

# niños DE MEXICO

ESTABLISHED 1967



APRIL 2018

## NEW KIDS

In late March, we received three little girls – sisters, Yocelin (2), Saraid (4), and Ximena (6) into the Agape family. They came to us out of an abusive situation. Pray for them as they adjust to their new family. They are pictured here with two of the older Agape girls and their houseparent, Ana Laura.

In early April, we received another set of sisters – Valeria (10), Saraid (5), and Jade (4) into the Bethel Family. They came to us from another children's home where they were having difficulties.

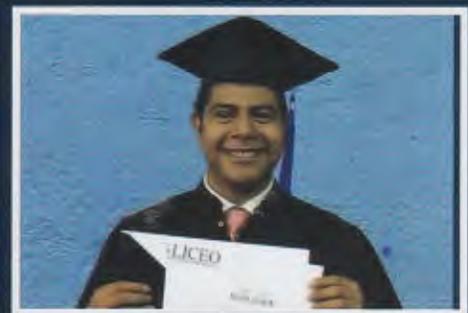
At this point, we are nearing full capacity in our homes. (The Bethel, Agape, Genesis, and Jireh homes are all full.)



## RECENT BAPTISMS

We are excited that two of our young people have made decisions to be baptized into Christ. Carmen Hernandez (Jireh Home) was baptized following a conference designed to help our young people share their faith with others. Damian Molina was baptized on Easter Sunday in San Luis Potosi.

We praise God for these decisions and ask your prayers for several of our young people who are considering making this important decision to follow Jesus and be baptized in His Name!



## JESUS IVAN GRADUATES

Jesus Ivan has been with us since 2008. In December he was able to finish his high school (Prepa) in a little over two years. He is now enrolled in a nearby college studying business administration. We are excited about the future of this hard working young man!

# BLESSINGS IN OUR PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Dr. Larry Banta



Ivonne Martinez



Veronica Rivas

Niños de México raises kids. Everyone knows that. What exactly does that entail? It goes without saying that we provide everything the kids need physically – a safe place to live, a bed to sleep in, food, clothing, house parents to love and nurture, and education. All of these things are obvious parts to raising children. However, as any parent can tell you, there is a lot more to parenting than just providing physical things.

There are other things that are so very important to the success of helping children that have been sent to us here at Niños de México. In 1995, **Dr. Larry Banta** and his wife, Ellen, joined our staff as an M.D. with a speciality in child psychiatry. His work was instrumental in helping us start our clinic for the children and staff. It was such a huge blessing to have him ministering to the children and each of the houseparents. It became obvious this was an area in which we were going to need even more help for the children. Dr. Banta continues working with us to this day, as a consultant with our psychologist.

For thirteen years, we have been blessed to have **Ivonne Martinez** as a member of our staff in Mexico City. She is a Christian psychologist and her work with our kids has proven to be invaluable for dealing with many areas of their past as they grow older. In their daily lives, they are happy on the surface and, yet, not too far below the surface, they have terrible things that haunt them from their past lives. Each child needs help to confront and eventually have victory over past abuses, neglect and/or abandonment., etc.

Today Ivonne focuses her time and energy as our Houseparent Coordinator ministering to them so that they can better minister to the children. As the staff works with the children they can use Ivonne's expertise to help with issues that come up. It's also beneficial to the staff on a personal level as they struggle with the hurts and pain of the kids that makes life very difficult at times.

As we have added more and more kids, and kids with deeper issues, the need for psychological counsel has only increased. We have recently added **Veronica Rivas** to our staff as the child psychology coordinator. Pray with us that we can find another Christian psychologist to help in this area as we continue to grow.

Steve Ross  
Director

## A NEW VIEW OF OUR HOMES



We are VERY thankful for the sacrifices that SO MANY have made that have allowed us to build the homes where our children live and grow.

Thanks to a Christian photographer here in Mexico, we now have some drone shots that give us new views of our homes.

We realize that many people have never seen what their contributions have provided!

Additional photos and a video of our six homes in the Mexico City area are available at [www.ninosdemexico.org/about/our-homes](http://www.ninosdemexico.org/about/our-homes). We hope to be able to add video of the Casa home in the very near future.

# A NEW BUILDING FOR THE LIBERTAD CHURCH!

The church in La Libertad, Puebla, has been growing! Over the past four or five years, we've recognized that there is great potential for growth in this community.

Due to the growth the church has already had and the potential that we see, we determined to build a larger facility that can have a greater impact on the community.

The spring break season started with a group from Compass Christian Church (Colleyville, Texas) working on the construction of a new church building for the congregation in Libertad, Puebla. Pastor Jorge directed the work with men from the community and on Saturdays and Sundays the church families joined together to work on the construction. Work on the interior and painting was accomplished by another work group from the Sheldon Church of Christ (Sheldon, WI).

Join us in praying that this facility will bring a huge impact for the Kingdom to the community in Libertad. Not only will it house the congregation, but the building will often be used to hold medical clinics for the area as well.



# JIREH EXPANSION

On March 29, 2018, we inaugurated the expansion of the Jireh house in memory of a great man, Mike Chartrau, who has impacted the lives of many people as president and member of the Board of Directors of Niños de México for more than 20 years.



Thus reads the inscription on a plaque presented to Joy Chartrau as a part of the inauguration ceremony. Located next to the Bethel house, this property became Casa Jireh in July of 2017 as part of our 50th anniversary celebration.

The addition was added on top of the first story building.

With the new expansion, we are now at capacity with 15 girls!

# WEDDING BELLS WERE RINGING!



Our kids grow up and then set out on their own as young adults. They have to learn to provide for themselves and then later consider what it may take to provide for a family.

In February we celebrated with two of our alumni as they were married.

Please keep Alejandra and Roman (L) and Salvador and Alinn (R) in your prayers as they journey through life together.

# WE ARE SO BLESSED!

Along with the faithful giving of people in the United States, many people and businesses in Mexico have begun to take an interest in the children who call Niños de Mexico their home.

This is a great cause for joy! There is a new sense of responsibility among the Mexican people to care for children who have been orphaned, abandoned, or abused and are in great need. This was certainly not the case in the past.

Mexicans are demonstrating their concern and compassion for these children from their own country in a variety of ways. Financially, the extra support helps us expand the number of homes and ultimately allows us to care for more children who are in desperate circumstances.

Here are some examples of how our children are being blessed by individuals and businesses here in Mexico:

- A local taco stand invited children of the institution for tacos over Christmas break.
- A local chicken distributor has given us 55 pounds of chicken each week for the past three years. Recently, when they found out that we have a new home, they increased the amount of chicken!
- A foundation in Mexico City gave us a half liter of milk per child per day for almost two years.
- The Mexican Tourism Department organized several outings with different groups of children (to Acapulco, visiting touristic sites in Mexico City, tickets for the recent NFL game in Mexico City...).
- Local Walmarts and other corporations provided additional gifts for Christmas or Kings Day to all of our children.

I am really excited to announce that a local convenience store group (OXXO) is doing another roundup campaign March 1 - May 31 to benefit the Niños children! Oxxo raised nearly \$24,000 through people rounding up their purchases in 2015! Please keep this campaign in your prayers!

Thank you for your faithful prayers, giving, and participation in the work of Niños. Our prayer is that our children will have the opportunity to have a life blessed by God as they make Niños their home.

May God continue to bless you and use you to accomplish His will here and around the world!



## PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Older youth** - they are preparing for high school and college entrance exams
- **Jorge (Chilapa pastor)** – Strength as he is leading the construction project as well as his regular duties as pastor.
- **The 98 children in our care** – that God would work mightily in their lives and lead them to Him. Pray for the children who are adjusting to their new families here at Niños.
- **Dr Banta, child psychiatrist** – He met with staff and kids in February. Pray for wisdom and direction for our staff as they put into practice his recommendations.
- **Summer Assistant Group Hosts** – Pray that God would provide the right couple to assist us this summer.
- **Additional staff** – Praying for those that God may bring our way after graduation in May from Colegio Biblico, Colegio Cristiano del Centro and Universidad Cristiano de México.
- **Another Christian psychologist.**
- **Transition of children into new homes.**

- **Carlos Rocha** - Pray for his recovery from an accident with his left foot.
- **Houseparents** as they receive new children.
- **Existing families** as they welcome in the new children.
- **Wisdom** in all that we are doing and need to do.

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of:	From:
Becky Sutton .....	John & Janette Allen
Dave Bradley .....	Greg & Sandra Logan James & Susan Spielman Columbia's Woodcrest Chapel
Diane Wagner .....	Don Wagner
Connie Hargrave for Belén..	David Hargrave
Jean Walker .....	John & Janette Allen

In Honor of:	From:
Elliott French .....	Bruce French
Ron Cowan's retirement.....	Joy Chartrau

# FUNDRAISING *Trivia night events/5k run/golf tournaments*

This year we continued what has become a tradition of fun and celebration with our annual trivia night in the St. Louis area. Raising \$3,570 was just part of the blessing as we enjoyed the evening and raised awareness of the work being accomplished at Niños de Mexico.

In March the Fairfield Church of Christ in Ohio hosted a trivia night for us as well. This was the first time for this event. They raised \$4,000 and a great time was had by all! The laughter and fun will be remembered for some time!

**The next event on the calendar is a 5K run/walk in Union, Missouri on August 17th.** This promises to be a great time as it will be held in the evening this year. Just a hint – we will all be glowing from the good times of running to raise funds for Niños de Mexico!

**September 8** - Golf tournament - St. Clair, Missouri

**October 20** - Golf tournament - Ormond Beach, Florida

Thank you to all of you who put in so many hours of work to make these events a success! Want to help? Give Mick O'Hanahan a call to discuss volunteering at an event or to plan an event at your church or in your area to help Niños de Mexico. (417) 499-3983



## AZUCENA CELEBRATES QUINCIÑERA

On February 28, Azucena celebrated her 15th birthday with a special party in the Agape home. She was surrounded by her family and several friends on this special day. They had a special meal with barbecue ribs and spaghetti and a wonderful cake.

The 15th birthday of a young lady in Mexico is a wonderful event. The Quince Años (15th birthday) marks the passing from childhood to adulthood and is celebrated much like a wedding.

Thank you for lifting Azucena up in your prayers! She is in her second year of junior high and is looking forward to starting high school next year.



## MORE BIRTHDAYS

(L-R)  
Monce,  
Paola,  
Alexandra





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**Please help us out by sending us your email address!** This will allow us to keep you updated on all that goes on by receiving our monthly e-newsletters. It will also enable us to send your receipts and other update items by email.



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## ALDO



We are so thankful for God's provision of special financial gifts last year for the medical needs of Aldo and the other children here at Niños. We also praise God that He has put some of the best Mexican doctors in Aldo's path!

After an MRI in December, the doctors have determined that the tumors have shrunk. They believe he will require only two more chemo treatments (instead of five). He was scheduled

for a treatment in February, but had an infection which prohibited the doctors from applying the next treatment. They will focus on tumors in his throat in May. The doctors then hope to remove the trach and feeding tube in July.

We praise God that he graduated from primary school in December, even though he had to make up classes at home while recovering. He recently began his jr. high school classes.

Thank you for your prayers!

**FINANCIAL GIFTS** enable Children of Mexico, Inc. to feed, care for, and witness to at-risk Mexican children. Without such assistance, this mission work would not be possible. You are invited to become financially involved in this work.

Children of Mexico, doing business as Niños de Mexico, is incorporated in the State of Missouri as a nonprofit 501c3 organization approved by the IRS to issue tax-deductible receipts for the care of Mexican children. For more information, contact Mick O'Hanahan - 417-499-3983 or [mick.ohanahan@ninosdemexico.org](mailto:mick.ohanahan@ninosdemexico.org).