

The GOOD NEWS

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

La Gran Familia

July 2025

A Shelter of Hope

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Miguel is 13 years old and currently working on a school project creating geometric shapes with thread; a fusion of art, math, and imagination.

He has lived at La Gran Familia since he was just 1 year old. Here, Miguel has learned to walk, to read, to play, to pray, and to dream.

Now, he's weaving not only thread into shapes; but also his future, full of color and possibility.

At LGF, the sky is the limit!

When I arrived in Cuauhtémoc, Mexico, the sun was heavy in the sky, casting long shadows across the streets. I had been told that La Gran Familia was a children's home, but nothing could have prepared me for the world inside its gates.

One of the first things I saw was a little boy, no older than seven, helping a younger child tie her shoelaces. They sat on the playground, surrounded by laughter and the distant smell of cooking. It was a simple moment, but it hit me harder than I expected. These children, who had known instability and hardship, had found a new kind of family — one built intentionally, with deep and careful love.

La Gran Familia doesn't just provide shelter; it constructs a future. Every detail of the children's lives — from the early morning wake-ups to the structured schoolwork sessions — is planned with painstaking attention. Nothing is random. Everything, even the smallest daily ritual, is done to heal, protect, and prepare them for a life they might never have imagined possible.

I learned that many of the children here came from homes where a school uniform or a set of books was an impossible dream. Some would have been left alone all day while their parents worked, or lived under the care of aging grandparents who could barely afford to feed them. The gap between what could have been — a future defined by poverty, isolation, and

neglect — and what La Gran Familia offers was staggering.

As I walked through the halls, filled with colorful drawings and neatly made beds, I was struck by the overwhelming sense of purpose. Each child is seen. Each child is nurtured. In a world that often forgets the most vulnerable, this place refuses to let them be invisible.

...what truly impacted me were their stories.

My visit to La Gran Familia had a profound impact on me. It deepened my understanding of what it means to care intentionally — not just with kindness, but with structure, planning, and relentless hope. Watching those children laugh, study, and dream, I realized that true compassion isn't passive. It's a daily, determined choice to build something better, brick by brick, life by life.

Yazmine "Yaz" Miles



Yaz and Ana Julia



Deirdre

Message from Our New President, Deirdre Hunter

Hello supporters! I'm honored to introduce myself as the new President of the LGF Board of Directors, elected this May at our Annual Meeting. My journey with LGF began in 2006, when my dad — who was cousins with Glenn — encouraged me to call him and learn more about the ministry in Mexico. That call ended with Glenn saying, "Ya gotta go, you won't know until you do." He was right. Since that first visit, I've served in many roles, from "House Mom" in the old Girl's House, to Director of Development, to Board Secretary — both in Cuauhtémoc and the U.S.

It's a true honor to step into this role, following in the footsteps of inspiring leaders — Glenn, our founder, who laid a powerful foundation; Mollie Polhemus, who led us through a time of transition with grace; and Dean Hautanen, who helped us find our footing in the post-Glenn era. I know I have big shoes to fill. I'm inspired by the legacy behind us and ready for the important work ahead. With your continued support, I'm confident we can do great things together.

Deirdre Hunter

With Great Pride

After so much effort, dedication, and countless sleepless nights, the reward has finally arrived.

Congratulations, Adriana!!!

You've achieved a truly significant milestone in your life.

Now, **LGF has a teacher!!!**

We're so proud of you and excited for everything that lies ahead.



They Crushed It!

Congratulations, Alondra and Ana Julia!

You've reached a huge milestone - officially completing elementary school Miguel Hidalgo #2547. Your journey is just beginning, and we can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll do next.



Keep
shining, keep
dreaming,
and keep
reaching for
the stars.



Resilient and Determined Sisters



Eva

Eva and Carmen have faced significant challenges from a very young age. Abandoned first by their father and later by their mother, they were placed in various children's homes throughout their childhood. Despite this instability, their spirit remains unbroken.

Now under the care of LGF, they are beginning to build a more stable foundation for their futures. Eva is about to enter her first year of secondary school. Although she is still exploring her options for the future, she shows a natural talent and growing interest in the fields of beauty and aesthetics.

Her older sister, Carmen, recently completed secondary school and is pursuing her dream of opening a beauty business. She is currently enrolled in a specialized center for aesthetics and beauty, where she is gaining the skills and training needed to

achieve her goals.

Both girls are cheerful, hopeful, and deeply motivated. Their difficult past has not diminished their determination to succeed. On the contrary, it has fueled their desire to create a better future for themselves through education and hard work.



Carmen

Juan Marcos: A Bright Light Rising from Darkness

Juan Marcos, a child of the Guarijío ethnic group, has overcome a deeply difficult start in life. At just 10 months old, he was rescued from a highly vulnerable situation where he lived with his mother, who struggled with addiction to drugs and alcohol. In the community where they lived, children were often given paint to inhale in order to suppress their hunger and keep them quiet while the adults consumed substances.

When Juan Marcos was rescued, his health was in critical condition. He was diagnosed with a cyst in his thyroid gland, for which he required two surgeries. Since then, he has been living in the safety of children's homes, receiving the care and support he needs to grow and thrive.

Now in fourth grade at elementary school, Juan Marcos is doing remarkably well. He consistently earns excellent grades and shows a high level of intelligence and curiosity. He is also a proud member of the La Gran Familia soccer team, where he finds joy, friendship, and a healthy outlet for his energy.

Juan Marcos is a happy, sociable, and exceptionally bright child. His journey is a testament to the power of rescue, healing, and nurturing care. Despite the trauma of his early life, he is full of hope and promise; a shining example of what is possible when a child is given the chance to grow in safety and love.



CUAUHTÉMOC, CHIHUAHUA



Pizza to feed 45!

Luis's Science Project: The Process of Planting Potatoes



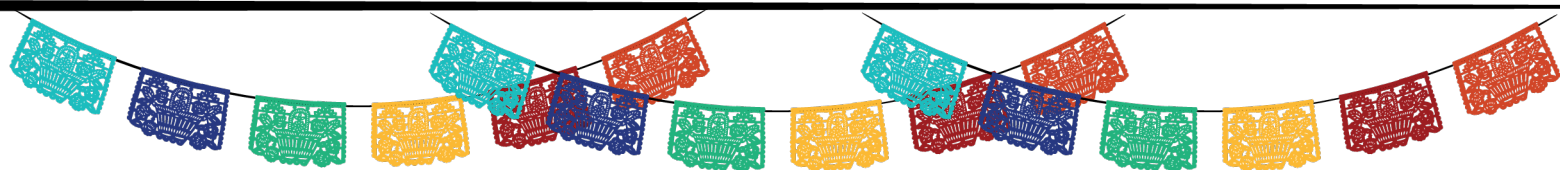
Luis recently presented a science project at school explaining the process of planting potatoes — a topic close to his heart. His knowledge stems not just from textbooks, but from real-life experience. As a young child, Luis worked in the mountainous regions of Chihuahua, where he learned firsthand how crops like potatoes are planted and harvested.

But Luis's story is more than a science lesson — it's a story of perseverance.

As a child, Luis faced hunger and extreme cold. When he first arrived in the city, he lived under the staircase of an unfinished house. He used newspapers to shield himself from the cold and survived by asking for food from houses or on the street. Despite these struggles, Luis never gave up.

Today, he is a dedicated athlete, proudly representing his municipality and state in athletics. His discipline and effort, both in sports and life, have helped him rise above his challenges.

On Sundays, Luis works at a Mennonite pizzeria, where he earns money to help cover some of his personal expenses. His story is a reminder that with hard work, courage, and support, it's possible to overcome even the toughest beginnings.



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
EIN 32-0008877



The girls and boys were treated to a fun Friday evening by attending a game of the Women's State Basketball League. It was a chance to relax, bond as a group, and enjoy the excitement of live basketball.

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