



# The Helping Hands Report

*A Child Sponsorship Program Update from Tijuana Christian Mission*

*7th Edition, April 2011*

## "M O M M Y!"

"MOMMY!" That was the word that exploded forth from Brianda when I told her that her sponsor was going to be spending the summer working in our orphanage. I have never seen a child so excited—not even on Christmas day! She proceeded to hug me, dancing in circles, chanting, "My mommy's coming! My mommy's coming! My mommy's coming!" until she finally collapsed in a giggling ball of pure joy in the middle of the floor.



Brianda has a mom at home that she gets to see from time to time, but she immediately recog-

nized in her sponsor the mom she has always hoped for. While her mom tells her she's not as pretty as her sisters, her sponsor calls her beautiful. While her mom tells her she'll never amount to anything, her sponsor tells her she can be anything she wants.

Brianda knows that Margi is not her real mom, but she is also smart enough to recognize that Margi is what a real mom ought to be, and she's grateful enough to thank God for her every day. While Margi won't always be there to hug her or listen to her unending chatter, Brianda knows that Margi loves her... and that's more than enough.

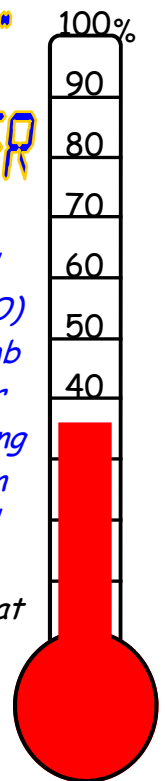
Thanks, Margi, for making a difference in Brianda's life!

## THE "CSPO" THERMOMETER

*Watch the Child Sponsorship (CSPO) Thermometer climb as we grow closer to our goal of having all of our children 100% sponsored!*

*Currently, we are at*

**37.1%**



## A Christmas Sponsorship Gone Awry

When Shari decided to be a Christmas sponsor (send a Christmas present to an unsponsored child), she asked for the most needy child. I sent her the names of two teenagers (Daniel and Lupita) and told her she could choose. Since one was the age of her son and the other the age of her daughter, she decided to take both, and sent them wonderful gifts.

For most Christmas sponsors, that's where the story ended... but not for Shari. Shari wondered why both children had put personal hygiene items on their Christmas Lists—something no child in America would ever do—and asked me about it. I explained that the orphanage provides for these basic needs, but the children like to have their *own* things—their *own* shampoo, their *own* toothpaste, etc. Shari was so moved by this that she has continued sending hygiene items to "her kids" and is now organizing a new ministry to send hygiene care-packages to all of our children on a regular basis.

So, even though she was only a "Christmas sponsor," Shari—with her own special vision for child sponsorship—is making a difference in our kids' lives. Thanks, Shari!





## Welcome Aboard, New Child Sponsors!

In a time when many ministries are seeing decreases in giving, and less and less participation, our Child Sponsorship program continues to increase! Thanks to each of these new sponsors who have signed on in the last six months, and a special sponsorship drive at Eastside Christian Church, not only have we seen an increase in child sponsorship giving, but we have also seen a significant decrease in the number of unsponsored children in our home. For the first time ever, we have less than 10 children without sponsors, and 4 kids who are fully sponsored!

Thank you so much for taking part in our Child Sponsorship program, and for choosing to make a difference in the life one of our special children. May God richly bless each of you as you serve Him in this new way.

- Hannah Carroll — Lupita
- Micah & Kristi Slavens — added Valeria
- Kenneth & Marissa Kay Sherb — Angel and Arturo
- Len & Elvia Baker — Brisa
- Jorge & Wendy Carrizosa — Brisa
- Phil & Robin Meckley — Brisa
- Scott & Jennifer Kuhlman — Yolanda
- Robert & Carrie Colacion — Abril
- Michelle Peko — Abigail
- Mike & Lyna Ruvalcaba — Abigail
- Casey & Shauna Pearce — Arturo
- Arthur Flores — Brian
- Pat Vansickle — Brisa
- Paul & Nancy Stover — Jiovani
- Linda McGrath — Ariana
- Paul & Deborah Wilson — Erick
- Caroline Lutz — Josué



Here at City of Refuge Children's Home, we have a very mobile population. In the last six months alone, we have had more

than 50 children enter or leave our home. Yet our total population has only changed by about 10 kids overall. How is that possible?

City of Refuge Children's Home is just that—a refuge for children in need. About 1/3 of our children are actual orphans or have been brought to us by Children's Services and have nowhere else to go. These children often live with us until finishing high school or college. The other 2/3 of our population, however, have very different circumstances. Some have a single parent who cannot afford to take care of them. Others have family problems that make it temporarily dangerous or difficult for the children to live at home. We never know how long each child will be in our care. Most will stay

with us for months or years at a time, but others will only be with us for a few days or weeks until their situation is resolved and they can safely return to their homes.

For this reason, many of you have received letters stating that your sponsored child no longer lives with us, and asking you to sponsor another child in his/her place. For some of you, that is a difficult decision, as you have bonded with your child. For others, it's a simple matter of changing a name and face. Whatever your relationship with your sponsored child, we hope that if he or she ever leaves our home, you will be ready and willing to pour your blessings into the life of a new child—someone else who needs your love and support NOW—and continue in your partnership with Tijuana Christian Mission.

Your sponsorship donations make it possible for us to care for the physical needs of our children, and your love, letters, and special gifts make a difference in their minds and hearts. Thank you for choosing to make a difference.

# What's New with Child Sponsorship?

## eStatements

You asked, and we answered! New in 2011, TCM's Child Sponsors have the option to receive their monthly statements, including the Child of the Month article, by email instead of regular mail. For those who send their monthly donations electronically through a bill paying service or PayPal, this is the ideal way for you save us a few cents postage each month and reduce your paperwork as well. If you have not signed up for this new service and would like to do so, simply check the e-Statements box on your next statement's donation coupon, and we'll get it taken care of before your next statement goes out.

And if by chance, you signed up for eStatements but have changed your mind and would like to begin receiving your statements by regular mail again, don't worry. Just send us an email and let us know. We'll be happy to switch things around for you.

## Special Greetings!

Each of the following children sends special greetings to their sponsors:

Roberto to Marlin and Claudia—"Hi!"

Arturo to Kristen and Adam—"I miss you!"

Carina to Tom and Sherry—"You're cool."

Yolanda to Julie—"I love you and miss you."

Jimmy to all—"I love you. When are you coming?"

Erick to Donna and Jason—"Hi! Send me pictures!"

Ricardo to Nicole—"I love you!"

Valeria to Hannah—"Thanks!"

Oscar to Craig, Bob, and Chris—"I love you."

Chuy to Ty & Eva—"When are you coming back?"

Niza to all—"I love you!"

Brianda to Margi—"Hi, Mom!"

Edgar to Phillip and Jinny—"You're awesome!!!"

Vicky to the Jobes—"I love and miss you!"

Bryan to Helen—"Can you come back? I miss you."

David to David—"I'm excited to meet you!"

Gustavo to all—"I love you. When can you come?"

Adrián to Ken and Ramona—"I love you a lot!"

Moy to Pat and Aaron—"I love you. Come soon!"

Anais to Marge—"Thank you for sponsoring me!"

Gil to Chris—"Dude! What's up? Praying for you!"

Lomary to Bob and Mary—"I love you!"

Dora to Jason—"Don't forget my birthday, please."



## Our Vision...

*is to serve God through serving the needy children of Mexico—children who come to us from broken homes or from no home at all, who have learned to make a life for themselves on the streets. Through City of Refuge children's home we are able to provide a loving family environment for children who have seen and experienced abuse, neglect and extreme poverty. We work together to meet not only the physical needs of the children, but their emotional and spiritual needs as well.*

## Some of our "needy" children — Thanks for loving them!





## New Pics from Home

How many of you would like to receive a new picture of your sponsored child? Well, have no fear. It's that time of year again, and new pictures will be on their way to your home next month with an update on your child.

But guess what? Your child would like a new picture of you and your family as well. While your pictures of your child are hung on your refrigerator or placed on your mantel, their pictures of you are proudly displayed in their rooms.



While a card or note will be read dozens, if not hundreds of times,

a picture is worth a thousand words, and will be proudly shared and showed off to everyone who has a moment to look.

This month, as we prepare to send out new pictures of all of our children to their sponsors, we ask that you would also take a few minutes to pick out a special picture of you and your family and send it to your child. It's wonderful to know that someone loves you, but it's even better to have their face smiling down at you every time you look up.

Thanks for taking the time to make a difference in your child's life... even if it just means sending them a picture of your smiling face. ☺



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## Recently Featured Children of the Month



Lalo was featured in December on behalf of his new-found faith and his excitement at being able to really celebrate Christmas for the

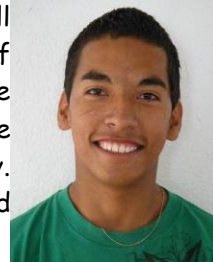
first time in years. We continue to sit back and marvel now as we watch him go back to school for the first time in years. While he is not getting straight A's, he is nonetheless giving it his best effort,

and we believe that with a little bit of time and a little bit of help, he'll be well on his way in no time. You can do it, Lalo!



Juan was featured in February as a hard worker who had even taken upon himself the task of maintaining our Rosarito campus in the absence of a staff member. He continues to help out with all the chores at the home even though we now have a staff member who has accepted that responsibility. We are continually amazed by and grateful for Juan's attitude and work ethic. In a time when young people are wanting less and less responsibilities, Juan continues to take on more and more.

We know God will bless him for all of his efforts, and we are glad to have him in our family. Keep up the good work, Juan!



Damaris was March's Child of the Month—a young lady of noble heart who is always concerned with the needs of others. In one such act, she



invited her brother to come and live in our home. When he arrived, she spent her every spare moment helping him to adjust. She has also treated each of our new arrivals with the same concern, taking them under her wing and helping them through those difficult days of adjustment that all new children in our home experience. Damaris is a blessing to everyone around her, and we thank God for her presence in our home.



Thank you for loving and caring for our children!