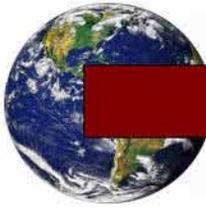


NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 3

www.slchmexico.com

December 2014



Shining Light Children's Home

Love in Action

*A cup of rice, a cup of wheat,
For every hungry child in need.
And more we ask, O Lord above,
For every child a home of love.*

I thought of this song above while preparing to write this article. We can feed a child without providing the home of love, but when we provide that home of love, like Shining Light Children's Home does, the food comes with love.



Gretel selecting fresh produce

Three times a day the noise and chatter, the screech of plastic chairs and round wooden tables sliding over tile flooring subsides while heads bow in prayer. Then the hubbub picks back up again while hungry children at each table take their turn to go through the food line.

In every home, the kitchen and dining room is central, and SLCH is no different. The difference lies in the quantity of food, the size of the dining room, and the dozens of plates and cups. Everything is just that much

bigger. And a shopping trip to bring it all here? No surprise, it too was just that much bigger.

It was my privilege, along with my sister Laura, to be part of the weekly Thursday shopping trip. Grocery shopping is usually no chore for me. So I was glad to hear that Laura and I were taking Karen and Maribel's places as the shopping day helpers for Jason and Lois. I think Karen and Maribel were just as pleased with the switch as we were.

And then it got even better. Every shopping trip is also a to-the-dentist trip. I was delighted that Gabriel (11) and Jesus (8), a lovable pair of brothers, had appointments that day. It's hard to learn which name to attach to which child when you suddenly meet scores of them, but Gabriel's name had been one of the first for me to connect. His winsome face and demeanor reminded me of my nephew David.

We took one of the fifteen-passenger vans. Jason and Lois sat up front, then Laura and I next in the two bucket seats, and then Gabriel, Jesus, and Jason's two youngest sons, Josiah (3) and Jethro (10 months) crammed together on a bench seat. Mexico seemingly has no child seat safety laws. As Laura put it: "They can stick the children in any little available crack and off we go!" Off we went over the hills, little ravines, and bumps until we reach the paved highway to Tecate.

After about twenty-five minutes of driving, the shopping starts. We drop

off a container to be filled with fabric softener (or was it soap?). To the dentist for the boy's appointments—Jason stays with them while the rest of us go to the dollar store. To the bakery for some Mexican fun and free coffee!

Back to pick up Jason and the boys. Jesus revels in the attention his swollen cheek brings from us. With a matter-of-fact air, Gabriel shows us where his tooth was pulled. I tell him he is brave, and with childlike lack of false humility he agrees. We go to the feed store for bags of feed for the farm animals. Now it's time to grocery shop.



Jesus giving a helping hand

First we go to the Mexican version of Sam's Club. A lot smaller to be sure, but the idea seems the same—buying in bulk for better prices, a warehouse atmosphere, and they even have someone to check our receipt as we leave.

Before we go in Lois hands me a list of items Laura and I are supposed to find.

*5 cabbage
16 lettuce*

Love in Action, continued

2 bags of 7 cilantro
3 bags tomatoes
4 bags cucumbers
10 bags carrots
12 jalapenos
8 potatoes
2 bags limes
45 avocados

Only eight potatoes? True, I haven't seen a lot of potatoes served since arriving at SLCH, but just eight? I check with Lois. That's supposed to be eight BAGS of potatoes.

So the fun begins. We find the fresh produce section, stack potatoes on the bottom rack of the shopping cart, and load up on cabbage and lettuce. Laura fills bags with little Mexican limes, and I get the cilantro. The variety and amount of peppers for sale, as well as the fresh corn tortillas being made in the back corner show the store's true Mexican style. (We got samples!)

Frozen turkeys thaw in a huge bin at room temperature. Mexicans don't share Americans' germ and bacteria phobias. Jason has a cart loaded with three boxes of frozen chicken, a big box of eggs, freshly-made, still-warm tortillas, and corn chips.

We have three carts to take through the checkouts and a long receipt for the man to check at the door. For a tip the security guard helps Jason pack the groceries in with the bags of feed.

We stop for lunch at an open-air restaurant and feast on chicken, mashed potato, macaroni salad, tortillas, and salsa. We stop at a bigger grocery store for things the first one didn't have. And, oh joy, we are going to stop at *Tres Hermanos* for sandals for one of

Grace's girls. That means Laura and I have a chance to do a little shoe shopping ourselves!

We make a few last stops: a candy store for more tamarind candy to take back home to Wisconsin, a stop to pick up a friend who wants to ride back out to the SLCH area, and a stop to pick up the now-filled container of softener (or was it soap?).

The ride home is quieter. The heat of the day has settled in. Jethro has fallen asleep again. He has taken being bumped repeatedly in and out of his car seat with good humor, settling down for naps in between stops. As Lois says, it's all he's ever known. These Thursday shopping trips!

Arriving home, we unload the van, unpack bags, stow groceries on shelves and in the refrigerators. The boxes of frozen chicken are stacked on the kitchen counter where they will defrost until the next day. Then it's Laura's and my responsibility, as the shopping day helpers, to divide pieces of chicken

into smaller bags and put them in the freezer. When the cooks in the coming week need cucumbers for salad, chicken for Sunday lunch, or corn chips for haystack meals they will find them waiting.

A home of love for a child in need includes rice, sandals, and boxes of frozen chicken. It includes taking that child for dental care and the treat of stopping for a chicken lunch. Thursday shopping trips are love in action.

Gretel Bahler



The van, laden with groceries

Karen's Baptism

Hello, my name is Karen Alicia. I am fifteen years old. I have lived at Shining Light Children's Home for two years. I am happy to be here. I have been blessed these two years. I want to stay here to serve God. I was baptized on September 14 along with my sister Maribel and friend Kiara.

I work in the kitchen and do cleaning. I have one son. His name is William Osvaldo and he is two years old. My desire is to teach him about God. I like to read him stories about God and tell him Bible verses so he can repeat them.



Karen with her son William

I am also grateful to God that He brought me here to the Home and has given me the opportunity of getting to know Him. My desire is to be faithful to Him. My favorite verse is Psalm 27:1 – *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Kiara is my best friend and I like to spend time with her.

Karen

Arrival



Sharon Helmuth arrived on September 2 for a term of service in the kitchen. She plans to serve until April, 2015.

October Overview

October 4

Saturday evening

There was a serious accident at the end of the dirt road. They've been doing road work for a long time. Traffic was backed up right on a curve because of the road work when a tractor trailer came down the hill fast. He could not stop in time and lost control after hitting several vehicles. He went rolling, taking with him eight other vehicles. Four of the vehicles that were later pulled out of the wreck were completely demolished. Sadly, seven people were killed and thirty-two injured. A bunch of us went down to watch and assisted by lending our bright flashlight to the police.

October 12

Sunday afternoon

A church group came for a few hours. After Higinio gave them a thorough tour of the place, they spent time singing with the children. They also left a lot of groceries and treated the children with snacks.



Our visitors enjoy the hearty singing of the children

October 14

Tuesday

Greivin and Ralph butchered a pig. *Chicharones* (cracklings) are a favorite and the meat will help feed the sixty hungry mouths here.

September 29 - October 21

Jason and Lois and family were gone for three weeks for a family reunion and a visit home. We welcome our house parents back again! Also gone on trips this month were Brent, Sharon, Carl, Lisa, Sylvia, Grace and Ben and Lydia. We are grateful that so many times God grants safety in travel.

October 4 – October 25

Sisters Rachel and Susanna Hostettler from Ohio came to help for three weeks while some of the others were gone. It was good to learn to know them. Thanks for all you did for us, girls!



Rachel and Susannah Hostettler at the border fence

Pray with Us!

Please pray that God will continue to supply the 4000 – 5000 gallons of water we use every day. This is a very real need.

Join us in praying for physical safety and especially spiritual protection from evil.

Pray that God would mercifully bring Loyda back to Himself and that she would allow Him to be Lord of her life.

Pray for fifteen-year-old Susana, who once made a decision for Christ but has now turned her back on Him. The spiritual battle in her life is strong and the devil doesn't want to let her go. Ask God to draw her back and to help her be an overcomer.

Previous Fund Balances

General Fund	\$24,878.18
Child Sponsorship	\$8,939.50
Home Building Project	\$205.81
Beginning Balance.....	\$34,023.49

Income / Contributions

General Fund	\$25,195.00
Child Sponsorships	\$22,306.25
Interest	\$0.96
Total General Income	\$47,502.21

Other Income

Greivens Property Fund	\$6,250.00
Total Other Income.....	\$6,250.00
Total Income.....	\$53,752.21

General Expenses

Bank Fees.....	\$414.81
Transfer to SLCH in Mexico	\$53,000.00
Total General Expenses	\$53,414.81

Net General Income \$(5,912.60)

Other Expense

Loan Payment	\$ -
Building Improvements.....	\$ -
Total Other Expenses	\$ -

Net Other Income \$(6,250.00)

Total Net Income..... \$(337.40)

Fund Balances

General Fund	\$14,659.33
Child Sponsorship	\$13,245.75
Home Building Project	\$6,455.81
Ending Balance.....	\$34,360.89

Loans

Loan 1# Previous Balance ..	\$31,501.00
Loan Payment	\$ -
Loan 1# Balance.....	\$31,501.00

Total Loan Balance \$31,501.00

From the Chairman

To whom much is given, much is required. You don't have to be south of the border very long until you realize you have been given much. Most of us can relate to this on a financial level, but this is also true on a spiritual level.

Those of you who have been at SLCH have gotten a firsthand glimpse at just how devastating the consequences of sin are. Broken homes, abandoned children, and poverty so deep that most of us can't relate to all lead to the profound needs we find ourselves working with and trying to somehow bring a sense of relief to. Through my years of involvement at SLCH, I continue to realize in a deeper way how much I have been given.

Am I grateful for the gifts that have been given me? Am I a good steward? These are hard questions we should all ask ourselves.

As a board we would like to thank all of you that are contributing to the needs at SLCH. It is through your kindness that this work is able to continue to flourish.

House Parent Need for SLCH

Jason and Lois Weaver's term expires the middle of next year. We are actively searching for house parents to start as early as next spring so there can be some overlap and training time. Please join us in praying that God would supply this need. To volunteer or to submit someone's name as a possibility, contact any of the board members.

Leland Ulrich
Board Chairman

SLCH is registered with the IRS as a 501c3 organization.

Please make contributions payable to:

Shining Light
Children's Home
PO Box 164
Grandview, Texas 76050



With irrigation we did manage to grow some garden goodies.



Remember when you fit in a cupboard?



Imelda carrying a lime safely to the next person in a relay race.

Shining Light Children's Home
PO Box 164
Grandview, Texas 76050

Leland Ulrich - Chairman
Greivin Villalobos - Assistant Chairman
Corey Yoder - Secretary/Treasurer
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Herb Miller - Public Relations Coordinator