

She left with a smile

Your gift to our kids - a family

Every time you help the orphanage, you are giving a home and family to children who are in desperate need of love and hope. Thank you for all you do for our kids.

In September, Yasmin was adopted from El Sauzal. In the days before she left, Yasmin shared her excitement and anticipation with Mama Lilia, orphanage director Josue's wife. This is Lilia's story about Yasmin.

A brand new mom

September 13 — Yasmin climbed up the stairs to my home and knocked on the door, "Mama, can I come in?" I replied, "Of course you can, my princess." Yasmin was very emotional and nervous; this day was to be



10-year-old Yasmin was at El Sauzal sixteen months before being adopted

her first meeting with her new mom.

She returned to the orphanage a few hours later. Yasmin came up the stairs to my home and entered with a huge smile on her face, very happy. "How did it go?" I asked.

"Mommy", she said, "it was great. I now know my new mom and she was very happy to know me. She is a beautiful woman, a junior high school teacher, and very nice. She is not married. She told me that I was going to have my very own room and that she was going to buy a bicycle for me because I told her I love to ride bicycles."

Who will you miss the most?

September 14 —This was Yasmin's second visit with her new mama and she came up to my home in the same manner, very emotional. She talked about all the things her new mama told her and that her mama would bring Yasmin back to the orphanage to visit after some time had passed.

Yasmin said, "Mommy, I am leaving tomorrow and I want to thank you for caring for me so very much, for all of the affection that you gave to me, for watching over me, and for your love. I have been very happy

iQue Pasa!

Christmas 2010

being here with all of you and I will never forget you. My new mother asked me who I was going to miss the most. I answered her, "Well everyone, but I will miss most of all Papa Josue, Mama Lilia, Erika, Papa Ramon and Mama Magdalena."

Don't cry my princess

September 15 — Yasmin came up to my home at about 11:00 a.m. "Mommy can I come in?" I replied, "My princess, of course you can." She entered, her eyes full of tears, and said, "They have come for me and now I am leaving."

I asked, "Why are you crying? I don't want you to leave sad. I want you to leave us happy."

She then gave me a bear hug and began to cry again. "Mommy, it is because I am going to miss everyone so very much. Is Papa Josue here? I came to say goodbye to him and to you, and thank you for all that you have done for me, for all the love you lavished on me, and giving me everything that I needed. I am very grateful for everything, Mama, and I am never going to forget you."

I wiped away her tears, gave her a kiss on her forehead and said, "Don't cry my princess. I want you to leave us happy. Isn't this what you want, to have a family and your own mother?" She answered, "Yes." And she left me with a smile on her face.

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7-year-old sponsors 17-year-old boy

Aubrey is only 7, but is already working to make a difference in the world. Her parents Walter and Andrea are raising her to help others. As a reward for good behavior, Aubrey earns money. When her mother asked her what she wanted to do with it, Aubrey decided to send it to the orphanage; she had seen Andrea collect items for the children at El Sauzal and wanted to help them, also.



Aubrey from Washington wants to help other children

When Aubrey heard about the Sponsorship program, and a way to help for \$5 per month, she wanted to become involved. With mom Andrea's help, she signed up and chose 17-year-old Agustin to sponsor.

Read about our Featured Sponsor Child on this page. If you would like to sponsor a child of your own, visit our website at elsauzal.org/Sponsor.

Join us on Facebook

How cool is this? This morning, when I checked the Friends page, I saw pictures and comments from Ron, in California, taking Christmas presents down to El Sauzal. What a fun way to hear about others helping out.

You can join our Facebook group, "Friends of El Sauzal Orphanage". Not only can you see other people who are interested in the kids, but you can also read comments and updates, and see photos and videos. As of this morning, we have 240 friends. Also, many of the older orphanage kids, and staff members have Facebook accounts, so you can get into contact with them.

-Patty Meadows

Sponsor a child: Leticia

Name: Leticia

Nickname:
Letty

Date of Birth:
July 13, 1994

Age: 16

Hobbies: Letty likes to choreograph dances for the younger girls. She also likes to sing and compose music.

Favorite colors:
Black, white, and fuchsia.

Favorite foods:
Pizza and lasagna.

Favorite subject in school: History.

Favorite movie: "Nacho Libre".

Favorite music: Letty likes hip-hop and regueton music.

Letty was just a tiny baby, only 16 days old, when she came to El Sauzal. Her mother suffered from depression and abused her. She came to the orphanage with pneumonia and was not expected to live through the sickness. She is now 16 and last year celebrated a special time in a teen girl's life: her Quinceañera! She would love to be a lawyer when she grows up.

If you would like to sponsor Letty (or any of our other children):

Go to elsauzal.org/Sponsor to see Letty's biography and the bios of our other kids. Send your questions to Patty.Siegmund@elsauzal.org.



Leticia has grown from a sickly 16-day-old infant to a healthy 16-year-old

Well done, good and faithful servant!

This year, two of our dear friends died, and we heard of the passing of a third. These three godly men blessed us with their generosity, love and help to our children. We look forward to joining them in heaven.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His faithful servants." -Psalm 116:15

Michael E. Moore

Michael Eugene Moore, born October 16, 1946 passed away very peacefully November 28, 2010, survived by his sons, grandson, and wife Beverly. Mike, a lawyer, launched the El Sauzal Foundation, Inc. creating the ability to raise funds for the orphanage from the United States. He supplied legal advice, wisdom and encouragement for the Foundation board members. His gentle and humble spirit blessed us deeply.



Albert Cota Reyes

Albert Reyes, age 86, entered eternity to be with his Lord Jesus Christ June 2, 2010. He was a long-time friend and supporter of orphanage founders, the Espinoza family. Albert ministered alongside Ramon and Magdalena Espinoza in the early years, before there was an actual orphanage. He continued his support all these years, often bringing food and supplies at critical times. He is survived by his beloved wife Betty, 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren, all of which have also served at the orphanage. They inspired hundreds of volunteers to serve in Mexico throughout the year culminating in their annual day-after-Thanksgiving weekend mission trip. Albert will be truly missed.



Dr. Darold H. Jones

Dr. Darold H. Jones passed away December 4, 2008 at the age of 77. He served as senior pastor of three congregations in Oregon and California. In 1967, he founded Vacation Samaritans, later known as Samaritans, and led it for 37 years. The ministry took young people and adults into other countries on short-term missions. He brought hundreds to El Sauzal, and inspired many to go into missions. Darold was survived by wife Joyce, three children and seven grandchildren. He was a kind, dear friend and spread joy to those around him.



Abel & Ricardo— off to university?

Abel and Ricardo have graduated high school and are preparing to go into secondary schooling. They are awaiting placement tests that they will take this spring. Abel is hoping to go into culinary school. Ricardo is looking into being a math teacher or an architect. The schooling will be about \$500 per month for each young man, plus tuition twice a year.

The Foundation has established education accounts for both boys. Currently a portion of Abel's education is being sponsored by some of his friends in the Pacific Northwest. Ricardo has no sponsor for his education costs, but has received some funds for his account. Neither of their accounts has a balance sufficient to allow them to begin their university studies.

Would you be interested in furthering the education and establishing the future of either of these boys? If so, please email Roy Ketring, roy.ketring@elsauzal.org.

Your safety: Visiting Mexico with kids

Remember - changes at the border

Traveling into Mexico: There are tighter restrictions about what you bring into Mexico. More cars are being inspected as Mexico works to stop illegal items from entering the country. If you bring in large amounts of items, especially clothing (new and used) or building materials, you may be turned back to the US, or need to declare the items and pay an import tax.

Traveling back into the US: You are required to have a passport or a travel card (passport card, enhanced driver's license or enhanced id) to cross back into the US. You can read more at travel.state.gov/passport.

Taking my kids to Mexico

-by Eric Uber, Wildomar, CA

Eric has been deeply involved with different ministries in the Ensenada area for several years. We asked Eric how he felt about taking his kids to the orphanage.

A Parent's Perspective

Tyler, age 14, as well as my 12-year-old daughter Kylie, have been to the Orphanage several times. Tyler has done philanthropy work with me in Ensenada around twenty times over the last four years. He has connected most with a boy



Tyler hangs out with Alicia near the basketball court

Jesse (Jesus), and usually hangs out with him when he visits El Sauzal. Tyler

understands the kids don't have the luxuries and opportunities that we have here, but he also thinks the kids have it pretty good at El Sauzal compared to many other kids in Mexico.

What do your kids get out the experience?

Tyler gets several things out of visiting El Sauzal. He goes to both a multiracial church and school. I think it helps Tyler feel comfortable integrating at both. Also, because of his desire to communicate when in Mexico, he is really looking forward to taking Spanish. There are some simple luxuries he has in the US that I believe he understands more clearly — like hot water and clean restrooms. I also think Mexico helps him realize the world is much bigger and more diverse than just what he sees in California. As a parent, I am proud of both of my children for having a heart for the less fortunate, and an appreciation of Mexico.

Is it safe traveling with kids in Mexico?

I do keep an extra eye on my kids when traveling in Mexico, just as I do when I travel with them anywhere in the US. I follow the local Baja news almost daily and consider myself to be very well informed. I also travel to Baja at least once a month. I have never even heard of any charity, church or group being harmed or accosted in any way traveling to the Ensenada area, nor have I seen or had any problems in the brief drive through Tijuana headed in or out. I have yet to have even any petty crimes or incidents occur in Mexico, but have experienced plenty here in the US.

I'm not suggesting Mexico is safer, but considering the millions of residences, tens of thousands of daily border crossers, and the circumstance in which I travel to Mexico, I believe it to be statistically more probable for us to win the lottery or experience a car accident here in the US. Given these points, I am rather comfortable traveling with my kids to private destinations like the El Sauzal Orphanage.