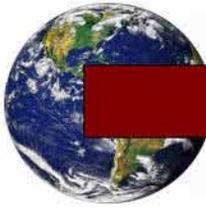


# NEWSLETTER

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## Shining Light Children's Home

### Reflecting on a Year of Service

Laughter of children at play  
Pain of loved ones leaving  
Smiles of delight for favorite food  
Tears from a skinned knee  
The joys of working with the  
kitchen girls: learning from  
them, but also teaching them  
The comprehension at times  
but also frustration of learn-  
ing the Spanish language

The list could go on. As I think back over this past year at SLCH and all the memories made here, my memory is drawn to Isaiah 42:6: "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee." I definitely felt called to come here. God opened doors for me! Thanks to God and to my supportive family I was granted this privilege.

With that said, this year was a learning experience. When I came in November of 2012, I don't think I realized at all what I was getting into. For instance, I had originally thought I was just supposed to be a cook's helper, but did not realize that I would be appointed to take charge of meals with one of the orphanage girls as my helper. Whoa! What an experience! The first number of months were full of adjustments and changes. I did not know

much Spanish, had never cooked for fifty people, and was living in a completely different culture.

As time went on, I became used to cooking and cleaning, making cheese, and trying to communicate. But it still seemed like I learned a new thing at least every month. There were a few people willing to teach us English people Spanish, so that definitely made things easier. As we learned more words our ability could communicate and understand others improved. I learned that you need to go with the flow, because the future is unpredictable. For example, the butchering of a bull brings a whole ton of extra work. Greivin might plan a picnic and ask for the food to be prepared in an hour and a half. There are spur-of-the-moment tractor rides to the border or the spring, and extra cleaning or summer canning jobs. The number of people coming to supper can vary wildly, leaving us guessing at the right amount of food to make.

Difficulties like this help me to understand the need of God's grace. I am here to serve others, not myself! "Love one another as I have loved you. So shall ye be my disciples." I have learned that God

has a purpose for everything, even if it means going back and saying "I'm sorry." Working with people, especially working together this closely, has been a very important part of my learning experience as a cook. Now here I am, a year later, and the date for my departure is coming up fast.



*Beth Good with the volunteer staff*

I enjoyed my time here even though it wasn't always easy. I have many good memories and am sad to leave and start another chapter in my life. I will remember:

Fun picnics and singing with the kitchen girls

Days off to Tecate, Ensenada, Tijuana, the beach, or Oasis

Singing, games, and debates  
Walks to the border or to Ben's  
Digging out food and partying  
with the girls at 9:00 p.m.

All the many visitors.

## Reflecting on a Year of Service, continued

Learning to know new staff  
Good times of cooking and laughter  
in the kitchen  
Volleyball, soccer, and kickball with  
the children and staff  
Letting the children help cook and also  
just watching them sing and play

Also I loved being able to hold and do  
things with the toddler-age children  
especially!

To the staff: "God has not given us the  
spirit of fear, but of power, and of love,  
and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)  
Do not hold back from loving these  
children. God gave you your talents  
and a chance to influence them for His  
kingdom. Use this opportunity to His  
honor and glory in whatever position  
you are placed. Thanks to all for your  
friendship and all your different out-  
looks on life. Learning to know each of  
you was a learning experience for me.  
I enjoyed working, laughing, resolv-  
ing our differences, singing, and talk-  
ing together. Also thank you bunches  
to the kitchen girls and cooks! I loved  
working with you all, becoming friends,  
and trying to communicate in Spanish.  
Keep up the good work you're doing  
and put your heart into it.

I wasn't closely involved with the  
children as a cook, but I feel moved  
by their plight. What would it feel  
like to be rejected by your own  
parents? How could you live with  
what others have done to you? What  
would it be like to feel so insecure  
and unsure of where you are going?  
These children have such a great  
amount of hurt, disappointment, and  
change in their young lives. Can the  
power of God reach them through  
those of us who serve them and the  
teaching and love they receive here?  
Absolutely! I pray that the seed  
of God's love and salvation that is

planted in each of these young lives  
will someday yield fruit for Him! I  
pray that I was a friend to all and  
especially to the children in my time  
here, and that I can also go from here  
and use this experience for God.

*Beth Good*

## Arrivals & Departures



Alexia Biviana Demara went to her  
adoptive family on February 10.



Eight year old Brandon Tavares Cedillo  
arrived on January 21.



Tiny Timotheo, a two and a half week  
old boy, arrived February 17. He  
weighed just 5 lb. 1 oz. Merary is  
taking care of him.



Four new babies arrived on February  
11. They were born: Brianna, Jan. 19.  
Kimberly Rodriguez, Nov. 20, 2013. Itzel  
Arenas, Oct. 31, 2013. Anyuli Yamileth  
Ruiz, Oct. 22, 2013.



These boys were brought to the home  
by their mother with a request that we  
would take care of them. Carl, one of the  
single VS boys, is taking care of them.

## A Day with a House Mom

“Imelda! Wake up! Its morn-  
ing, Maribel! Its time to get up.”  
I sleepily move from bed to bed  
waking the girls. Thirteen year old  
Kiara is already in the kitchen help-  
ing with breakfast. As the girls start  
moving about the room getting  
dressed and fixing beds I mentally  
tick through my list of things to do.

The morning's work is in my rooms.  
It's wash day so I need to wash baby  
Victoria and my clothes. Kiara and  
Karen do the rest, although they  
still need a bit  
of supervision  
at times. I need  
to make new  
veilings for two  
of the girls, the  
mending has  
to be finished  
sometime, and I  
must get to the  
ironing today.  
One of my girls  
did a good deed  
last week by washing my clothes.  
The result was clean but very  
wrinkly dresses. I didn't have the  
heart to scold. If I'm lucky I'll have  
time to check my email today. It  
has been so long that the unread  
list looks endless. Oh! I forgot! The  
dreaded newsletter article has to get  
done today! Well, forget checking  
emails!

I hear movement from the crib.  
Eleven month old Victoria sits up

in her crib, rubbing sleepy eyes.  
Her big black eyes peer out at the  
world from under a mop of curly  
black hair. Seeing me watching, her  
face bursts into a toothy grin. She  
gurgles and holds out her arms. My  
heart melts as I pick her up. For  
once she's willing to hold still and  
cuddle. Victoria was walking at 9<sup>1/2</sup>  
months of age. She is very inde-  
pendent and opinionated. But what  
am I doing standing here getting  
all sentimental? Breakfast time is  
coming right up.



*Grace with children, Karen, son William &  
sister Maribel, Kiara, Imelda, & Victoria*

I still need to  
have devotions  
with the school  
girls. Sharing a  
devotional with  
two twelve year  
olds can get in-  
teresting at times.  
I discovered  
the other day  
that Maribel still  
thought we came  
from monkeys after six months  
of being here. Breakfast passes in  
a rush. Now that the girls are off  
to school and the babies have had  
their baths, I am ready to start my  
day.

I come back to my room just before  
lunch to find fourteen year old  
Karen in bed with sore throat and  
fever. After finding something to  
make her comfortable and chang-  
ing the diapers of two babies, I get

to the lunch table late. I grumble  
to myself that I now have a sick girl  
to take care of plus all the jobs she  
usually does. This includes caring  
for her one year old son, William.

A sudden commotion grabs my  
attention. Oh no! The babies got  
into the flowerpot again! Well,  
here's another mess to clean up. I  
try not to get frustrated as my after-  
noon slips away.

It's supper time and William is  
very grouchy. The poor fellow falls  
asleep in his high chair as soon as  
his tummy is full.

By 7:30 in the evening my babies  
are in bed. I am ready to explode!  
I need to find a safe escape valve.  
Great idea! Rosalyn and I ask for  
permission to go to Ben's house for  
an hour. We find babysitters and are  
off! Laughter, running, and lots of  
cookies and milk effectively restore  
my sanity.

By 9:30 the school girls are in bed.  
I call big girls for devotions before  
settling into bed myself. Life at  
Shining Light is challenging and  
sometimes downright rough! But  
God is always faithful and is there if  
I reach out to Him. It makes all the  
time and effort worth it when I find  
a note saying thank-you, or one  
of my girls snuggles up to me and  
whispers “I love you mommy!”

*Grace Yoder*

**Shining Light Children's Home  
10 year anniversary event**

The Shining Light Children's Home will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary on July 25, 2014. We are extending an invitation to  
our faithful friends and supporters to join us for this great event.

**Previous Fund Balances**

General Fund .....	\$18,510.84
Child Sponsorship .....	\$21,677.00
Home Building Project .....	\$4024.81
Water Well Project.....	\$(699.00)
<b>Beginning Balance.....</b>	<b>\$43,531.65</b>

**Income / Contributions**

General Fund .....	\$56,044.78
Child Sponsorships .....	\$24,000.00
Interest .....	\$1.08
<b>Total General Income .....</b>	<b>\$80,045.86</b>

**Other Income**

Land, Building & Well Projects .....	\$14,000
Total Other Income.....	\$14,000
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$94,045.86</b>

**General Expenses**

Bank Fees.....	\$883.21
Professional Fees .....	\$140.00
Repairs .....	\$260.35
Transfer to SLCH in Mexico .....	\$77,000.00
<b>Total General Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$78,283.56</b>

**Net General Income .....** \$1,762.30

**Other Expense**

Loan Payment .....	\$4,000.00
Building Improvements .....	\$15,500.00
Water Well Project.....	\$ -
<b>Total Other Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$19,500.00</b>

**Net Other Income .....** \$(5,500.00)

**Total Net Income.....** \$(3,737.70)

**Fund Balances**

General Fund .....	\$27,664.08
Child Sponsorship .....	\$10,177.00
Home Building Project .....	\$1,843.81
Water Well Project.....	\$ -
<b>Ending Balance.....</b>	<b>\$39,684.89</b>

**Loans**

Loan 1# Previous Balance ..	\$46,501.00
Loan Payment .....	\$ -
Loan 1# Balance.....	\$46,501.00
Wind & Solar Electric Project Loan .....	\$8,000.00
Loan Payment .....	\$4,000.00
Wind & Solar Electric Project Loan Balance.....	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Loan Balance .....</b>	<b>\$50,501.00</b>

## From the Chairman

The daily operations of a children's home have always intrigued me. There is so much that goes on that most of us would never think about. Even as you grew up in your own home, chances are good that you never really understood all that went into a day. This is something that changes fast once you are responsible for your own home.

Now imagine the few children your family has changed to forty-two children of all ages, from different homes, many coming from many abusive situations. All this makes for interesting days at the home.

I would like bring special attention the staff at the home and request your prayer on their behalf.

**Home administrator:** Greivin and Delores Villalobos

**House Parents:** Jason and Lois Weaver

**House Moms:** Grace Yoder, Merari Carrion, Rosalyn Villalobos, Lisa Garcete,

**House Dads:** Brent Lehman, Carl Klassen,

**House Couples:** Ralph & Janice Swartzentruber, Higinio & Consuelo Perez

**Kitchen Staff:** Verna Miller, Daria Witmer, Ana Maldonado

**Maintenance Staff:** Brent Layman, Ralph Swartzentruber

**Gardening Staff:** Brent Layman, Carl Klassen

**School Teachers:** Marisol Perez, Heidy Perez, Arla Laguna, Lloyd Perez, Pauline Hoover

This group of people is doing an outstanding job of making the daily operations at SLCH a refuge for these little ones who have been abandoned by their parents and family.

This home gives us a wonderful opportunity to sow the seeds of truth in the lives of these little ones. We do not wish to take the opportunity lightly. These children have the same needs you and I do, especially the need to belong. This creates in the children a strong desire to go back to their real family, which is a God giving instinct. They want to discover who they really are. Pray with us that as these little ones grow up they would find their true sense of belonging in God's family.

*Leland Ulrich*

### Pray with Us!

Ana first came to Shining Light as a young teenager with a little baby, Reyna. She made a commitment to Christ and became a member of the congregation here. Later, she made some wrong choices which took her away from Shining Light. She contacted us after a year's absence, asking to return. She came home pregnant, but very repentant. She is now faithfully serving the Lord. Her baby daughter Dayana Maria was born on January 26. Pray for her as she mothers her girls.

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

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Leland Ulrich - Chairman  
 Greivin Villalobos - Assistant Chairman  
 Corey Yoder - Secretary/Treasurer  
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