

The GOOD NEWS



La Gran Familia

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

August 2021

THE BEGINNING OF LA GRAN FAMILIA

In 1998 my husband Glenn Polhemus had no plan to start a children's home in Mexico or anywhere else for that matter. He was part of The Consulta, an organization of priests and laypeople from Texas and Mexico. They met regularly and worshiped together and were there to help the Anglican churches in Mexico. Then one day Glenn got a call from a priest in Mexico. He asked Glenn to come to Mexico and fix his roof. Glenn told him he had no idea of how to fix the church's roof. Week after week he got the same call and gave the same answer. Finally, Glenn went to his priest, Fr. Clif Gardner, and asked what he should do. Fr. Cliff said, "Fix the roof. Surely

with the help of local craftsmen the church was built. At the same time the church was being built, the Bishop of Northern Mexico sent a young American seminarian in Mexico to Cuauhtémoc to start the congregation. The priest lived in a small house and began to grow the congregation in his house. At the same time, he was so distraught with the condition of the children in the neighborhood. They were sick, had terrible skin issues, were street kids, and ate out of dumpsters. By the time the church was completed Fr. Greg had 7 kids he was taking care of. That was when Glenn recognized that an orphanage was part of the ministry. He located a two-story house, purchased it, and La Gran Familia was born. "For I know the plans I have for you..."

August 5, 1999, from the diary of Fr. Greg, founder of La Gran Familia.... "The kids are settling in. Arcilio, the 8-year-old, is such a delight. I forgot to say grace last night and he said, "Padre, let me pray. It will save your memory." He prayed the most beautiful prayer. First, he thanked God for the rain (we were in a thunderstorm). He then thanked God for a house where he could sleep dry. He then gave thanks for the blankets on his bed where he could sleep warm. He then gave thanks for the food. He then prayed a litany of names of children he knows that are still homeless and hungry, praying that God would help them find their way to my house where they could become part of our family. I was in tears by the time we started to eat..."

And all of you are part of this miracle...

... Mollie Polhemus

LGF BOARD MEETS

As of May 24, 2021, the board of directors have newly elected officers.

President: **Mollie Polhemus**
Vice Pres. **Dean Hautanen**
Treasurer: **Boyd Henry**
Secretary: **Andrew Marks**

In old business, Riggo does not want to move forward with the additional LGF facility but wants to continue breakfasts.

In new business, the board voted a 3% pay increase for the LGF staff, retroactive to January 2021.

Also, the foundation's investment in the San Angelo apartment complex, is in need of repairs. A new roof will be installed by 1 August 2021, at which time Boyd can rebid the current insurance for a lower rate.

**"For I know the plans
I have for you, de-
clares the Lord"**

Jeremiah 29:11

we can get a couple of men that know how to fix it and a bunch of parishioners and youth to help." That was the beginning of many trips into Mexico with the youth and adults of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in San Angelo.

Then, Glenn got a call from the Bishop of Northern Mexico. He told Glenn that he wanted Glenn to build a church in Cuauhtémoc and one in Chihuahua City. Glenn got in touch with his friend Harold Mueller. Harold was retired from Mueller Steel and was ready and able to build two churches in Mexico. They made many trips to Cuauhtémoc and

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Kids
Dress up
Day

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE



Oliver, Sara, and Jorge (see March issue) continue to grow and are in better health, happier and learning. They stay at the shelter from Sunday to Friday. On Saturday they go to live with their mother and on Sunday she brings them back in the afternoon.

We are seeing them blossom into very happy children; they play well with the other children.

The two older ones are bright, receptive students, eager to learn and the youngest, Oliver, does not cry as much as when he first arrive. Your gifts make a difference in children's lives.



Fresh Air in the Park!



Martín has done a wonderful job of keeping their bodies strong and healthy with exercises, games, bike rides and working on mental health and good attitudes.

At the same time, Martín has continued to show how God is in the details of every day living.



The younger girls receive nutritional vitamin supplements with their meals, thanks to the donation of a volunteer.

ESMERALDA IS GIVING BACK

Esmeralda came to LGF when she was four and now helps us as a teacher for the third-year girls and boys. In the afternoon she leaves working in a stationery store and comes to the shelter, then she returns to close up the shop where she works.

She is continuing her education at the National Pedagogical University. Classes begin on August 16.



Our teacher Citlaly works in the classes with the fourth-year girls and boys. (left)



A new teacher Ivette joins the team; she supports the second-year girls. (right)

RECENT SCHOOL GRADUATIONS AND PROMOTIONS



Adriana



Ana



Ana Karen



Valeria

Adriana, Ana, Ana Karen, and Valeria have graduated from high school. Now, they are heading for a college career. Adriana wants to enter the Bachelor of Education program; Ana has chosen an Accounting career, Valeria and Ana Karen are undecided at the moment which career to enter.



Estela



Abel



Perla

Estela and Abel have finished primary school and will enter Secondary School in the fall.

Perla has completed her studies in Secondary School and will attend High School. She stood out as an athlete and participated in various events.

CUAUHTÉMOC, CHIHUAHUA

GOOD NEWS

Martín has conveyed that the entire staff of La Gran Familia have received one dose of the Covid vaccine and are waiting their second dose. The children all remain healthy at this time.

Additionally, Luisa, Lalo, Luz, Claudia and Martín, who caught the virus last year, have slowly regained their strength from the side affects.

Schools are also considering reopening in the fall but still working on the logistics.

SPRING AND SUMMER HAPPENINGS

A drug & substance abuse program called D.A.R.E .was introduced to the children. Over a 2-week period the children learned about the dangers of opioids, vaping nicotine and gang violence, preparing them to act decisively and responsibly in difficult situations.

The kids received measles and rubella shots.

The shelter received 5 solar panels which will help with electrical costs. A donation from Fondo Unido Chihuahua.

Public safety donated several bicycles to the girls and boys.

As thoughts drift to school reopening, we appreciate your help with tuition, uniforms, backpacks and shoes.



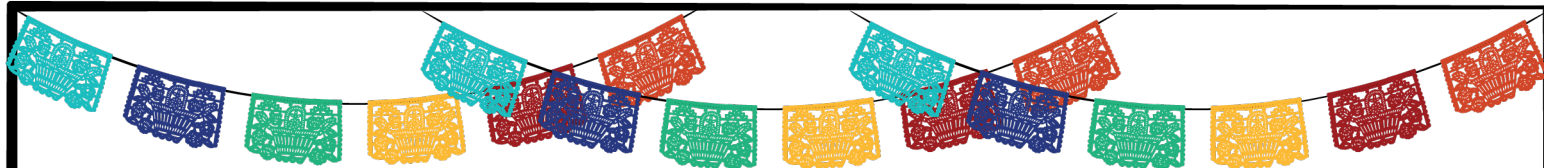
Art remains the number one indoor activity for the girls. Where ever your imagination can take you.

Art heals the soul.



Brotherly love.

When not in studies, indoor games allow for sibling time.



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:

Mollie Polhemus

President

325-656-9636

mollie@wcc.net

Willa Hunter

Newsletter Editor

832-282-8788

lagranfamiliamexico@gmail.com

<http://www.lgfmexico.org>

Little Imelda will temporarily stay at LGF, while her adoption is resolved, with DIF.

She is protected and cared for by Luisa, Lalo and Claudia.



La Gran Familia

2813 Southland Blvd.

San Angelo, TX 76904