



mission report

## Casa Included in Statewide Evaluation of Children's Homes

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On November third, we received a surprise visit by two representatives of the Chihuahua State Department of Health. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a review of Casa, which lasted six and a half hours. The two reviewers, Dr. Precidado and his associate and chemist Sr. Zamora began with an assessment of our childcare record keeping systems and all health related records. The reviewers also examined: our financial accounting and state regulatory compliance systems; personal policies and procedure; Casa Association reporting and compliance status, organizational management systems and operational procedure's. A review of our menu planning process and records was made and a determination of the nutritional value of our children's diet was made. Staff were required to take

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,*

blood test; samples of our water were collected and tested and interviews of all staff were scheduled and conducted by a psychologist. Also reviewed were our methods of food storage including

Colossians 3:23

an exam of all food items for freshness and their expiration dates. The physical facility was also thoroughly reviewed examining heating and ventilation systems, restrooms, sleeping areas, general cleanliness, play

areas, general maintenance and safety. The review addressed several other areas and as you might imagine from this list, the review was quite extensive in addition to being quite unexpected. At the conclusion of the review we were told that a report would be forthcoming they left with no indication of any conclusive findings, which left me to wonder just what was going on. » [Continued on page 2](#)



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One week later, a larger group consisting of five individuals from the State Department of Social Services conducted another surprise review. This group of reviewers spent considerably more time reviewing our management systems, accounting, individual files kept of each child, policies and procedures, and personal files. At the completion of this daylong review, we were told that a report of their findings would be forthcoming, however, this time the reviewers did indicate that they were very pleased with their findings.

A few days later I received a phone call from Dr. Precidado indicating that they had completed their review of all the children's home and that Casa was singled out as being the best private children's home in the state. She went on to say that we were being awarded \$110,000.00 Pesos (equivalent to \$8,200 US DLS at the current exchange rate) to assist with additional needs we might have to further improve the home and that they needed a proposal outlining how we would use the funds.

A proposal was submitted which included the purchase of six new tires for our school bus, a commercial six-burner stove, a double door refrigerator and a battery charger. In the end the review of Casa proved to be a very positive event, especially when considering that by holding all children's home to a higher standard the quality of care for children throughout the state will be greatly improved.

Children's home not in compliance will have a designated period of time to come into compliance or they will be closed. We were found to be deficient in three smoke detectors, two fire extinguishers and two bathroom vents. These items were immediately brought into compliance.

To be given the distinction as the best children's home in the State of Chihuahua in manner of speaking is a tribute to the success of the Christian community and our collective effort to make a difference in the lives of suffering children. It is an acknowledgement that we as a community in service to our Lord have held ourselves to the highest standard possible in our efforts to achieve and maintain excellence in the care of children, working as onto the Lord. It is an acknowledgement of those efforts and results by both young and old alike that have labored together over the years to create a physical environment where children can grow up without the fear of an unpredictable world.

*May we never cease in our endeavors to do ever better in our collective service to the Master and thank you for making it possible for Becky and I to share in this great achievement.*



The tribute also recognizes the impact of six thousand plus visitors who have come to Casa thus far with a Christ like spirit and love that alone can mend a broken heart and renew the spirit of a child. It further acknowledges the impact of the prayers faithfully offered up by the brethren on behalf of this mission work as well as the fruit of the many whose efforts seemingly go unnoticed as they quietly work to collect food and do other things that generally improve the quality of life for our children. It recognizes the results of those who have faced their fears with faith and drove countless miles over the years to Mexico to serve in spite of the latest news regarding violence; the financial support of the generous who have given from their poverty as well as those who give from their prosperity.

Casa is a testimony of our effort to address the neglected and needy children of God through the spirit of God. Contrary to the earlier days of broken windows, plugged sewer lines and bean soup three times a day, Casa is now an oasis for orphaned, abused and abandoned children providing parental love, instruction and care; safety and hope. The God who can raise an army from stones has endowed us all with the privilege of serving His purpose for His children in need.



## New Members of the Casa Family

It always feels like both a blessing and a curse to announce new members to our Casa Family. A blessing because children are often literally rescued from life threatening conditions to find themselves almost instantly placed in a life changing care and love of a Christian environment. A curse because in the final analysis, sin in lives of parents and individuals is generally the root cause for the breakdown and failure of the family and the source of reprehensible damage to a child.





## the **BATISTA SISTERS**



These three young sisters, Marble Yolitza Saenz Batista (10), Jeimi Guadalupe Saenz Batista (7) and Mairyn Itzel Saenz Batista (5) were abandoned by the father soon after Mairyn was born five years ago. The mother has a drug addiction and had frequently left the children alone for several days at a time fending for themselves without food and firewood. The house in which they lived was very poor and the girls were dangerously exposed to weather conditions. After being reported to the authorities by a neighbor, they were found abandoned and suffering from frost burn and exposure. They were also found to be malnourished and with a stomach infections often associated with eating dirt and spoiled food.



## the **VALENCIA CHILDREN**



A neighbor called the local officials to report that the young children next door were knocking on doors looking for food after being left alone for several days by the father. The mother died soon after 4-year-old Julio who is the youngest of the siblings was born. Yoara, who is 8 years old and the oldest of the three children, remembers that things were different before mom died of cancer. The family had always been poor however since the mom's death, the father has been pretty much in state of drunkenness. Ernest is the middle child and is 6 years old.

There was hardly a moment during this years holiday season when Casa wasn't buzzing with praise, fellowship, song, and celebration, thanks to family, friends and brethren from the Meadowlark Church of Christ, Red Rocks Church, the Arvada Church of Christ and the Foothills Community Church. Adding to the festivities were many gifts specially prepared and selected for each child. These gifts were gratefully received from the Southwest Church of Christ, the Red Rocks Church, the Foothills Community Church, and from sister of the Orangevale Church of Christ who participate in the Magi Gift Project. I cannot remember a time when the season of joy, peace and happiness was more evident in the smiles on our children's faces then this last Christmas season. Although the children were the primary focus of celebration, one ton of food, some toys and candy was purchased and distributed to our poor and needy neighbors in Anahuac, Cuauhtémoc and surrounding villages. Thanks to the many who came to Casa to share the love, joy and peace of our Lord and to the many more who could not come but gave so generously of their time and resources, and although you may remain anonymous to all of us at Casa, your gift of love never escaped the notice of our Father. Thank you.

## An Extraordinary Holiday Season





## A MUST SEE

If you haven't already viewed the video and slide show produced by Chris and Julie Sharber of Casa and the children over the holiday season extraordinaire, click on the following links and you will be blessed. They did a job extraordinaire of capturing the message and spirit of Casa de la Esperanza.

<http://www.sharberphoto.com/2012/01/casa/>

<http://www.sharberphoto.com/2012/01/casa-slideshow/>





## Primary School Teachers Attend luncheon meeting at Casa



In our ongoing effort to improve our working relationship with the primary school where our children attend, we hosted a luncheon meeting attended by the school director and seventeen of the teaching staff. Most of the teachers had never visited Casa and were not acquainted with the facility, our program and service provided for our children. The attendees toured that facility, ate lunch with the children and after which they were presented with a brief overview of our history, program goals and service.

This was followed by a two hour long discussion of issues relating to coordinating homework, ways of dealing with behavioral issues and solutions to logistical issues related to increasing the involvement of our children in school activities. At the conclusion of the meeting, we were encouraged by everyone's spirit of cooperation and interest to continue working at improving a relationship, which everyone agreed, could go from good to better. As our guest left, there were many compliments on the facility, the level of happiness shown by the children while eating lunch and the level of organization throughout.



## CASA'S TUTORING PROGRAM .

# growing

The program began in a desperate effort to provide needed assistance to many of our children who, when arriving at Casa, are far behind in school. Although nearly all of our staff is redeployed to help during our 3:00 to 5:00 daily homework period to assist our children with homework, we found a need for additional help. Through the monthly assistance of the Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, we have been able to hire university students to assist during our regular homework period as well in the evening hours providing badly needed one-on-one tutoring for those of our children who cannot yet read or know basis math functions.

Our program has enabled our gifted children to excel while providing badly needed help to our children otherwise struggling to catch up. Our team of university tutors include: Maria Chavez a biology major; Cassandra Valverde who is a education major; Mayra Carreno and Iram Nevarez who are both business majors. These tutors join our staffs of four others who also assist in our daily homework period. Thank you Green Lawn Adult Class for your continued support of this program.

**The gift of learning is a gift with endless promises.**



## Lunch at the Sanchez Home

A long established tradition at Casa is to celebrate our children's birthday by hosting a lunch or dinner at our home followed by a gift for each one. Birthdays are also celebrated at the first of every month where a diner is held in their honor, gifts are given and all the children enjoy the festive moment including the cake-in-the-face tradition. January birthdays included: Josue who turned 12, Dalia turns 11 and Mariela turned 8 years old.

# Needs List

If a congregation is interested in doing a food drive for Casa de la Esperanza, we will arrange to have the food items picked up. Please let us know by contacting us at [children01@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:children01@prodigy.net.mx).

**As always, thank you for any and all of your contributions towards this list of needs at Casa de la Esperanza!**

Rainbow color interlocking foam floor tiles, overall measurement of finished mat should be approximately 8' x 8'

Underwear for babies ages three and four

White knee high sock for children ages six through twelve

Food Drive — Pudding, green beans, corn, nacho cheese, tuna, lunch snacks

Shampoo

Cleaning supplies

Mops and brooms



## Contact Information

### Overseeing Congregation:

Mr. Vaughn Graham, Elder  
Southwest Church of Christ  
1635 S. Pueblo Boulevard  
Pueblo, Colorado 81005-2101  
(719) 564-3873

### Mailing Address:

For mail, packages, boxes  
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10104 Album  
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Attention:  
Gil Sanchez, Casa de la Esperanza

### Telephone and Email Information:

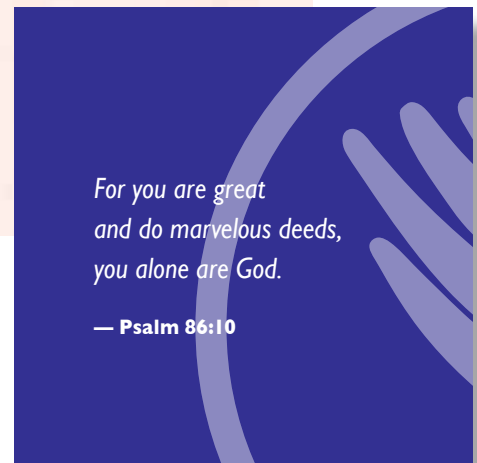
Gil Sanchez, Director

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Web Site:  
[www.ahouseofhope.com](http://www.ahouseofhope.com)



# Visiting Casa in 2012?

If you plan to visit Casa in 2012, this is a friendly reminder that we operate on a first come first serve basis. If you are not certain of your exact arrival and departure date, we will schedule you on a tentative basis reserving your spot. As in previous years, we will provide assistance with border crossing and travel from El Paso to Casa and back again. Unless you plan on traveling to Casa on a chartered bus, we are using the Santa Teressa border crossing located on the far west end of El Paso avoiding travel through Juarez all together.

**Hope to see you this spring or summer.**