

# SNAP-SHOTS

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*Grandparents raising grandchildren...* a growing trend since the mid 1990s. The reasons are many and nearly all of them unfortunate. In the communities we work in, the numbers are higher than average. Some of the “grandfamilies” we work with, have been known to us for years and others are new to finding themselves in this challenging position. All are unsung heroes, and the following few represent many.



**Maria de la Luz**

with Dylan 8, & Ethan 7.



Feb. 2022

Very happy with belated Christmas gifts, (from V&O).



Waving goodbye to Hortencia and her driver.



Photos of Maria's husband and daughter.

In February this year, Hortencia received a phone call from a concerned friend of Maria's. Hesitating at first, (as Maria lived outside the area we usually work in), Hortencia listened, then decided to make an exception to “go the extra miles” and pay the family a visit. Less than a month apart, Maria had lost her husband to COVID, and then her daughter, a single mom, to Leukemia. Dealing with the grief, two funerals and the loss of income, Maria was now struggling to provide for herself and her two young grandsons. When Hortencia arrived, they were almost completely out of food. Her visit was an answer to prayer.

Maria has since found work cleaning houses and sells whatever she can at local markets to make ends meet. She has been doing ok, but nonetheless, is *most grateful* to know that she can call on V&O for help when she needs to.



**Tereso & Patricia**

Happy with food they bought with a grocery card from V&O.



A week later...

Hortencia and the team bring ice-cream for all, and a new stove!



Kids enjoying their ice-cream.

Patricia with new stove, in box.

**GRACIAS!**

Tereso, (who featured in last month's SS), and his wife Patricia are raising 6 grandchildren, (ages 3-11). Although they have some financial help from one son, (a construction worker), challenges are many! Their home is very small, located in a dangerous neighborhood, and does not have easy access to water or electricity. Patricia also has significant health issues. This month their small gas stove blew up, so they were using a somewhat dangerous looking alternative. Thanks to funds available, we were able to buy a new stove and are working on helping to get the kids back into their local schools. It's been over two years, new uniforms are required and spaces are limited, so prayers are needed!



**MARI**  
& granddaughters,  
Jenifer and Paola.

Mari has been raising 4 of her grandchildren since her daughter and one of her sons were killed 8 years ago, (through drug related violence). At the time she had also just lost her husband to a heart attack. It was almost more than she could bear. However, drawing on her faith, Mari and her younger daughter Dulce, who suffered from a severe form of arthritis, took on the task of raising the kids, (aged 3-8). They started a small business cooking and selling food to provide for the family. Although their situation has been very challenging, they've seen God's hand at work helping to provide for them through people from their church, V&O ministry and others who have prayed, encouraged and supported them along the way.



Jenifer helps Mari fill in a missing person's report for Cristofer who disappeared for several days. (Mari is unable to read or write).

Last year sadly, (although for her, gladly) Dulce at age 32, went home to be with the Lord. Her steadfast faith and determination, despite suffering from a debilitating disease, left a lasting impression on her nephews and nieces. Last year also, Cristofer 16, went to live in a home for troubled teens. Trauma he experienced in early childhood, began to play out in troubling behaviour over the last few years, causing Mari to seek professional help. Mari continues to raise the three younger kids who all attend school and now also help her with the business. **She is forever grateful to all of you who help to support her and her family, and the many others like them!**

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27

**BACK TO SCHOOL!**



200 school supply packs delivered, another 200 to go!



Dylan & Ethan

Excited for school!



A BIG THANKS to 3 Crosses Church, Castro Valley CA, for donating a van to transport the kids at Esperanza Orphanage to school. Director Laura had been using her own car, making multiple trips to get everyone there and back each day. **GRACIAS!!**



V&O helpers, Victor & big brother Daniel, packing pencil cases.

Gospel message cards included with supplies.



Kathia teaching the kids in Lagunitas.



After helping kids who needed major dental work done this month, we decided it would be a good idea to do some presentations in the barrios about the importance of looking after our teeth!

...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Mt.5:16

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH US!

Joyce, Philip & Hortencia on behalf of the V&O Team!