

“... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

Grace of Giving



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Casa Hogar Galilea

by Anita Richter

I went on the Grace of Giving mission trip to Monclova, Mexico during spring break earlier this year. Our purpose then was to build a house for a needy family; our lodging was a children's home, Casa Hogar Galilea. This home is one of the regular recipients of food and supplies donated by Grace of Giving.

Based on what I saw while I was there, I can attest to the fact that everything provided by Grace of Giving goes to good use; the kids eat well and nothing is wasted.

Galilea is currently home to 18 children, ages 5 months to 18 years. God has placed Monclova and these kids on my heart--it is such a special place to me. I returned to Casa Hogar Galilea in June for two weeks just to get to know the people there better and to help out a little. The place is like one big family, with lots of love to go around. The kids are so wonderful. Despite coming from less-than-ideal circumstances, they are well-behaved, happy, and respectful--a real joy to be around! They spend their days like most American children--going to school, doing chores, and playing. The kids were entranced by two chickens that arrived while I was there. As you can see in the picture, watching the birds is a favorite pastime! I am hoping to help Galilea acquire some goats to produce milk and meat, and if they can obtain seeds and supplies for a garden, they could have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Betty, the Casa Hogar Galilea director, lives day-to-day by faith that the kids' needs will be met. Because Galilea is a Christian home, it gets very little government help (even

though the government places the children with her). She has some volunteers from the community that help with daily operations, but this can be sporadic, so it is just her and a few other adults dedicated to caring for the children.

Despite the pressures, Betty is always welcoming, always loving and encouraging each child, and always faithful in seeing that the children's physical and spiritual needs are met. She does a terrific job running Galilea, but she is a very busy woman!

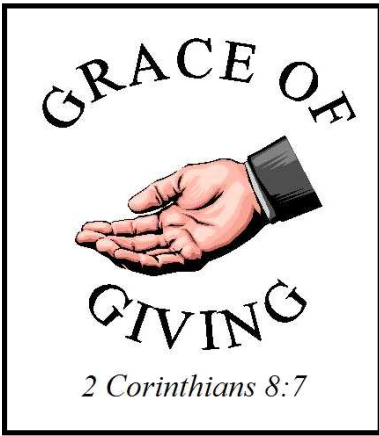
Galilea does have many needs still, beyond what Grace of Giving can provide. For example, they could use a large van for transporting the children, so that trips don't require that two or three cars be taken. If improvements could be made to the water tanks, better water pressure would be available. Electrical work needs to be done throughout to improve the safety in the homes. The houses are due to be painted, but Betty needs paint and painting supplies to be able to accomplish even this simple improvement. These are but a few of the needs I became aware of during my stay; some are big and some are small, but all are important. Hopefully over time these

needs can be met too, so that Galilea can better serve the children.

I ask you to pray for everyone at Galilea. Through their success, God is glorified.

Editor's note: Anita Richter and her husband Travis are Grace of Giving supporters from First Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas.





Grace of Giving
P.O. Box 481
Clifton, TX 76634



Please visit our website!
www.graceofgiving.org

Grace of Giving

Grace of Giving is a non-profit, charitable organization that is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Accordingly, the Internal Revenue Service has advised that all contributions to Grace of Giving may be deducted for federal income tax purposes as specified in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our priorities for using your gifts are to purchase food and to purchase fuel to deliver the food. The officers of Grace of Giving accept no compensation for their services and currently cover all of their travel expenses.

Officers

Greg Beard — President & Treasurer
Dara Beard — Vice President
Pastor Keith Blanton — Secretary

Memorials & Acknowledgements

Grace of Giving recently received a gift from our brothers in the Adult I Men's Sunday School class at First Baptist Church of Clifton in honor of their class teacher, Harold Leigh.

Grace of Giving's August/September activities are dedicated to our friend and brother Harold. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in his honor.

Fall Building Trip - Urgent Need!!

As reported to you in July, the dates for our fall building trip will be October 11-17, 2009. The good news is that we have sufficient funds currently in hand to pay for two of the three houses that we are planning to build.

The bad news is that, as we print this newsletter, we are still almost **\$1,400** short of the amount needed to purchase the materials for the third house.

The people in Acuña that acquire our materials asked that we provide the remaining funds for the three houses to them on August 18th. We have missed that deadline for the third house, but we are confident that we can still proceed with three houses if we can get the remaining

funds quickly.

We need your help if we are going to build three houses this year!!

Please ask God whether He would have you contribute to the Grace of Giving building program for 2009.

Money aside, please continue to include the need for laborers for our building trip in your daily prayers, and also join us in praying that there will be no security issues that might require cancelling the trip altogether. So far, all reports we have received from Acuña/Jimenez indicate that things remain very calm there.

Financial Report

Year-to-date Grace of Giving has received contributions totaling \$63,434. Of this total, \$15,679 was designated for non-food purposes, leaving \$47,755 for food purchases.

Through August, the food delivered to our ministry partners cost \$47,862.

As you can see, coupling these contributions with a bit of cash on hand at the beginning of the year has enabled us so far this year to pay for all of our food purchases with funds contributed for that purpose. However, like many charitable organizations, our contributions have fallen off a bit as of late.

We are now making commitments for the month of September, and we are proceeding in faith that sufficient contributions will come to meet those commitments.

Please join us in praying that God will meet this need. Thank you for your support so far in 2009!

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

Special thanks to Keith and Hannah Blanton for making the August food delivery trip!!