

What do you do when you can't buy food?

The \$10,000 debt

This year is the orphanage's 45th anniversary. It is only through God's provision and your help that we have kept our doors open all these years. This winter has been very difficult; paying the bills has been a real challenge. The orphanage administrators have given much of their personal finances to help cover the debt that has now grown to \$10,000.



We know that God will provide for Carlos and Brisa

Subdirector Erika says that it is a struggle to buy basic necessities like milk, sugar, onions or tomatoes. There isn't even enough money to buy propane to cook with. Erika says this leaves her feeling like her hands are tied. "I know God is going to provide. He always does. I am used for Him to answer faster [*sic*]."

What if the debt is not taken care of?

Things will be more difficult if the bills don't get paid. In the past, there have been times when electricity, phones and water have been shut off. The government has confiscated vehicles. There has been

no propane to cook food with, no money to buy meat or milk. Please help stop this right away. There are three specific ways you can help: a monthly gift, a single donation, or through creative ideas you come up with yourself. (See contest on page 2.)

Monthly gifts are lifesavers

Consistent gifts are a lifeline; our friends who give monthly or quarterly sustain us in bleak times. Fifty-six percent of our donations in 2011 were from these amigos. We are extremely grateful for their faithfulness.

A single gift, right now

There is nothing like an unexpected gift to brighten your day. Last year we had three \$10,000 donations. Each of these was unanticipated and a true answer to prayer. Your single gift of any amount will help to eat away at our debt.

Help keep the lights on and the doors open

Will you give to the orphanage right now? You can choose a monthly donation or one-time gift. Both will help decrease our substantial debt. Give immediately through PayPal at elsauzal.org, or send check, credit card, or cash donations with the enclosed envelope. You can also contact roy.ketring@elsauzal.org for other questions.

Please join us as we continue helping hurting kids for the next 45 years, Lord willing. Muchas gracias for your love and prayers!

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45th FUNdraiser Contest


Put the FUN in fundraising for the kids!

Why? It's our 45th ANNIVERSARY and we want to demolish our debt and keep caring for kids. Help us find FUN ways to raise support.

Prizes: Exclusive NEW professionally designed El Sauzal t-shirts for four lucky winners!

How to participate: Send a CREATIVE idea to raise money for the orphanage. For each idea you submit, you'll be entered into a drawing. Submit as many as you'd like!



-  Facebook: Like us & then share your ideas
- Email: Submit to dani.bergman@elsauzal.org
- Mail: Use enclosed slip and mail in
- Online: elsauzal.org/contest

Contest ends: Friday, June 15th.

How will we contact the winners: By email or mail

Thanks for your participation! Share the contest with your friends!

Some previous fun ideas:



Elly raised money by taking pledges for her hair. Read more on page 4.



A youth group in Tacoma, WA held Battle of the Band competitions to generate support.



The Westwoods in Washington raised money at a chainsaw carving competition.

Every parent's dream? Four college freshman at one time

Teens with limited opportunities

Of the population in Mexico, only 20.7% go on to post-high school education, as opposed to 72.6% in the United States. The percentage is much smaller for kids in Mexican orphanages; most of them leave the orphanages in their mid-teens, and struggle to find a job and places to live. They do not have the funds for schooling, and many have not even finished high school. We want to assist our young adults to get training, so we give them a place to live while in school and have created a new fund specifically for post-high school education.



Both Leti and brother Abel want to be psychologists

siblings when she was an infant. She had been abused, had pneumonia, and was not expected to live. Seventeen years later, Leti wants to be a psychologist. The orphanage is currently supporting Leti's older brother Abel as he attends university to become a psychologist, as well. These teens' higher education is not only important to them; it is important to El Sauzal Orphanage.

Two psychologists in one family

This year four of our young adults—America, Jaime, Leticia and Agustin—are graduating from high school. Even though each of them has been through so much life trauma, they still have plans and are looking forward to a bright future. America wants to go to dental school, a very lengthy and expensive program, only taught in Tijuana. Jaime is planning to be a teacher, and Agustin wants to be an oceanographer.

These kids have been through a lot of hurt. Leticia, for example, came to the orphanage with her three

You hold the keys to their future

However, the orphanage does not have enough money to pay for the kids' schooling. The only way America, Jaime, Leticia and Agustin can get this advanced education is through sponsors who provide financial help. You can be the person who helps one of these four students achieve their dreams. Read more at elsauzal.org/posthighschool, or fill out and mail back the enclosed slip. If you would like to read more about Leticia's story, or the stories of any of the other kids, go to elsauzal.org and click on Sponsor. Our kids are so grateful for your help!

-by Heather Meadows



Jaime was 12 when he came to us and had very little schooling. It took him longer to graduate, but now he wants to be a teacher. We are so proud!



Agustin has fought physical disabilities all his life, but he is healthy and strong and wants to become an oceanographer.



America's mom Isela, a nanny with us, died tragically in an auto accident. Help America become a dentist.

Canadian girl chops hair to help

Do you have the faith of a child?

God asks us all to believe as little children do. To trust and depend on Him with childlike faith, with unending hope, sureness in Him. I first caught a glimpse of this faith in it's purest form this summer. A few families had lemonade stands to raise money for the Horn of Africa. A few days later, my daughter Gracie, heard an ad on the radio thanking listeners for the money that had been coming in. She gasped and, with the brightest face, said "We did it! They have enough! They said, 'Thank you'." My heart both melted and cried at the same time.

Our kids don't know yet how big a million is. How much food costs...what real need looks like. And because we do, maybe we start to exchange our childlike sureness for reality, and get discouraged.

"Bring cash to church. There WILL be kids asking for it!"

Our church started to feel God's call towards the widow and the orphan. What could we do with what was in our hands? We looked and found El Sauzal. We loved the generational roots, the legacy. We announced to the church that, as individual families, we were

encouraged to find ways to raise money over the Christmas season.

Pastor Brad jokingly told us all to bring cash to church. He said, "There WILL be kids asking for it!" So for the next few Sundays after church, there were craft tables and jewelry, Christmas ornaments and a baking competition. We had such a blessed time with our kids opening their hearts to helping the kids at El Sauzal. We were able to send over \$2,000 to the orphanage.



Seven-year-old Elly in November. She took pledges to cut off her hair.



Elly donated the cut hair to make wigs. What a doubly generous gift!

Elly gave what she had

And there was Elly. She is a beautiful mixture of sweet and serious, with green eyes and thick, light brown hair that hung to her waist. She took pledges and cut off all her beautiful hair, to her chin. She's seven. That is what was in her hands to give, and she gave with no hesitation. What a lesson our childlike children have taught us adults! What a blessing it has been and will continue to be. What amazing things does God have in store?

by Jennifer Noordam

We are so grateful for our new amigos, the Word in Action Church, in British Columbia, Canada. They are hoping to send a group of volunteers to visit us. We can't wait to meet them in person!