

# SNAP-SHOTS

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In February this year we began our sewing classes again, this time in a small community center in Cañon Carretas. "Ben's Kitchen" was founded a number of years ago by an American couple who lost their teenage son Ben, as the result of a tragic accident. Ben loved coming to Tijuana on mission trips and also loved to cook. In his memory, Ben's parents, their church, and others began supporting the work at Ben's Kitchen which is directed by Dave Hessler and his wife Petra. Among other things, Ben's kitchen provides breakfasts to kids, transport to school, free Wi-Fi, and a place for homework. It's been a blessing to the poor community it's located in near the dump where many of the locals work. Also in February, Pastors Jorge and Maguie Garcia who lead a church in central Tijuana began coming on Fridays. Their focus is investing in children. Each week they bring a lively message from the Bible to the kids and parents gathered there, of which the number has been growing! V&O has been helping to support their visits by providing \$ for materials, snacks, and prizes etc. It's been a great encouragement to see the kids, (and parents), learning and participating in the lessons each week, making Fridays at Ben's Kitchen a weekly highlight for everyone involved. Some of the people in Cañon Carretas have been known to us at V&O for years and others are new. The following are 3 families we would like to introduce and share a little of how you have been helping to make a difference in their lives...



*Pastora Maguie (dressed as a lion), teaching the kids.*



*Jose passing out Bible activity booklets on Easter week.*



*The kids hug Pastors Jorge and Maguie.*



*Jesus with a prize he received for learning his memory verses.*



*Jesus with his dad at Christmas time in 2018*

**JESUS** is 8 years old and has a heart condition. His lips and fingers are often a bluish color and he loses his breath easily. A few weeks ago, he was rushed to hospital. He is back home again but needs oxygen at times now. Ideally he should be having more monitoring, treatment, and surgery, but his home life complicates things. His mom is addicted to drugs and drifts in and out of his life. His dad, a man of simple means, works long hours at the dump. Although a loving dad doing the best he can to raise Jesús, he also has a few issues of his own. Several good people have tried to help, but due to the instability and complex twists and turns in this case, it's difficult. Despite all this however, Jesús has to be one of the happiest kids we've ever met! We've even sometimes wondered if maybe he's an angel! His constant smile, laughter and love is infectious and inspiring! Those at Ben's Kitchen and neighbors in his barrio continue to care, pray and lookout for him and his dad. Thank you for enabling us to be there to offer our help as well. Please continue to keep Jesus and his situation in your prayers!

**SERGIO**

Some of you may remember Sergio and his family from a few years back. Sergio fell off a building while working on a construction job. He sustained a head injury and lost 90% of his hearing. With no compensation or insurance, it's been tough for him to support his family since, but it hasn't stopped him. He is often found around the area working odd jobs. The pay is usually minimal and being the good-natured type that he is, he's taken advantage of at times.



**2017**  
Sergio & Yolanda, with sons David and baby Oscar. Triplets; Perla, Kimberly, Alejandra and big sister Maria in front.

A few weeks ago Hortencia arranged for Sergio to see a specialist who confirmed his hearing loss is permanent, which was not great news, but does mean he's now eligible for a disability benefit. Hortencia is assisting him to apply, as it would be a real help for him and his family. Sergio has been very grateful for the assistance (making appointments, transport, advocacy etc.), to make this



possible. He is also thankful to you for your prayers and your part in helping his family through several medical crises over the years... the premature birth of triplet daughters in 2012, emergency surgery for son David (born with a congenital abnormality), in 2014, Sergio's accident in 2017, and the numerous groceries, meals, school supplies, Christmas toys etc. in between and since.

**JESSICA**

Jessica is raising 3 kids on her own. Her husband disappeared from their neighborhood some years ago, reason still unknown. (Not an uncommon occurrence in poor neighborhoods). Her eldest son Jonathan (15) remembers Pastor Von's ministry days from when he was small. He hasn't been to school for a while as he and his mom take turns working and looking after his sisters. Up until recently, Jessica had been working at the dump scavenging for aluminum and other metals to sell. In order to do this, she has to pay a fee and sometimes the fee outweighs the profit. Since beginning in our Tues. sewing class, Jessica has learned quickly and now excels in her sewing skills. She has been making items for our ministry, which she is paid for. She is so happy she hasn't had to work at the dump! Soon she will receive a machine from V&O which will enable her to set up her own business making alterations and items to sell at the local markets. She is extremely grateful for this opportunity and gives thanks to God and all those who are helping to make this difference for her and her family.



*"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does it's work." Eph. 4:16*

**Thank you again** for being a part of this important work of demonstrating God's love and making a difference for Christ in the lives of the people we serve in the neighborhoods of Tijuana! Until next month, God's blessings to you! from all of us working across the border,

*Joyce, Philip & Hortencia*

*For we are co-workers in God's service, you are God's field, God's building. 1 cor. 3:9*