

# Casa Hogar Palabra de Vida Newsletter

Fall 2016

## Summer Trip 2016

Another ACC team went to Casa Hogar July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>. We again had a wonderful time with the children. This trip we focused on care and nurturing. To emphasize the concepts the children prepared flower cups and planted flower seeds. We also purchased some blooming plants and fruit trees for Casa Hogar that were planted there. We learned that Leonard is very interested in gardening and has done a wonderful job of taking care of the garden at El Porvenir, providing some fresh fruit and vegetables for the orphanage. We were able to purchase a garden hose to help him water the garden. The team did tie dyeing with the children! This was a fun activity that allowed



them to express their creativity and personalize their own pillowcase. The ACC family donated about \$400 so that we could provide the pillowcases and some new pillows as well! We were also able to provide each child with a new soccer bag full of goodies! These bags and goodies were all donated and were assembled by ACC families on the Family Service Night! Each



soccer bag included a personal note from the ACC family that filled it with the goodies. The kiddos loved the bags and our ACC families had lots of fun putting them together! We had so much fun with the



kids! This included trips to the water park and the pizza place as well as other games and

activities. In the Tuesday evening service at Pastor Gardea's Church he spoke about "Service" and how important it is to give of one's self. In this service we remembered Mark Lockwood and his service to the children of Casa Hogar. Pastor Gardea presented a beautiful plaque to Linda Lockwood to match one that will be mounted at Casa Hogar. Another wonderful trip sharing God's love with these great kids!



### Team Members for Summer 2016

Gary and Cindy Nickerson, Cassie Nickerson, Linda Lockwood, Pete and Anne Olesen, Jake Pettit, Stuart Penkowsky

## Casa Hogar Wins Gold in the Chihuahua Special Olympics!

While we were in Chihuahua this summer we were able to meet several of the new children with disabilities at Casa Hogar! Griselda Acosta recently graduated from The University of Chihuahua with a degree in special education! Griselda attended the university on a scholarship provided by members of ACC. She is now working full time at Casa Hogar Palabra de Vida and El Porvenir del Estudiante as a special education teacher. These are great kids and we were impressed as to how the other children at Casa Hogar and El Porvenir accept them as part of their family and God's family! Earlier this fall these children were able to participate in the Chihuahua Special Olympics! What a blessing to them and to us to see them excel! We are also very proud of Griselda for persevering with her studies and obtaining her degree and certification!

Please pray for Griselda and these wonderful children as she moves forward with this new program at Casa Hogar!



## **Scholarships Continue in 2016/17**

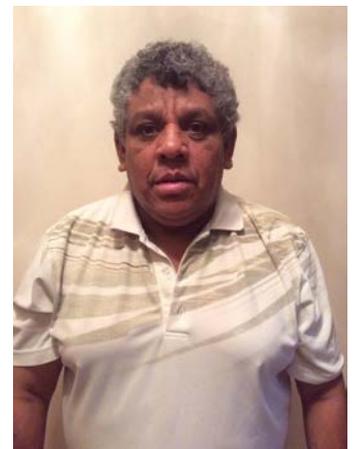
In August we met with the young men who are currently enrolled in the ACC scholarship program as well as with Mizraim and Griselda that have already graduated from the University. The scholarship program provides tuition that allows these young adults, that have grown up at Casa Hogar, to attend the University or trade school. It only costs between \$250 and \$500 per semester to allow them to attend! It is exciting to see these young adults applying themselves and striving for opportunities that were never available to them before. They are so appreciative of this opportunity and express their gratitude to the families of ACC. Please pray for these young men as they continue their educations.



Back row: Mizraim, Angel, Gumer, Issac, Eliserio, Otoniel  
Front row: Daniel, Fernando, Anthony, Griselda, Roberto  
Not pictured: Daniel

## **Update on Pastor Gardea**

As many of you are aware Pastor Gardea required surgery several weeks ago to remove cancer. In recovery he had difficulty controlling bleeding from the surgery and had to go back into surgery two more times! God is faithful and Jose is now recovering very well. He is soon to return to the doctor for follow up and perhaps biopsies to verify that the cancer is gone. In the process he lost over 25lbs! This has put a severe financial and emotional strain on Pastor and his family in that they do not have health insurance since pastors do not pay taxes in Mexico, and they also don't get insurance. We would like to thank the families of ACC that prayed for Pastor Gardea and raised \$2,749 to provide financial assistance!



## **New Roof for Casa Hogar Palabra de Vida!**

In August we noted water damage inside Casa Hogar. Apparently the original roof was not done very well and it has also been damaged by other work on the orphanage. As an emergency project we provide \$2,850 to repair the roof, and we ended up with a whole new roof! This new roof should last for years to come. This cost included repairs on the interior required because of water damage.

## A Child's Story: Edwin



Edwin is about 6 years old, but that's about all I know about him. Why make him the subject of "A Child's Story" if I don't know anything about him? Because Edwin arrived at Casa Hogar while our team was there in August. Pastor Gardea brought him over to me and introduced him. Poor Edwin was terrified. He had just been removed from his home and was now in a strange place with many strange people. Children he didn't know, adults he didn't know, and strange people from North America! My heart broke for this little guy! I gave him a big hug and welcomed him to this safe place. We got him involved in the activities and games and pretty soon he was cautiously having some fun. God used the other children



at Casa Hogar, Pastor Gardea, the house parents, and the ACC team to show Edwin His Love. Later, while we were having ice cream, I was sitting at a table talking with some of the older boys from El Porvenir and



I felt someone pushing me, trying to sit on the little bit of bench next to me. I looked down and there was Edwin trying to squeeze in next to me with his bowl of ice cream! He saw me as a friend and someone to trust. That is what our Casa Hogar ministry is about, showing God's love to these hurt and scared children. Giving them hope and a shot at a future as a child of God! We don't know how long Edwin will be at Casa Hogar, but each moment is precious, filled with opportunities to plant seeds that God can water and nurture!



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29: 11

### Support Needed

The ongoing mission of Casa Hogar Palabra de Vida and El Porvenir del Estudiante is only made possible by the support of Arvada Covenant Church and the generosity of it's people. Our Partners in Hope provide a substantial portion of the operational expenses of Casa Hogar and El Porvenir through their sponsorship of these wonderful children. In recent months we have seen a decline in giving and have found it necessary to cut back on our monthly financial support. Will you consider providing financial support so that this mission can continue to reach the children of Chihuahua? Support can be by regular gifts or one time donations. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Gary and Cindy Nickerson at [garnickerson@comcast.net](mailto:garnickerson@comcast.net) or contact Pastor Nate in the church office.