

NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Issue 4

www.slchmexico.com

July/August, 2017



Shining Light Children's Home

ANSWERED PRAYERS

by Leland Ulrich, Board Chairman

Your prayers are being answered.

James 5:18 says, The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. From reading the last several newsletters, you know that we have had a flurry of activity from DIF (the Mexico Social Services). Over the last year there have been ever-increasing requirements to comply with.

With God's help we have found a way through this, and at least for now have found a new normal. We are grateful that once the dust settled, the changes we needed to make did not include matters of conscience or things we could not biblically comply with.

We have taken the posture of cheerful and thorough compliance on all issues we can conscientiously comply with in an effort to be in a position of strength on issues that may arise where we cannot conscientiously comply.

The level of daily recordkeeping and documentation has increased significantly, which affects the number of staff required for the number of children we are set up to care for. Staff training has increased significantly. All staff members are certified as childcare workers by DIF. While this has increased the staff workload, we have chosen to embrace the new requirements, earning us the respect of DIF.

Our relationship with DIF is rather fragile as there seems to be a constant flow of new officials coming and going. Pray for our staff as they adjust to the new requirements.

PRAISE REPORT ON OUR WATER SITUATION

Since the drought ended in California, our water situation has improved significantly. The new well provides most of the water needed. We are able to water the garden again.

UPDATE ON BUILDING PROJECT

We are hopefully in final stages on environmental and other permits for the new school building and guest quarters. The process of acquiring permits for building projects here is almost as intense as it is in California.

ANSWERED PRAYER FOR HOUSEPARENT FOR BOYS

The Philip Miller family arrived in early August. They will serve as houseparents for the older boys with two staff boys as assistants. Soon after they settled in, they went to Guatemala for six weeks of Spanish school. Pray for the Millers as they return and take up the heavy responsibility of shepherding the boys.



The Philip Miller family arrived in early August to serve as houseparents.

OBEDIENCE PAYS OFF

by ?

VISITOR REPORTS

Jim, Melissa, Brandon, and Brianna Miller

Our family was really blessed during our short stay at Shining Light Children’s Home. We came along to chaperone a group of seniors from Garbers Mennonite School, and left part of our hearts behind when we left.

Jim worked with the fellows, mending and building fence, laying block, and pouring concrete for a new addition for a church brother. Melissa did the laundry for everyone in our group and helped wherever she could—making cookies, teaching some ladies how to make pies and bread, and making homemade ice cream and pies for everyone.

Our hearts were so touched by the children’s longing for love and acceptance. The looks on their faces as they looked through the clothing and toys we brought was almost heartbreaking. Sometimes we need someone like these children to remind us just how blessed we are in the United States. One boy took a shower in the middle of the afternoon so he could wear his new clothes right away.

We played kickball or volleyball every evening with the children. Throughout our daily interactions, connections formed between our group of workers and the children. When the time came to leave, it was hard for us to go because they had all become dear to our hearts. All in all, we had a wonderful time and hopefully we can go back some time.



A fun day at the park and zoo. We adults rested while the children played.

Charts for good conduct were activated and the children strove for the prize. The price of continual disobedience would certainly mean staying back while everyone else enjoyed a day off. It was not uncommon to hear the children’s comments on the status of their points.

Finally the prize day arrived and a picnic meal was prepared. We loaded the vans early and we were off! All but four of the children received the reward of obedience. The children nine years and older went to Clump de Tijuana to watch educational videos and the little ones went to a small zoo/park combo. We looked at the animals and then the adults rested underneath the trees while the children enjoyed the huge playground.

The park soon buzzed with the older children as the kitchen workers prepared lunch. We set out chicken and rice along with salad and chips—only to realize that we had forgotten to bring any kind of salsa or dressing for rice or salad. Nevertheless the children eagerly filled their plates and many stomachs were satisfied. Then we scattered in small groups throughout the park, exploring and learning.

SLCH Annual Budget

*Full financials available on request



Delwyn Lehman

Being at Shining Light was an experience that will not be forgotten. I enjoyed every minute of it. Hopefully I showed God's love to the children as I worked and played with them. There were a lot of unknowns the first day, but the staff and children made us feel welcome. The many playful fights and games such as volleyball and foot base created many memories. It's amazing how you can connect them by playing games even though there is a language barrier. Overall my stay there was really enjoyable, from the good food to the times we just sat around and let the children climb all over us because we were too tired to do anything else. Thanks and God bless.

Cameron Hess

We arrived in Mexico on July 25. After being picked up from the airport, we had lunch at a taco stand in Tecate. We spent the first day doing minor projects around the Home. We collected sand for concrete that we poured later that week. The pasture fence also needed some attention to ensure that the garden remain rabbit-free. On day two we started digging post holes for the fence that we would spend the rest of the week putting up. On Friday we took off and went to the shore to do some sightseeing and visit an outdoor market. The majority of the rest of the time we spent putting up fence. I made a lot of new friends at Shining Light and will always remember them and my time there.

Eric High

Going to Shining Light Children's Home for nine days has been an awesome experience that I won't soon forget. Most of our time was spent fixing fences and putting up more fence. We also poured concrete for post holes and a bathroom floor. My favorite part of the trip was working with some of the boys and playing games with the children in the evening. The weather was beautiful most of the time, but it did rain a little the last day we were there. Also a big thanks to the cooks for keeping us well fed with delicious food! "You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place."

Keith Weaver

I was glad to be able to come to Mexico with the team. There were a lot of unknowns and a lot of work to be done, but I really enjoyed the time we spent working at Shining Light Children's Home. We also made many memories with the children playing volleyball, soccer, and kickball. It was quite the experience putting up barbwire and chain-link fence, drilling rock-hard sand with a post hole driller, and pounding in T-stakes with a granite rock. I was reminded again of one of my favorite quotes, "You will never be at home again. This is the price you pay for knowing and loving people in more than one place."



The boys and the crew...

A big thank you to this group from Garbers Mennonite church in PA for coming and lending a hand.



A big thanks to the teachers of 2016 - 2017. Congratulations!

Congratulations 2017 graduates: Sandra, Sara, And Guillermo



Good job English class, and Missy Brunk for teaching.



We are grateful for the hard work of Kiara Beltran and Maria Eva Pacheco this past school term. We are glad for their consent to teach again for the 2017 - 2018 term.



Thanks to Karen Farfan and Arla Laguna for your labors this past school term, and for consenting to teach again for 1017 - 2018.



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WELCOME ANNIKA!

Annika Matson from Washington has come to serve for a year as secretary. May the Lord bless her time here.

MEET MICAELA

Hi, my name is Karla Micaela Vazquez Diaz, and I am eighteen years old. I love to cook and when I turn eighteen, I want to work in the kitchen here at Shining Light. I also enjoy working in the garden.

I am doing high school at home. Every Tuesday I go to school in Tecate from 8:00 - 12:00. I hope to get my visa and someday I want to be a nurse.