

February 2024



Dear Family and Friends,

“Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1Peter 4:10

I have been asked by many well meaning people, “Would it be better if we just sent you the money instead of coming down?” My answer is always a resounding, “No!”

The problem is, it is impossible to pay someone to love anybody. The purest form of love is always a gift given truly expecting nothing in return. And the only reasonable human response to such love is love and gratitude.

Through the years, God has given the ministry of Child Rescue some of the most godly, precious saints to sustain our ministry of loving children for Jesus. Many of those dear saints have gone on to be with the Lord. In thunderous answer to my prayers, the Lord is raising up a new generation of those whose hearts are open to his leading and desire to make a difference for Jesus in this world.

A living example of this is in the life of Ashley. Ashley, a nine-year-old who recently came to us, had suffered physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her stepfather. Ashley ended up staying with a neighbor, while her mother had an extended stay in the hospital after a surgery. Ashley told the neighbor what had been happening to her. The abuse was so severe that she is now afflicted with several medical conditions.

When Ashley came to us she had a lot of fear and sadness. She looked shell-shocked. The day after her coming I returned from the capital with a mission group whose sole purpose was to spend time and love on our kids. Ashley was to be a recipient of this love.

Over the last year and a half we have had the opportunity to host many new friends in Christ. These new friends are incredibly talented, highly motivated, accomplished believers who have a heart to love God and capacity to love our children with reckless abandon. These brothers and sisters in Christ are becoming the fresh base of support we are desperately praying for to meet our childrens’ needs now and for the future. We praise God for his hand in all of this.

One of these couples are John and Robyn. They love the Lord and have a strong desire to grow in their faith and reach out to touch people for eternity. Robyn recently returned for her second trip. Robyn’s heart of love and life in Jesus is absolutely contagious.

The first morning the team came to Casa De Mi Padre they met a few of our new kids and were very happy to reconnect with the long-time kids of our home. For Ashley, our newest little girl, it was her second day with us. The ladies scooped Ashley up in their hearts and the transformation immediately began to take place. Then the games came out and the team began to run around and play. Next, the basketball came out and off they went. The whole team in unison was giving the one commodity that cost so little and yet is priceless –Time.

Over the next few days everyone could see the change in Ashley. Robyn and the ladies organized a “purchase party” for several of the kids, and especially for Ashley. They took them to town to purchase the needed items and bought a dress for Ashley. To me, it looked like a princess dress. Oh, and did she like it! Ashley wore it for the next three days.

The experience the team had was something only God could create. We could see growth in each of the team members. The joy they experienced was real. Sometimes when some of our team members go home they post beautiful pictures and write of their experiences. I love reading them. Robyn’s post touched my heart:

“Are you Happy Inside? That’s a question asked on repeat at Casa De Mi Padre in Guatemala. This is my second time serving this mission and it only got better. Thank you Lacey, Fawn, and Shane for making space to share it with my family from Oregon/ Summit.

On the 4 hour bus ride from Guatemala City to Santa Cruz del Quiche I asked Shane, the director, for an update on each of the kids. As I went through each name, Shane informed us that six of the kids we bonded with last year had



Shane Sanderson
Executive Director
Santa Cruz del Quiche Guatemala

returned to a family member. Instantly I felt the tears fill my eyes, and the ache in my stomach. You would normally be so happy to see children reunited with their blood family.

Casa is different, it's not an "orphanage" it's a home. A home filled with love, stability, structure, celebrations, education, resources and most importantly Jesus. It is a home any of us would be proud to say "these are my children, this is how we live." Casa currently is 21 children who have come from unimaginable suffering, abuse, pain and abandonment. Who via government, are given to Casa to care for them, sometimes for a short time and by God's grace many are forever.

I have tried many times over to explain to people what we do there, how it all feels and works. Why my heart now lives in two places. Why I go to sleep praying over this incredible mission, counting the days until my next visit.

This isn't just a mission, it is a purpose. A purpose filled with impact you can see and feel instantly. Your commitment makes you part of the family forever. There is so much work ahead for Casa De Mi Padre, they are transforming lives, healing the broken and building a mission that will stand the test of time.

I have a lot of blessings in my life, I would say daily I am happy inside. Casa adds extra joy to anyone who experiences it. We are planning for the next year with limited spots available. If you are truly interested in finding a mission to serve in or a bigger purpose in your life, reach out, I'd love to show you the Casa family as the kids would say "Mi familia forever."

I love the line Robyn wrote, "my heart now lives in two places" I think that is beautiful. And we could all see the transformation in Ashley's life. We saw the lifting of sadness replaced by the sense of security, hope, and love. Absolutely beautiful to see!

We are eternally thankful for all those through the years who have made an in-person impact on the children of Casa De Mi Padre. Thank you all for using your God-given gifts to serve our children the grace of God.

Upcoming Need and Prayer: One of our older boys is in the final stages of being accepted into the Shriners Hospital Medical Program. Tomas, now 14 years old, came to us almost three years ago. He was taken from his mother and stepfather due to physical abuse. When Tomas came to us he was physically handicapped. After several examinations with different doctors we were told he had some type of neuromuscular dystrophy. The doctors were not very specific to the type of disease it was. They said it was genetic and could possibly take away Tomas' ability to walk completely. The doctors said they could operate on his feet to give him a little more ability to walk, but the disease would continue to progress. We were looking and praying for something else.

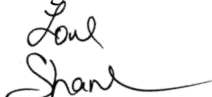
The Lord has opened an opportunity for Tomas to be able to go to Shriners Hospital in Saint Louis, Missouri. Hopefully, we will receive a clear diagnosis and better treatment options. Please pray with us for a miracle for Tomas. We do not know the time frame this will happen or the preliminary medical costs or the travel costs we will have to raise. The medical help the Shriners will offer is completely free.

If you know someone in the Saint Louis area with a home where we could stay, this would be a big help. Email me at crshane2010@gmail.com. All we have left to do is finish his required vaccinations and visa requirements to enter the US. Please pray about all this. If all goes well, hopefully he will receive his final approval for the program.

Construction Update: We are continuing to work on phase one of the Common House foundation. We believe in the next few weeks we will be completing this. We are asking the Lord for \$15000 to be able to pay off the construction teams for work already completed. Believing the Lord will continue to provide, I am already preparing cost estimates for the next phase. Please pray the Lord will continue to lead us in wisdom and provide all that is necessary in his time.

The Ministry of Casa De Mi Padre works because God's people, using the gifts they have been given, empower us to see God transform lives. We are eternally grateful. Thank you all!

Serving others as faithful stewards,


Joseph Shane Sanderson

Thank you as always
for your kind and gracious
support and prayers.
We love you!