

NEWSLETTER

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BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Ana, Loyda, Bianca, and Merary grew up at SLCH and now serve on staff.

TEACHING, COOKING, TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN, floater-girls who have come to Shining Light through DIF and have now turned eighteen take responsibility for some of these jobs. Here is a glimpse into the lives of four of our girls who have stayed to be a part of this community, family, and church.

Ana, a mom to two of her own girls, helps in the kitchen and takes charge of preparing rooms for visitors. She came when her first daughter was a baby and stayed after she turned eighteen. But when she chose to leave, sin soon took its toll on her. She came back pregnant, and now has two cute little girlies. Ana is a ready helper and knows a lot because she's lived here for so long. Although she's blessed, she does face her struggles. Raising two girls alone is not an easy job. She's a blessing to the home here.

Loyda, a shy, happy lady, cares for a room. As mom, her daily work consists of getting seven girls ready for the day, combing and all. Much of her days consist of cleaning her rooms, doing laundry, helping with homework, dealing with problems, loving the hurting, and being there for her girls. She enjoys her friends and her coffee. Her rewarding job doesn't come without struggles and some days are overwhelming, but God is always here. Pray for Loyda as she continues mothering these girls at this stage of their lives.

Bianca, a schoolteacher, is an outstanding example to the younger girls. With many rambunctious first and second graders, her classroom is a busy place. She has taught several years now. Bianca came when she was twelve with a baby boy who died around age one from sudden crib death. In spite of troubles, Bianca faces each day with God's strength and blesses everyone she's involved with.

Merary, a friendly outgoing lady, befriends many of the Spanish-speaking visitors. She cares for Eizar, a handicapped boy, and Evan, a preschooler. She does her work happily, enjoys spending time with friends, and loves to support her opinions. She blesses everyone she is around and is a joy to have here.

Ana, Loyda, and Bianca traveled with Greiven's to Costa Rica. He wanted to show them more of the Central American culture and churches as well as visit his home and extended family. The girls loved the adventure.

All four of these girls are part of the local church and flourish in Jesus. Now that they are eighteen or older, they have the privilege of visiting and talking with family. Because of restrictions, some hadn't seen family for over five years. Pray for these girls as they live here and serve Jesus.



Loyda, a girl who grew up here and is now a mom



Ana with her girls



Bianca at school



Merary

A TRIBUTE TO DAD

By Leland Ulrich, Board Chairman

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, my father passed away on May 5 after battling pancreatic cancer for over five months. As I prepared to write an editorial for this issue of the newsletter, my mind kept going back to the early days of SLCH. Dad (Jerry Ulrich) was instrumental in helping guide the board in the early days. He continued to serve as pastoral counsel until Tecate Christian Fellowship was established. Grevin Villalobos now serves there as pastor.

I would like to honor Dad for his contribution to SLCH, and in memory of a fallen team member, share a little of his story. Dad's constant advice was that we would follow Jesus Christ in the simplicity of the Gospel.

Dad moved to Costa Rica in 1969 as a young man to work in the Witmarsum Children's Home founded by William McGrath. The government allowed him to do this instead of the typical 1-W options such as working in hospitals like many other young men did during the draft.

Dad quickly became attached to the children and the people in Costa Rica. During his first year he courted a pretty girl (Mom) from Tampico, Illinois, by snail mail, and decided to return to get married. For their honeymoon they went back to Costa Rica for twenty-one years.

Dad and Mom resumed life at the children's home. Since the building was still under construction, they took seven of the children into their own home. This great start to twenty-one years of honeymoon was not to last long.

The Catholics were strongly opposed to the Mennonites starting a children's home, and soon had an opportunity to shut the work down for good.

I grew up hearing this story, and over the years I've felt a desire and call to fulfill Dad's dreams. SLCH has brought this fulfillment to my life, and it was a great experience working alongside Dad. In the beginning years I would often hear a sense of fulfillment in Dad's voice as he saw his dream fulfilled, even though it years later, and in Mexico instead of Costa Rica. It certainly has been a privilege to be involved in this work.

Witmarsum Children's Home faced a shutdown in its early days. God has allowed SLCH to thrive for a number of years now, and only He knows the future. We could face some difficult issues in the coming months and years with all the changes the government is making.

Please pray for wisdom and direction for the board as we navigate these challenges.

Dad, I miss you.

-Leland Ulrich, Board Chairman

MEET MIRIAM

HI! I AM MIRIAM and I will turn eight on the 17th of May. I have five siblings here with me. I'm in third grade at school, and I always love when John, the garden project teacher, comes to school. One day for art we made a duck. My mom comes to visit us every fifteen days. Sometimes she brings us chips, coke, and juice. She's also brought vegetables, and one time she brought some sheets.



Miriam with her SLCH family, and caretakers Rachel Hostetler and Leanna Ulrich. Here they are enjoying a special outing on their day off.

FAREWELL

Good bye Rosalin. After being a mom at SLCH for three years, Rosalyn left to follow the plans God has for her.



DAY OFF

A special outing with the houseparents

DURING SPRING BREAK, Antonio and Alma Rosa, the houseparents, took each of the sets of children on a day off. This particular day we headed out early, hoping to stop for breakfast. Well, we sure were early—the restaurant we wanted wasn't open yet. So we drove over to the grocery store so the houseparents could do some grocery shopping with the children along to enjoy the experience.

After buying cookies, treats, and groceries, the group headed back to the restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken. Yes, we have some American restaurants here! The girls loved the chicken as well as the indoor playground!

Since what Antonio had planned next didn't work out, we decided to enjoy the beach. Splashing waves, sea gulls, rocks, shells, sand, and sun brought out the delight in the girls. They played for hours and soaked up the luxury! Sandy, tired, hot, and thirsty, we stopped for tacos on the way back to the Home! Days like this break monotony of normal life and give the children lots to remember and talk about.



Sisters buying cookies



A group day off with the houseparents



Day off, picking up some groceries



A YOUTH GROUP FROM INDIANA

Short-term missions report

TWO STORMS BLEW IN that day. One was a cold, windy rain storm, the other a storm of youth from Lorne and Sharon Hershberger's church who were ready to dig in and help! With approximately forty new people on the premise, excitement buzzed through the air.

Because of the rain, everyone worked inside—deep cleaning, working on the kitchen cabinets, playing with kids, sewing. Some of them began working on the door project. The youth group stayed a week. They changed out all the outside doors on the home, fixed the roof on the guesthouse, painted Greiven's house, stripped and painted all the kitchen cabinets, worked on the new cheese house, mixing concrete for the floor. They sewed and mended lots of clothes and spent time with the children. We are very grateful for their help and will never forget them. Thank you to those of you who came and shared!

ROAD TRIP!



Staff and older girls from the home pose on their memorable trip.

Greiven loads up family, some staff, and some of the older girls of the home. Several of the girls featured on the front page article enjoy the privilege of seeing more of the world. After lots of red tape and paperwork on passports etc., they excitedly pile into the big van. Greiven aims to take some of them to visit their families they haven't seen since being here, introducing them to new churches, helping them make new friends, and experience more of the world. They travel for days and enjoy meeting old friends and making new friends. New cultures open their eyes to more of the world and inspire them for the future. The trip lasts about six months and we here at the home welcomed them back with wide open arms!

Leland Ulrich - Board Chairman
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DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

We presently have several very urgent staffing needs at the Shining Light Children's Home. We are asking you to join in prayer that God would supply the needed couples and individuals (See Prayer Requests). If you feel God calling you to this type of service please feel free to contact us. Also if you would know of anyone that you think would potentially be qualified and capable of filling these needs we would appreciate it very much if you would refer them to us.

In His Service,
Herbert Miller (PR)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Urgent Need:** We are in need of a couple to be caretakers for the older boys.
- **Urgent Need:** We also need a couple to replace Ralph and Janice as caretakers of the younger boys.
- There is an immediate need for a mature single man with Spanish language capabilities to help with the older boys.
- Continue to pray for God's protecting hand over the staff and children.
- Pray for Bro. Greivin in his administrative and pastoral responsibilities. Pray that God would give him the needed strength and wisdom for all the daily challenges.
- Pray that God would fill the need for an assistant administrator for Bro. Greivin.
- Pray that there will be enough water available to raise a garden this summer.