

NEWSLETTER

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Shining Light Children's Home



A Momentous Month in Mexico

by Leanna Ulrich

A NORMAL MORNING brought a sudden change. Within twenty-four hours of being asked if I could help out at SLCH for a month, plans were made to leave in several days with my friend Hannah Airulla.

So much has happened that I would love to tell you about, though none of it is huge or spectacular unless you look for the blessings in small things. Hanging out laundry with an adorable four-year-old on a cloudless Mexico day ... Seeing the light in a young fellow's eyes when he hears that you are going to clean and do the laundry so he doesn't have to help ... Sitting with lovely girls at mealtimes and watching the interaction between the moms and their girls ... Walking to the border

on a chilly afternoon to pass the time ... Convincing rambunctious boys to not throw mice into the girl's room... Riding on the back of a truck in the moonlight ... Spending a day off with the whole crowd about an hour and a half away on dirt roads ... Flowers handed to you from a sweet little girlie... Mice dangled in front of your face by mischievous little boys ... A little girl reaching to be held... Looking into the sky for a moment with God and being blessed by a full moon... Climbing all over rocks and exploring with energetic children... Talking with the moms and hearing their hearts ... Rocking two babies at once ... Shopping in Tecate ... Drinking Coca-Cola and eating tacos ... Singing English songs with Spanish children ... And hearing "You're a God-send."

I spent most of my time cleaning and doing laundry for one of the caretakers and his boys. Alfredo and Gabriel proudly told me one morning that they cooked breakfast all by themselves! Of course, I got to clean up the mess, but I was still proud of them. "Clean" was a very

short-lived description, but it is real life. Angel, the other little fellow, one day called for me to come and look! Hmmm . . . could be anything! This time it was a dead mouse in a clothes drawer! I tried my best to convince him to take it out, but I couldn't. Another day I found him sharing his slice of apple with his little white rabbit! These fellows also loved to torment—anything from teasing and mimicking you to landing a well-aimed punch on your shoulder for the fun of it.

The last week in Mexico I filled in as a mom for Rachel Hostetler, who had left for six weeks. I took care of two older girls, three younger school-age girls, and a two-year-old. To be honest, it was tough to start out. The two-year-old did not know me, so it took a little for her to become okay with this new caretaker. I hurt with her, because I knew she would be getting used to me about the time I would leave. I would just be another person she had to accept who moved right out of her life again. I enjoyed taking care of the girls and putting them to

bed, waking them up, combing them, and getting them to mealtimes on time.

A month flew by and I found myself silently embracing the girls in farewell. Good-byes are common. Lord willing, my good-bye was a short-term. I hope to return in December and make many more memories in this precious place. Please pray for the moms and all the other staff who pour out their lives

for these children. They do a lot more than what meets the eye. For yourself, look at all the blessings God has given you, and think twice about complaining about pain. Thank God for the gifts He has given you.

Blessings, Leanna Ulrich



Leanna at El Mejor Pan with Dayana.

STAFF STORIES

Arla Laguna *Spanish Teacher*

I am a Spanish teacher and have seventeen students. I'm teaching 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. This is my second term teaching here. It is a big responsibility and much work, but there are some very rewarding moments.

One of our school projects involves a couple coming to teach us how to grow plants. We planted radishes, garlic, Swiss chard, and watermelons.

We are very interested in this project. The children are in charge of watering the plants three times a day: morning, afternoon, and evening.

One afternoon an excited little girl came in and held up two radishes, saying, "Now we have radishes! Let's try them!" And we enjoyed the first two radishes with lime, chile, and salt.

We also grow worms to put in our orchard. We feed the worms with banana peelings. By now we have hundreds of tiny worms in our little container.

These times are very enjoyable for all of us. There are only two months left until the classroom doors close. The children have learned much this term, but they also need a vacation.

Please pray for the work here.

- Arla Laguna

Hannah Airulla *Temporary Housekeeper*

In April I went to the Children's Home for a month to fill in for some of the staff who were gone. One of my jobs was keeping house for some of the boys from the home. This basically consisted of doing their laundry and cleaning every day after they went to school. I also helped in the kitchen and babysat for the moms. I enjoyed getting to know the children, going for walks with the girls, and playing outside with the little children. I am thankful God gave me this opportunity to experience being involved in this work.

-Hannah Airulla

Marisol Sanchez *First- and Second-Grade Teacher*

Hello, my name is Marisol Sanchez. I have lived at Shining Light Children's Home for six years.

I am a teacher with first and second grade students. I really like to teach. I also have a daughter, Maribel.

It is a joy to serve God and to help here as I am able. I thank God that I can be here and can know Him. I request your prayers that I will continue to be faithful. May God bless you.

-Marisol

Children Departures



Alan and Roberto returned home to their parents. Even though we will miss them it's better for them to go back to their two parent home.

Staff Departures



Jason's farewell dinner

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God that we have found a couple willing to be houseparents. Antonio and Alma Rosa covet your prayers as they step into their new role.
- Pray for Jason and Lois Weaver and their family as they adjust to life in Colorado again.
- PRAY FOR WATER. Water is a continual need.



All of us!

William and Diana



May 22nd the English class gave a program on the Life of Christ. This was the last school function of the 2014-2015 term for them.

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