

# The GOOD NEWS



La Gran Familia

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

Aug 2023

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## Budget Crunch

Most of us are feeling the pinch from the downturn in the economy; not only here, but also in Mexico. Donations are down and costs are up. We have tightened our belts as much as possible, but some things still have to be paid, most importantly school tuitions and supplies

Education is one of the most powerful tools to break the cycle of poverty and we are successfully educating the children's minds and hearts in paths of peace and goodness. Thanks to your donations, the children are given food and they have a safe home, away from drugs and violence.

We currently have seven students attending college studying teaching, nursing, agriculture, graphic design and engineering.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! Just a quick note to tell everyone how things are at La Gran Familia in Cuauhtémoc.

Barbara and I returned from our periodic trip to LGF. Our goal was to explain the current financial situation to Martin Cordova, the Director of LGF. We had three very long meetings before returning home.

The children are all healthy and active. There are 39 children staying at the houses although some just come for the day, while their parents' work. They continue to receive tutoring to keep up in their respective schools. We support six young people in their college educations. Most are local and inexpensive while two are a bit further away.

As many of you know, the proceeds from life insurance when Fr. Greg Spinks passed was invested into part of an apartment complex in San Angelo. These apartments were built in the 1950's and need constant maintenance. Many air conditioners will or have been replaced and several apartments need renovation. This investment by Fr. Glenn Polhemus has been the life blood for LGF. Your continued giving has been vital to keep this ministry vibrant.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of the Henry family in San Angelo. Glenn's daughter, Pilar, her husband Rick and their son Boyd have gone

over and above despite the lack of remuneration and jobs of their own. We could not continue to support LGF without them.

Our recent board meeting, held on July 15<sup>th</sup> resulted in changes in the makeup of the board. The current board President, Mollie Polhemus decided to step down as President but remains a voting member of the board. Elections were held and Dean and Barbara Hautanen were voted in as new President and Vice President respectively. Pilar Henry was voted onto the board as well. There is much to be done, especially in fund raising. Sadly, four parishes used to contribute on a regular basis but now no longer give. The expenses at LGF continue to slowly climb, especially gasoline, but the revenue stream is slowly declining, creating a growing gap in support. We will be monitoring this very closely, but your continued support is greatly appreciated.

This ministry is more than 20 years old and continues to minister to children in need for various reasons. We are proud of the accomplishments of many children and young people from engineers to professional fútbol (soccer) players. Most will leave with a high school education and become contributing members of the Mexican society and culture.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Dean Hautanen, President

## ShopRaise Tip

Buy a gift card for yourself to use at restaurants and merchants which don't donate directly to LGF. Like Amazon, Chili's, Airbnb, Michael's, and AMC. Use your gift card to make everyday purchases. Or double-dip your contributions by using a gift card to pay at participating stores as well.

## Giving Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that La Gran Familia is going to be joining a program called ShopRaise. ShopRaise permits supporters to raise money for LGF through their everyday online purchases at over 1,000 stores in the line up.

The program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.

Download the ShopRaise mobile or desktop app and purchase your merchandise at a participating retailer, a percentage will go directly to LGF, and no hidden fees involved. Download and start supporting LGF with every purchase or scan the QR code below.

<https://shopraise.com/support/lgfmexico>



## Our Kids Showing Off Their Talents



The older boys and girls received lessons on string instruments. The instruments were loaned. The instruction is provided to the kids free of charge! Our kids join with others from across the city.



## Primary Graduation to Junior High School



Jorge, Alberto, Andrea, Susana, Antonio, and Carlos have finished primary school and are now going to study in secondary school.

# Another Success Story

Esmeralda has graduated from high school and is now preparing to enter the Cuauhtémoc University Cultural Center. She is a very gifted talent for painting and drawing. She has chosen a degree plan of Graphic Design.

During her vacation this summer she has started working at the Municipal Market. This fall, she will be studying her degree from Monday to Thursday in the mornings and working on the weekends.



Esmeralda was born in the Tarahumara Sierra region. When she arrived at the LGF home she did not speak Spanish. She has come a long way.

LGF will continue to support her in her studies and wishes her well in all her future endeavors. People like you can make a real difference in their lives.



# Last Day of School Year Fun



Carmen Ivette, one of our tutors, has officially graduated.

She received a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Intervention



The children happily celebrating the end of the school year and the beginning of summer with activities, music, and dancing.



Congratulations to Brianna who received 9.7 out of 10 on her report card. She advances to 3rd grade with honors.

CUAUHTÉMOC, CHIHUAHUA



Seferino and Carlos

# Meet the Board of Directors

2023-2024

Dean Hautanen - President

Barbara Hautanen - Vice President

Deirdre Hunter - Secretary

Boyd Henry - Treasurer

Mollie Polhemus - voting member

Andrew Marks - voting member

Willa Hunter - voting member

Fr. John Kalimi - voting member

Debra Scott - voting member

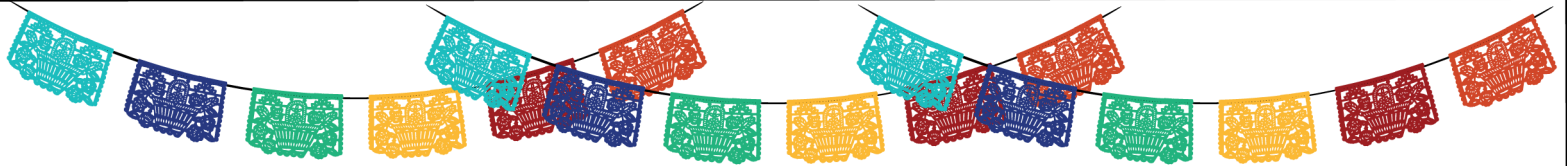
Teresa Nunez - voting member

Eva Saenz - voting member

Pilar Henry - voting member



Left, repairs at the home were made this summer. Lower left, Martín playing games with the younger children. Below, Luís turns 15!



## La Gran Familia needs your help.

If you would like more information on how to become more involved in the mission of La Gran Familia, please direct your inquiries to:

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**La Gran Familia is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization**



Girls participating in cultural dances



La Gran Familia

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