

Caring Action



For Children

In Mexico

December
2003

Our 37th year
in Mexico

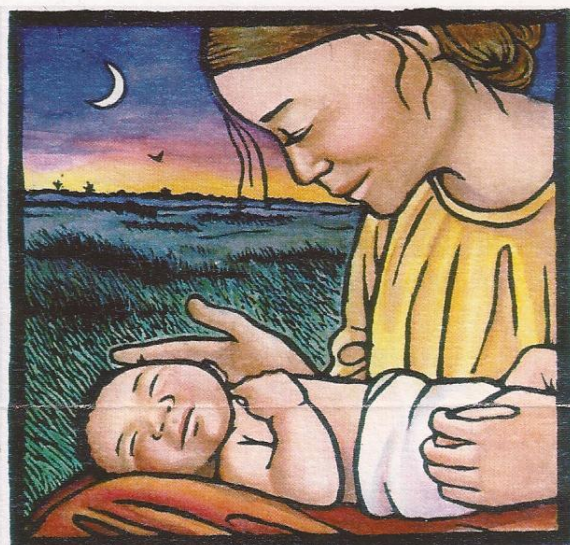
Feliz Navidad, God Jul and Blessed Christmas!

A message of thanks from the
children and youth we care for
in Mexico:

Many thanks to God for giving us Baby Jesus. He grew up in a far distant land, and studied the Word of God in the Temple. He learned the skills of a carpenter. When he became a man, He shared all "gifts of life" from His Father.

The gifts were:

- Healing body and mind
- Getting along with neighbors
- Showing love and respect to friends and enemies
- Most of all, He gave us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life!



*Baby Emanuel, a sign "God is with us!"
(Matt. 1:23)*

Drawing received from Bruderhof with thanks

We, the Children and Youth, came from different backgrounds to a new Home here in Mexico. Now we have opportunity to learn the Word of God in this Home. We can also go to schools and learn skills for a better future. We hope to follow the steps of Jesus!

These opportunities happened because you also followed Jesus and loved your neighbors in Mexico! You gave your gift of money to pay for our loving Houseparents, our food, a place to live and an education. Thank you and may you also have many blessings from God this Christmas and in the New Year.
.....Your Amigos in Mexico

The staff in USA, Norway and Sweden also wish you a season full of Joy that comes from the baby of Bethlehem. Thank you for your gifts that let us be your representatives to Children and Youth in Mexico. Our lives are enriched by this service.

*Sincerely from your volunteer staff
Tor, Shirley, and Mia in the USA and Helge, Turid and Ingemar in Scandinavia.*

Christmas in the Homes

The celebration of Christmas may be a little different in Mexico than in the USA and Scandinavia. The typical Mexican Christmas starts a week earlier with the "Posada" (the search for an Inn.) Celebrations continue with the Birth of Christ and last until the arrival of the "Three Kings", (Wise Men), a week after New Years.

We usually spend much time sending greeting cards and shopping for gifts for relatives and friends. The Mexicans spend more time visiting family and enjoying festive meals.

In the Homes for Children, hand-drawn cards are made to give to visitors. Postage in Mexico is very expensive so not many cards are sent. Besides, who do the children send greetings to? A mother living at an unknown address going from job to job? To a father who abandoned them and their mother a long time ago?



Traditional families, that our special children meet in the community, are so excited and tell of their plans to go on Posadas." That is an re-enactment of Joseph and Mary in the streets of Bethlehem to find an Inn. Children are dressed up in costumes and with music and much excitement, parade to homes of friends and relatives who are waiting to see them and give out treats!

Our special children in the Homes can not find relatives to visit. They must depend on Mexican Christians to visit them for "Posadas." Several groups come and bring gifts and goodies. These children often act out Christmas stories in the Home with the caring visitors.

The Birth of Christ is celebrated on Christmas Eve - first at a church service, and then at a Fiesta at the Home. A Christmas tree is a luxury cost often

skipped in favor of a decorated Baby in a crib. It is usually warm outside so the Fiesta can be a picnic with a bonfire and special Mexican tacos and tamales. The Houseparents make sure that each child receives one or two toys.

Some of the children may have a relative visiting during the next few days. This is exciting for some, but sad for those who do not have any relatives that visit. The Christmas celebration lasts until the "Three Kings Day" in January. A final toy may then be received as a reminder of the gifts of the Kings. After that it is time to go back to school!

The older students in Cinco Banderas and Mano Homes are encouraged to travel to make contact with relatives during the vacation time. They are given travel money for that purpose. Usually they come back to relatives and old friends with a witness of a new Faith in Christ!

We appreciate the extra money you give the children at Christmas time. We will extend it to last for a long time. Remember Jesus who said:

"What you have done to the least of these, you have done for Me!"

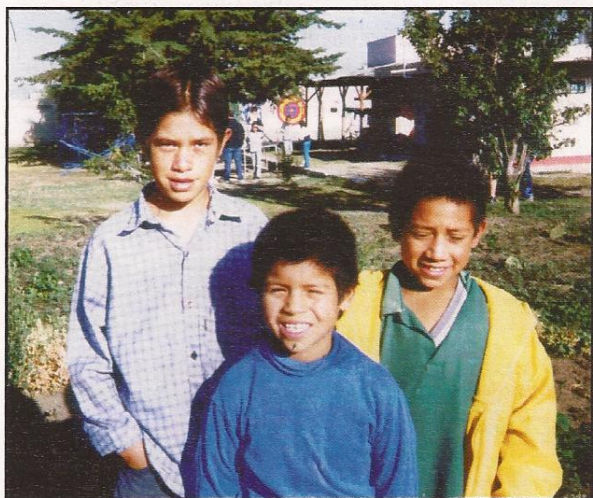
Some of the precious children you help to take care of



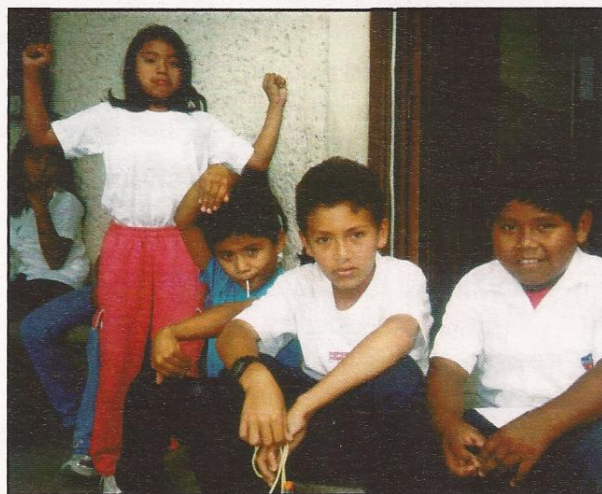
Treat time for the toddlers at the Shelter



Relaxing after clean-up at the Mama
Paulita Home



Can you come and play basket-ball with
us at the La Familia Home?



Are girls stronger than boys at the
Esperanza Home?

Caring ACTION for Children, Inc.

A non-profit interdenominational organization dedicated to helping Mexican Christians care for the under-privileged children in their country.

For additional information, please contact
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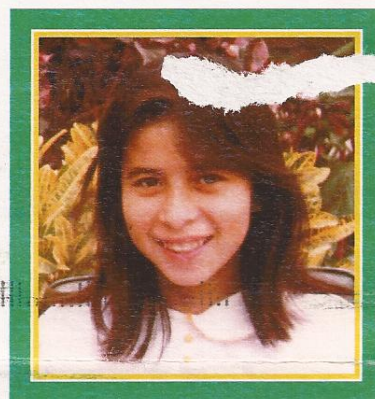
- To respond to the needs of children in Mexico by providing food, housing, clothing, an education, and spiritual guidance.
- To assist concerned Mexicans in taking full responsibility for property and operations of the Children's Homes.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MAILED TO

P.O. Box 7277
York, PA 17404-7277

The Federal Tax Registration Number is 95 61155992

Arq. Valdez & Family
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MEMORIAL

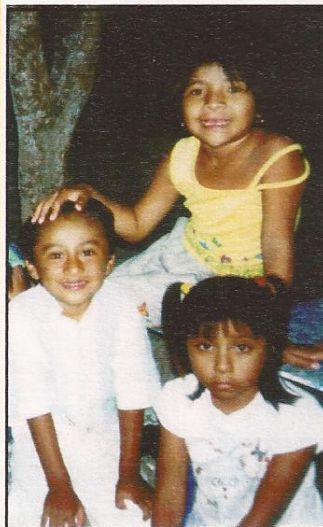
We were shocked to hear from Mexico that Ana Castillo went to be with Our Lord after a short illness this October.

Ana was once a child at the Mama Paulita Home. She became educated as a Certified Accountant. In that capacity she returned to help Caring Action by serving as a Board member for the Cinco Banderas Home. Ana also gave motivational talks to our students to encourage studies to secure their future. For the last three years she also served for us on the Monterrey Coordinating Committee, preparing semi-annual financial reports.

We will greatly miss Ana Castillo and her positive attitude.



Caring Action for Children in Mexico is now helping to support over 130 children and youth in six different homes in Mexico. We are also helping more than 30 students that live at home with school expenses. In one Outreach Project we help a Mexican church give food and God's Word to many children in a slum area. We are also attempting to build a new home in the area for Indigenous (Indian) children. At the moment we are searching for Mexican leaders to operate this project.



Our Mexican Christian workers always know about more abandoned or neglected children. Often they must say no to requests because resources can not be stretched further. This picture shows some children we met at a Mexican Outreach Mission.