banderas Student Home for young men and served as the first Housemother. Dora was our advisor on the start of the



Mano Student Home and the Shelter for Babies and Young Mothers. She also helped start Breakfast Programs among poor children in several locations, the latest being the mountain village of Almaguer. She was the mentor to all the young people in the Student Programs where she provided Christian nurture til her last days. Dora demonstrated with her life the "Caring Action is Love!". We give prayers of thanks for the life of Dora and ask God's blessing on Esteban as he continues the mission. Her friends in USA, Norway, Sweden, and Mexico will greatly miss her.



Mike Fischer was a volunteer driver, friend and supporter for construction of the Esperanza Home for Children. Although fighting against cancer, he was still planing to deliver medical supplies and computer parts to our projects this fall. He kept the faith and served with us until the end. Children at Esperanza, La Familia and Mama Paulita will remember "Tio Mike" along with his harmonica playing, story telling and great humor.

Thank you! So many people made a difference in our trip by providing additional funds and items. The children thank you for the special treat of a popsicle, ice cream or sucker. Also thank you to Dr. Gans of Los Angeles for donating toothbrushes and providing the children with brighter smiles. Thank you to Trinity Lutheran womens group of Hawthorne for providing enough money to buy 10 pairs of school shoes for Mama Paulita. Thank you to the mothers of 1st Lutheran Preschool in Torrance for the donation of under clothes for Casa Hogar para Madres and providing funds to purchase toys. Thank you to Star Office Supplies in Los Angeles for the school supplies which the student homes in Monterrey are already using. Thank you to all who regularly donate money to provide these children with food, clothing, a home and directors to care for them. It takes all of you to make this possible.