

# Caring Action



# For Children

In Mexico

March  
2004

Our 38th year  
in Mexico

Dear Friends,

Children and Youth in Mexico wish that the Year 2004 will bring you blessings from God for faithfully remembering them in the past.

It has been 38 years since we started to support a lady who cared for a few girls at what we now call the Mama Paulita Home. We remember the teachers in the Los Angeles School System who were shown the need to help by their Mexican-American students. Their persistence and dedication were examples which have resulted in six more homes and another on the way.

Thank you, the many individual donors and organizations in the USA, Norway, and Sweden, who have provided the funds to give a future to so many disadvantaged children. The Lord has blessed you so you could be Blessings to others!

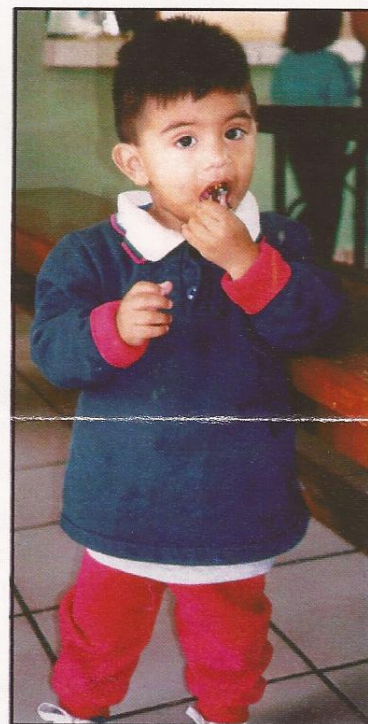
Perhaps you cannot see your rewards directly, but they are there. Linda, one of our visiting work volunteers, expressed her feelings in an edited letter:

*Mark and I just returned from our first volunteer trip to the La Familia Home for Children. We had expected mission work would be difficult with getting up early to paint and do repairs. We did not understand then that the hardest job would be the goodbyes!*

*One of the often repeated questions from the children was "When are you coming back?" Before we arrived I had prayed that in some small way I may touch the lives of those children. When Alfredo, the little rascal, asked that question, my heart skipped a beat. We had bonded so well that he wanted **me** to return! I felt blessed by God. I had made a difference and touched a heart. My prayer was answered. It was so hard to look into the warm loving generous faces of all those children who do not have many adults to share their love with. I will always remember them and some day **I will come back!***

Even I, your director, after 20 years of visiting, still have troubles with goodbyes. Thanks for making my experiences possible. They re-energize me to serve His Children in Mexico!

Tor





# Happenings

**The Shelter:** This Home is overflowing with 42 active youngsters and babies. The oldest are now about 11 years old and need another dormitory. Construction was almost finished when we visited in November. A streetside bakery was also almost finished. The hope is to make money from sales to the community. We really appreciate the initiatives the Shelter leadership is starting on their own.



A couple of the older children at the Shelter

The dream of Martha Rojas, the director, is to construct a library and auditorium building. She already asked the city government for some extra land to expand. Looks like her request will be granted. We will join Martha in praying for construction money. The school age children are doing well from reports received. A few were top students in their classes.

**Mama Paulita:** Jose, a severely retarded boy who had been at the home for many years, was transferred to a state school where he could get special training to speak and learn. The other 40 children are doing well. A second woman had been hired to stay with the girls. Rodney, an American youth volunteer, was still helping after a year of service.

The Home is gradually being restored after more than 30 years of heavy use. The next big project is replacement of rusted iron windows and screens. The new ones will be made of aluminum and will keep unhealthy wind, dust and insects out. We promised to ask for sponsors to help with the cost.



All the children at Mama Paulita help to clean up the grounds before they go to school.

**The two Youth Homes, Cinco Banderas and Mano:** The Homes for 24 young men and women continue to give these youths an opportunity to learn a skill or start a university education. Many have extra jobs to help with house expenses. Other Mexican donors also help, but total finances are often not enough. We hope to help more!



# at the Homes

**Esperanza:** Two volunteer teams each gave a week this past fall to paint, sew uniforms and bed covers, and do electrical and plumbing repairs at the home. They came from a church in Indiana, and one in Pennsylvania. In addition to giving money for work materials, substantial gifts were given to the needs of the home and other Mayan missions visited. The 18 Esperanza children enjoyed early Christmas parties and gifts from the teams.

Pastor and Mrs. Mancila continue to direct the Home with 3 paid helpers. Finances are very difficult as this area of Mexico is very expensive. Volunteer trips are being planned during the next year. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tor at our e-mail address.



Volunteers from Pennsylvania with some of the kids



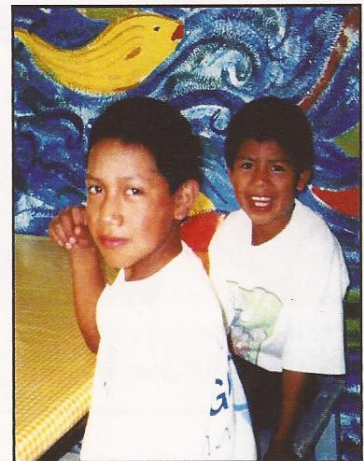
Volunteer team from Indiana

**La Familia:** This fall, five of the children were suddenly taken unwillingly away by a government agency for a so-called social study on possible adoption. The children were kept in State custody with no access by the houseparents. The children thought they were once again abandoned. After a month, they were happily returned with little explanation by the government. In 38 years we never heard of any adoptions of children from our Homes.

Several volunteer work teams from Southern USA continue to visit and support this home of 22 children. Last year, the local public school only offered an evening class of 2 hours per day for the La Familia students. This year another school, a half hour walking distance, offers a full school day. You can imagine this makes Emiglio and Ana, the houseparents, much happier!



Boys and girls at La Familia enjoy the meals.





## 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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### OUR TWO-FOLD MISSION

- 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.

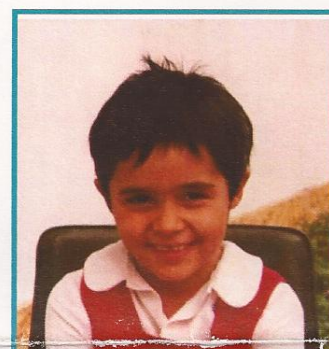
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## Thank you for 2003

Last year we asked you to increase your gifts a little so we could help more children in Mexico. Many of you did so and our income went up. We say a big thank you to those in the USA who have helped us care for these children, and we are very grateful to those in Norway and Sweden who gave so generously this past year.



Your gifts have enabled us to reach out  
to the Mayan children in Mexico.

This year we will be able to increase our donations to the existing homes and think of additional ways to expand our service to the poor. We will still encourage our Mexican friends to take over the missions, but now we can keep an emergency fund to help with unexpected expenses.

Have a Blessed Year 2004 with many rich events!

Shirley Becker, President  
Caring Action for Children Board of Trustees.