

SNAP-SHOTS

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Nowadays orphanages in Mexico are more regulated than they used to be. After some high-profile cases of abuse and neglect in recent years, the government clamped down, making it more difficult to operate independently in an effort to stop individuals and groups with dubious motives. This of course was a good thing, but at the same time made it more difficult for those genuinely trying to provide a safe home for vulnerable kids. With the extra regulations and requirements to meet on stretched budgets, some shut down and others scaled down in size.

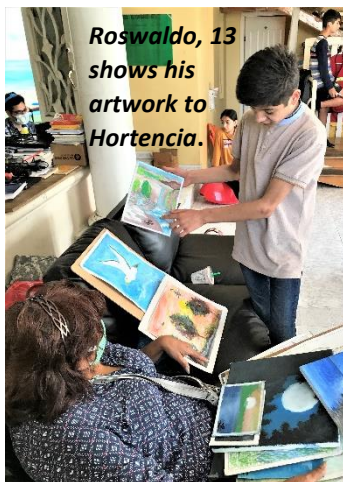
Although some still operate under the radar, for the most part the new rules led to improvements in facilities and care for the kids.

For outsiders, visiting the kids also became more regulated, and since COVID even more so. We're thankful we've been able to keep visiting the kids in the 4 orphanages we work with. Each has around 20 kids. They all operate a little differently and some have more resources than others. All have several kids with learning disabilities and/or emotional, behavioral problems that require extra attention. At two of them we can only interact with the kids outside, through the fence. At the other two we are allowed in, provided we wear masks etc. Most of the kids in these orphanages



Jaime, (in background) & Hortencia, (in foreground), talk with the kids...

while they sip on smoothies from V&O.



Roswaldo, 13 shows his artwork to Hortencia.



Playing games with the kids.

have not been outside the gates since March, so our visits are usually met with excited anticipation and provide a brief but welcome break for staff. The pictures on this page were taken at Casa De Mi Familia Orphanage, where Jaime Delgadillo and his wife Masu, have been visiting and helping the kids regularly for several years.

Since COVID, Jaime has been visiting every 2nd Saturday to cook a special breakfast. This is a real treat for the kids as he brings food items they don't normally get to eat, eg. bacon and sausages with eggs, pancakes, syrup, French toast, Nutella, orange juice, chocolate milk etc. We were told by the Director that the kids sometimes lay in bed at night talking about what they are going to eat the next morning when Jaime comes! (This food is all bought with \$

sent by you who support V&O).



Jaime & Masu. (This year they became proud parents of a baby girl!)



Kids in line for Jaime's breakfast.



Jaime busy cooking.



Enjoying French toast!

We're grateful for the work Jaime & Masu do providing these kids with not only special breakfasts and fun activities, but also for being great role models, encouragers and ambassadors sharing God's Word. **Thank you** for your part in supporting their work!



Left & far left: Lupe and Hortencia pass out treat bags and memory verses to kids at Casa De Gracia Orphanage.

Right: Kids at Eunime, (orphanage for kids who have HIV), receive smoothies and treat bags from V&O.

Below far right: Pablito... many of you may remember Pablito. (His Mom died in Dec. 2018). He is 4 years old now and doing well at Eunime.



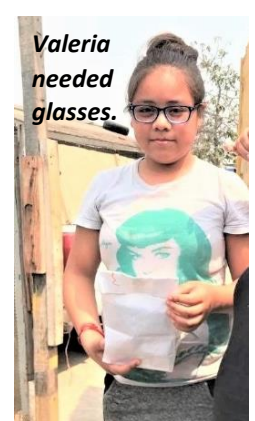
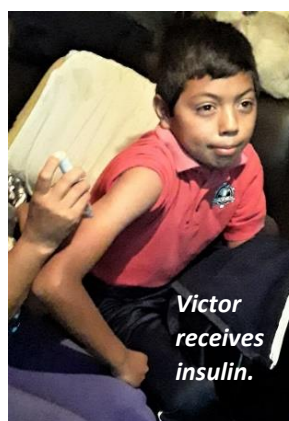
Left: Kids at Esperanza Orphanage playing a new game.

In addition to helping orphanages with food supplies, books and games, V&O helps with school supplies. During the pandemic schoolwork has been a challenge. Laptops (if they have them), are shared by multiple kids. Thanks to your help, we were able to provide 2 more laptops for the kids at Casa De Mi Familia last week.



MEDICAL MINISTRY

Some of the kids helped this month...



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas will be different this year. Without being able to hold our large community events we are working on a plan to distribute gifts to families individually. Knowing it will be a challenge, we have started organizing early! This year has been a rough one for many kids and parents. The kids **so** look forward to Christmas so we wanted to make sure they will still receive a gift from us all at V&O. Paty, Lupe and Geovanny have started working from a list to make up bags for individual families. Please keep us all in your prayers as we navigate going into the holiday season.

THANK YOU in advance for working together with us on this!

On behalf of us all working across the border, God bless! *Joyce, Philip & Hortencia.*

"For in you the fatherless find compassion" Hosea 14:3