

¡Que Pasa!

If you have two shirts

“When you have to choose between paying taxes or buying food, I feel something is very wrong and my heart hurts.

But God ordained and established this home for children and provides, and I am privileged to see kids grow up learning about Jesus. I see Jesus' love permeating through our Home and this makes it all worth the struggle.”

-Director Erika Espinoza



We don't have enough support to cover the expenses at the Home. Our financial base is down, with worldwide inflation leading to overall decreased giving. We have fewer visitors, meaning less donations of food, clothing and finances. In the meantime, our expenses continue to rise dramatically, because the Mexican government has imposed a 20% mandatory wage increase every year for the last 3 years. And just like you, we are paying much more in everyday expenses due to soaring inflation.

- Before anything else we must first pay salaries, taxes, water, electricity, medications, gasoline for transporting children to school in town (approximately \$240 dollars per week), school expenses, before purchasing food, cleaning supplies, hygiene products or any maintenance materials.
- We owe back employee taxes amounting to approximately \$2,500 dollars and approximately \$1,100 dollars in property taxes. The government adds penalties and fees to any unpaid balance.
- We have some serious plumbing repairs

needed; leaky valves, plugged up drains, etc. There is no money left over for maintenance, plumbing, painting, or hiring a maintenance person. We react when critical needs arise; like a water line pump failing.

- Our director Erika spends most of her personal salary on the children's needs. She has maxed out four personal credit cards to pay for orphanage needs. She owes the credit card banks a little over \$7,500 dollars.
- We do what we can: Erika's husband Mario has started a small enterprise where he purchases items advertised on the local Facebook page and then resales them for a profit to help with orphanage expenses. *(continued next page)*

“If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”

-Luke 31:11

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El Sauzal Foundation, Inc.

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How it happened



2017 We celebrated our 50th anniversary. Our financial support was enough to cover expenses.

2018 We were crushed when

our kids were relocated as we worked to get our license. Our expenses went up as we made necessary structural and safety updates.

2020 We were thrilled to receive our license in March. But less than two weeks later, the pandemic closed the US/Mexico borders and our doors; no visitors were coming, and our support went down. However, our expenses started to rise as we started to receive children.



2024 Today we don't have enough support to cover the expenses. Prices today are 1.29 times higher than in 2017. This means that today a dollar pays for 77.5% of what it could buy in 2017.

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Monthly giving matters



Monthly donations provide us with a reliable stream of support, helping us plan for the future and provide ongoing resources for kids. It also strengthens our ability to respond quickly to

immediate needs.

Large and small, every amount helps

Whether your monthly gift is small or larger, every dollar counts! By committing to a monthly donation, you're helping ensure that our kids receive the food, education, and emotional and spiritual support they need to thrive.

Together it adds up

When you contribute monthly, you are making a sustainable investment that ensures our Home's longevity and allows us to plan for the future with confidence. Together, we can provide ongoing support that will make a difference in their lives for years to come. *(continued next page)*

Let's repair and strengthen

Would you help repair and strengthen our financial foundation? Consider giving monthly and joining our support at one of the levels/tiers below. You can donate using the QR code or the donation slip inside.



Level/Tier	Amount
Stone	<\$25
Mortar	\$25
Wall	\$50
Cornerstone	\$100
Bedrock	>\$250

On a spiritual journey

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

We received an email recently from Lori, a supporter of many years:

My husband and I are reviewing the ministries that we contribute to and are asking for some specifics regarding how the children are instructed in the Christian faith. Would you be able to provide us with some information on that?



Jesus Eduardo on his way to church with his Bible and a smile!

As a Home we go to church, Casa Del Banquete, where there is a strong emphasis on children's and youth biblical education. Our children enjoy participating in the events taking place in our church; they go to Sunday school, worship in Sunday services, and attend the children's and youth weekly and special events.

At our home we actively share with our kids about Jesus' love, read the Bible, and the kids memorize Scripture. The nannies have devotionals in the dorms, pray with the children, and have spiritual conversations with them. Our kids are also taught about baptism and the ones that choose to get baptized.

This is a very important question. All the children are treated with love and respect as a first example of Jesus' absolute love for us. We share the good news of salvation. We are pleased to share that all our children have chosen to accept Jesus.

Papa Ramon founded our Home on this verse, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) It is our foundation.

¡Que Pasa! 

Joyful teenagers? ¡Aleluia!

by Danielle Bergman

Over the years, El Sauzal Home for Children has seen many teenagers come through the doors. The teenage years bring unique challenges of their own; one pattern we have seen is that teenagers often come with high walls up around their hearts. Some of the experiences these young people have endured create deep wounds. They have often been hurt and mistreated by the only adults they have known. Understandably, they may arrive protective of their siblings and lacking trust towards others, especially adults.

Of course this is hard to witness, and sometimes its hard to know how to help these special youth learn to trust again. However, over the last few years we have had the privilege, during our visits to El Sauzal Home for Children, to get to know two such young ladies. Both of these girls, Vanessa and Laura, were shy, reserved, and very guarded the first time that we met them. They did not talk or interact much, and they tended to stay on the sidelines during organized group activities. This year,

however, was different while our church group was at the Home. This year, we got to observe the girls laughing, playing, and genuinely enjoying time with the nannies, the staff, each other, and our church group members. We saw joy and trust, and confidence blossoming within them! What a beautiful sight it was!

Being able to witness, even just a part of this transformation in these two young ladies is such a blessing. It is a reminder of what being surrounded by love and shown healthy affection can do for the children and youth that enter our gates of the El Sauzal Home for Children.

Of course, we know that full healing takes time, and we know that the journey is not yet complete for either Valeria or Linnea. But we can trust that the Lord is working to heal and restore them through the security they now have in this El Sauzal Family. Praise the Lord!

Danielle attends Tacoma Christian Reformed Community Church, in Tacoma, Washington.



The girls with Danielle and her mom Naomi. Danielle has been involved at El Sauzal since she was a teen. She is passionate about working with youth and serving at El Sauzal.

We say joy and trust, and confidence blossoming within them! What a beautiful sight!



Danielle with 10-year-old Sofia



My home away from home

by Heather Kim

Everyone, at any age, will be affected when they visit



Heather came on her first work trip when she was 7-years-old; she wanted to help.

Have you been considering visiting our Home, but have been hesitant because of trying to figure out childcare for your kids while you would be gone? I just wanted to share my experience as someone who grew up visiting the Home, and hopefully encourage you to consider bringing your kids with you.

My mom has been bringing me to visit El

Sauzal Home for Children since I was a baby (both while she was pregnant and as a four month old). I have visited the Home more times than I can count— as a kid, a teenager, and an adult. This has provided me with many unique opportunities to create special relationships with the kids and staff at the Home.

As a child, I made close friendships with kids around my age that were at the Home, both the worker's kids and those brought to the Home. Considering that it is a Home for Children, there are always games to be played, books to be read, movies to be watched.



Heather at 19-years-old, playing with kids

As children we tend to be less nervous to look or sound silly, so it's so easy to play with other kids, even if the language isn't the same. We always found games to play. I had a wonderful time visiting and grew to really love the Home.

Now I appreciate that my situation was a little bit different than yours might be—not everyone is planning to go multiple times (though we LOVE it when people do!). But even with this in mind, growing up visiting this Home was profoundly impactful for me. Not only did I gain another family in Mexico, but I was impacted at a young age by seeing how God works all over the world—in different cultures and circumstances.

Everyone, at any age, will be affected by this when they visit, but sharing that with children and allowing it to help shape their view of the world and of God is particularly special. I would encourage you to VISIT, and bring your kids.

It blesses the Home, and it will bless you.

Heather and James attend Roots Community Church in Seattle, Washington.



Heather with Papa Ramon. The staff love when kids come to visit.



Heather and her husband James live in Washington state. She is a pharmacist and board member of El Sauzal Foundation.

My decision to increase giving

by Ron Hill

In January, my wife and I made a prayerful and conscious decision to increase our monthly giving to El Sauzal by 20%. Why 20%? Although I didn't receive a 20% raise, I had observed an increase in inflation and a reduction in the purchasing power of both the dollar and the peso by about that amount over the past two years. Moreover, I had firsthand knowledge that the orphanage was under ever-increasing financial pressures.

In addition to our monthly giving, Joan and I also make a substantial contribution near the end of each year. This is because I know that the Home sees a decrease in monthly donations during a season of their greatest need. This gift is sent to the home in preparation for an annual shopping trip that I have been making for more than 15 years along with my brother-in-law.

Our first exposure, years ago, to this annual need was a letter sent to our Board Chairman Emeritus, Roy Ketring, whom Erika also calls Abuelito. Roy shared a letter detailing the dire straits the Home was facing, including the inability to afford necessities like toothpaste and toilet paper. I was called, and I was convicted, and I have been going ever since.

Currently, preparations are under way for this year's trip in early December. We'll be chauffeuring Erika all over Ensenada: to La Canasta carniceria (meat store), Dax grandes almacenes (department store), even to Smart & Final as well as several other stores. At the end of the day, we take Erika and her husband out for a nice meal to minister to them directly. While I may not be able to sit down with each child or nanny, I can spend my limited time with Erika, providing her with a knowing and loving ear, listening to her concerns, and discovering how best to pray for the home's needs.

I am reminded of Acts 20:35:

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (NASB)

I encourage you to assess your giving and determine if today is the right day and if El Sauzal is the right place for you to give exceptionally, to give regularly, or to increase your donation.

Ron and Joan attend Grace Church of Flagstaff in Flagstaff, Arizona.



Joan and Ron attending a quinceañera in January for two of our young women

I was called, and I was convicted, and I have been going ever since.



Vanessa and Laura's quinceañera in January. These are the young women Danielle described on page 4.

Helping bring smiles

by Roy Ketring



We are blessed to have a clinic area with dental equipment and supplies at our Home. We are doubly blessed to have a member of our family Dr. Elizabeth “Eli” River Kachirisky serving our children and staff with dental care. Eli also serves an indigenous group of people in the

Dr. Eli is passionate about using her dental skills to share the love of Jesus with those who are hurting. We are blessed that she is part of our family.

community - the Mixtecos, as well as at a nearby orphanage called Estado 29. Eli’s work and higher education is sponsored by Placentia Presbyterian Church. She will complete her studies in January to become a dental surgeon and will be licensed mid-2025. She is an excellent dentist, and a strong Christian whose heart is to serve children.

Eli has been treating children at our Home and from Estado 29 with more extensive dental needs. Estado 29 has found sponsors to cover the cost of their kids' dental care.

Eli has identified eight youth, Sofia, Adanesne, Everado, Rufellel, Karen, Alberto, Melanie, Efrain from our Home who have critical orthodontic needs. We are struggling to meet our Home’s operational needs and have no means to pay for the extensive dental care for our kids. Gracias



Sofia and her sister Melanie, below right, came to our Home in 2020. Both girls need extensive dental work that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to receive before arriving.

a Dios two other children from our Home already have dental sponsors.

Eli will assist the orthodontist saving the cost of an assistant. Cost varies for each child depending on how extensive the need is.

Here is an example of one of our girl’s dental needs. She has a Class II bite to be corrected. It is due to genetics and slow growth of the maxilla.



Melanie has a sweet, innocent smile, that she doesn't always share.

Upon diagnosis from the studies to analyze she could also need an orthopedic expansion. She is really close to an age where her bone growing condition will not be able to be directed with orthopedic apparatus only with surgery.

If you would like to sponsor a smile, contact Roy.Ketring@elsauzal.org. We will furnish you with a complete analysis of the proposed dental care.

Roy attends Placentia Presbyterian Church in Placentia, California.

- Estimated initial cost varies from \$1620 to \$1820 dollars.
- Orthodontic treatments for 30 months, \$82 dollars per month = \$2,460
- If a youth needs an orthopedic stage of treatment, 40 months, \$82 dollars per month = \$3,280
- A dental sponsor’s total cost would vary from approximately \$4,100 over 30 months to \$5100 over 40 months.

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Don says you can help

*Dear Friends
and Supporters
of the Home,*

POST CARD
FOR CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

I am sending you this message in the hopes that it will encourage you to organize an event of your own to support El Sauzal Home. In a previous article, I suggested ways that we might coordinate events to raise support money. The idea was to have many "little" events, that when added together could make a significant impact.

This fall, my church, Placentia Presbyterian Church, in response to a need, organized a recycling of soda cans, plastic bottles and crv glass. Our mission committee's responsibility was to haul the collectibles to the recycling center. We announced the event a month

ahead of time and used the last 2 weeks to make "the big push."

Our efforts were rewarded with a sizable \$584.30. Not an astronomical amount but when added to yours, and yours and yours, it could be.

So, what is your fundraising event? When, on the calendar, is it scheduled?

Blessings to you and prayers for the children.

Don

Placentia Presbyterian Church, California



*Feliz
Navidad y
Prospero
Año Nuevo*