

SNAP-SHOTS

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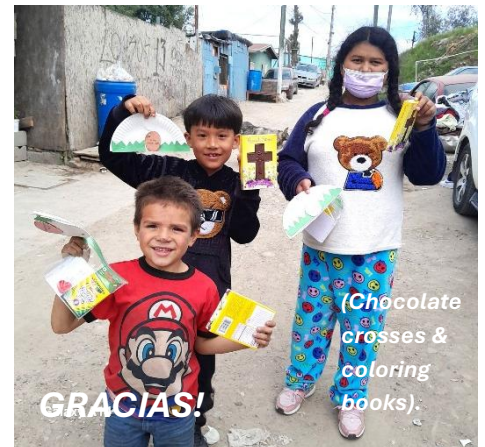
CELEBRATING EASTER!

There are many reasons to celebrate Easter. The victory of life over death, the triumph of good over evil, Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate demonstration of God's power and love. To all those who believe, it offers hope for a future, a renewed sense of purpose, reconciliation and eternal life with an amazing God, the Creator of us all!

This month our Easter celebration events were spread out among three of the communities we serve. The kids had lots of fun learning and celebrating the truths found in the incredible story of Easter!



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Along with the Good News message, the kids enjoyed learning new action songs led by teen helpers Leslie and Alexis who did an excellent job of teaching, encouraging and giving special attention to some pretty special kids. **Thanks so much** for your partnership in prayer, and in providing resources to teach kids in our communities the real meaning of Easter!

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead and he will raise us also. 1 Corinthians 6:14

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Along with Easter celebrations, the teens and kids at Casa Hogar SIMNSA also learned about the power of prayer from Hortencia, making lists on paper cut-outs of their hands, of who and what they would be praying for this month, (you were included!)

Spending time with these kids is often humbling! Most have had pretty rough starts in life, some resulting in permanent learning and/or physical disabilities, yet we always seem to leave there uplifted by their excitement, gratitude and eagerness to learn. Please keep these kids in *your* prayers too. **Thanks!**



Cesar & Leslie with her new tablet.



Walking home.

LESLIE 16, has been part of our team since she was little, coming along to help with her mom Paty. About 2 years ago, Leslie was diagnosed with Arnold Chiari Syndrome, a condition (present at birth), in which the brain tissue extends into the spinal canal. It's a long term condition with symptoms of headaches, dizziness, pain/pressure in the neck and shoulders, balance problems and numbness in the hands and feet. Surgery is a possibility, although not until adulthood, as the condition changes through the developing years. Because of the severity of the symptoms, Leslie had to withdraw from school and has been working with us on a flexible basis for the last year or two. Although she has good days and bad days, it seems lately the good days are increasing! This month we were able to present Leslie with a tablet to help her begin completing her secondary education online.



Teaching sewing.



Leslie has a natural gift with kids.

Although internet and cell phone connection where she lives has always been a problem, Cesar was also able to figure out and set up a plan that works. Leslie will attend Saturday morning classes in person as well. Her dream has always been to join the police force. Although that possibility is "up in the air" for now, Leslie is still very keen to finish her education. Despite her disability, it's been neat to see her growing in confidence, faith and abilities this past year. Leslie now regularly helps and teaches other kids and has become a great asset to our team. Please pray for Leslie as she begins this next stage in her life. **Thank you!**



OMAR... Thanks again to all of you who prayed for and sent notes to Omar. Sadly for us, Omar passed away on March 28 from complications associated with kidney failure. We miss him very much but are thankful for the time he was with us (2 yrs as a V&O Driver). Omar experienced many challenges and injustices in his life beginning in his childhood. His example of forgiveness, gratitude, patience, perseverance and faith until the end, have made a lasting impact on us. We look forward to the day when we will meet him again. Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life... John 5:24

Until next month,
God's blessings to
you All!
Joyce & Philip,
on behalf of the V&O
team!