

SNAP-SHOTS

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Valentines Day! Although it has evolved over the years since its origins, (which are a little unclear), it does provide a great opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate the power of love with those around us. This month our team aimed to do just that as they held events in three of our communities to share with the kids about God's *unconditional* love. Over 100 kids enjoyed a fun day of learning, activities and games...



Far left & center: Craft activities at Ejido.

Left: Kids hand printing aprons for their moms.



Far right & center: Kids honored their moms and grandmoms with handmade gifts and flowers. Right: Enjoying coloring in!



Sharing the story of the prodigal son with kids at Refugio de Amor.

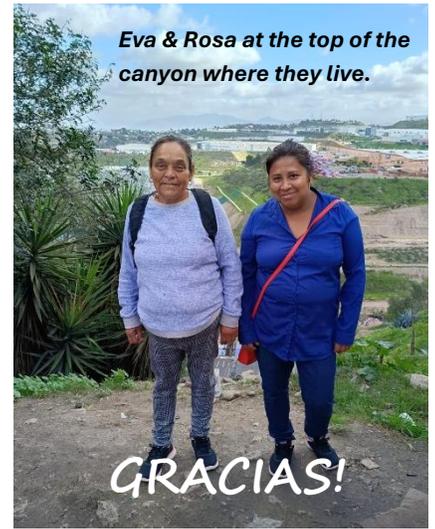


"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God..." 1 John 4:7. "...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." 1 John 4:16. "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

NEW SEWING STUDENTS...

Eva and Rosa live on the side of a steep canyon overlooking an industrial area and in winter, like many others around them, their makeshift homes leak. A few months ago, Eva came to our attention while we were putting a tarp on her neighbor's roof, hesitantly approaching us to ask if we might be able to help her with one also. Upon entering, we noticed she had little food or belongings in her house, however a bible next to her bed prompted us to ask a few questions. Eva, in her late 60s is a new believer and now attends a church that she was invited to by her employer, an elderly disabled lady that she cleans house for a few days a week. Eva began praying for help with her leaky roof after the first winter rain this year and a short time later, we just happened to show up. Since then, we've come to know and much appreciate Eva and her example of simple and grateful faith, relying on it each day to provide for her needs, and also the needs of others around her. In the last few months Eva has befriended Rosa, who also lives on the canyon slopes, with her teenage son. Like Eva, Rosa (and her son also), have some chronic health conditions, due to poor diets/lack of sufficient nutrients over the years. Rosa grew up in rural, southern Mexico, working in the fields from a young age. Having never learned to read and write, her prospects for work have always been limited.

This month Eva and Rosa began lessons in our first sewing class for the year. Both had been eagerly awaiting the day! The aim is that they'll learn the basics and complete several projects over the next few months which will provide them with options for making items to sell and/or be able to offer sewing services, (alterations, mending etc.) from their homes. Eva and Rosa are fairly typical of the students we see in our weekly classes. As the weeks go on, it's always rewarding to see confidence and relationships develop as the students learn skills and share some of their struggles with us and each other. **Thanks so much** for your part in making it possible to offer them this opportunity that makes a difference in their lives.



Eva & Rosa at the top of the canyon where they live.

GRACIAS!



Walking on one of the canyon trails.



Eva's house.

Below: Susana, a past student.



Above: Eva & Rosa learning to thread their machines. (Rosa now also attends church with Eva).



Leslie (right) with Chelsi, (another new student), who helped to make flowers for Valentines Day.



Susana now makes a small income sewing from home.

SAD NEWS... Young Gustavo (16) died this month. You may recall from earlier newsletters that he needed a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, it was discovered after tests that his sister (the only compatible donor in his family), had health issues of her own, which prevented the transplant from going ahead. Meanwhile Gustavo continued dialysis treatment in the hope that her condition would improve, but sadly it didn't happen in time for him. **THANK YOU** to all who prayed for him and please keep his mom and Pastor Erik, who has been ministering to this family in your prayers.



Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Gal. 6:10

THANKS AGAIN! On behalf of us all, Joyce, Philip & the team!