

# SNAP-SHOTS

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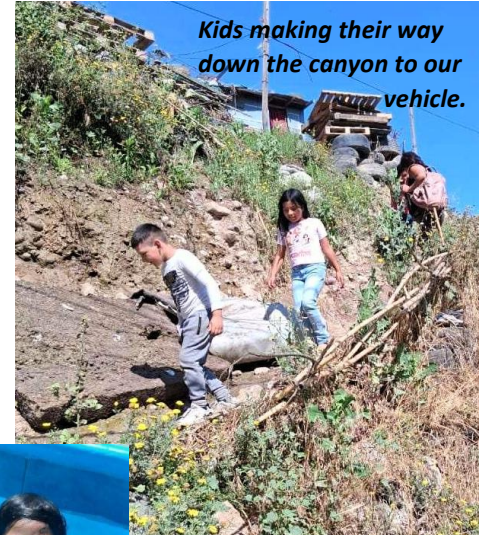
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## SCHOOLS OUT, SUMMER'S IN!

With most schools winding down for the year, many of the kids in our neighborhoods will be at a loose end for the next 6-8 weeks. Most of them typically don't get to venture far from home during the summer break, instead spending it in the hot dusty streets and canyons around their homes. For this reason, we focus more on kids' activities this time of year, giving them something to look forward to and providing a brief respite for some of the parents as well.

Last week two special families enjoyed their **first ever** swim in a pool, on a special day out with us, followed by hamburgers for lunch and fun at the park. The excitement of their new experiences brought smiles, laughter and joy! What perhaps would look like a regular day out for kids this side of the border, was for these kids something very memorable, which they will probably be talking about for the rest of the summer. For them outings like these are few and far between.

Unfortunately, in the places we work kids face a multitude of risks in and around their home environments, physically, emotionally and spiritually. They're often exposed to things that they should not be. A change of scene in a safe, fun place allows some time out and also gives us a chance to



build relationships with them and their parents. Showing we care because more



importantly, **God cares**, is a tangible way of letting them know of His great love for them and how precious they are in His sight. Please pray that these truths will take hold in their hearts and remain strong as they grow into young adults. **Thank you** for the important part you play in enabling these opportunities for our kids throughout the summer break.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Luke 12: 6-7



## SINALOA MISSION TRIP

This month our ministry also extended to reach kids in rural Sinaloa! This was made possible through a local TJ church who sent a small team there on a two week mission trip. The team was led by Erik Govea, (now assistant pastor at the church), who worked fulltime with us at V&O throughout 2023. The community outreaches were well attended by local families. V&O supplied bibles and teaching materials, (hard to come by there), as well as food and treats for the kids.



Job opportunities are scarce in rural Sinaloa; most families rely heavily on field work for their income. One family in particular came to Erik's attention... Jasmin a young mother of three has muscular dystrophy, as do her twin sons, Miguel and Alberto aged 13. Their father abandoned the family when the twins were 7 and was later found murdered. Working in the heat of the fields has become increasingly difficult for Jasmin, who now struggles to walk. Access to health care services in this area are extremely limited, so prayers and help from the local church have been very important to her. Recently we were able to set up a plan to send funds monthly to help cover some of the family's food and medical expenses for the next year at least. For this Jasmin is very grateful to you all.



## KIDS SUMMER CAMP is looming up fast!

This year (as in the previous), we're partnering with Youth Pastor Daniel Ratz and his team to help sponsor kids aged 8-12 to summer camp at Rancho del Cielo (Heaven's Ranch), in Rosarito from Aug 11-13. The cost to sponsor a child is \$50. If you would like to contribute to this, please specify by writing "Kid's Camp" with any donation you send to V&O. THANKS SO MUCH!

On behalf of us all at V&O,

*God bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you...*

*Joyce & Philip*