



It is possible to create a world in which fewer innocent children suffer. Camus

30 years of loving children.

2nd Quarter 2005

## Cornerstone Day!

Cornerstone Church Delivers Well Over a Metric Ton of Food

Cornerstone Church in San Clemente, CA participated in the Food for Kids program again for the 6th straight year, and took a huge load of food across the border on June 11. It was again one of those great days with the kids. The folks at Cornerstone collected possibly the most food they've gathered yet--somewhere around 3,000 pounds. The goal was a metric ton, which is 2,200 pounds, so let's call Guinness and get this into the record book.

Not only that, but there was more Velveeta cheese in their load than we've ever seen a group deliver. Apparently the Cornerstone folks had "V" hand-sign they'd flash to each other in grocery stores to remind themselves to get the V-cheese. You have no idea how the children look forward to the cheese--they actually bring Rosenda flowers on quesadilla days.



Tabitha Giacomara brings home the bacon and weathers the aggressive Mexican traffic...

We had around 20 volunteers going with us, started with 7 vehicles; lost one before we even started when Olivia, our staffer, dropped her car remote in the sink at Carl's Jr., freezing her alarm system in siren mode, disabling the starter. We almost lost another when keys were locked in the car at Chuy's dining room, and then we almost lost a third when Tabitha (above pic) had her run in with a mysterious red van. Tabitha just disappeared at one point on the way back and then reappeared right before the border crossing. Turns out she was sideswiped and run off the road by a red van--hit and run. Minor damage, but scary. When we expressed how sorry we were that she'd gotten hit, she simply said, "I'm not taking that van to heaven with me anyway..."

Tabitha was our hero that day.



Maria Scarlett, a hairdresser, got personal with haircuts for kids.

Thanks to every one at Cornerstone for collecting food, flashing that "V" sign, and coming with us to feed our kids. Those of you who've been down with us know how much all this is appreciated in the neighborhoods we serve. Thanks to Pastor Ron Sukut for continuing to make this an important event at Cornerstone and thanks to Darryl and Paula McFann for doing all the coordination work for these last few years. You all rock! And you're making a real difference in the lives of these kids.



Cornerstone guys buying ice cream, helado, for everyone in the neighborhood.

## Graduation Day!

Genaro Vasquez School Graduates the 1999-2005 Class

School's out for summer both in Mexico and the States. We were invited to attend the *generacion*, graduation, ceremonies at Genaro Vasquez school in the colonias. This is the school where we've built a dining room and computer lab, so it was great to see the kids graduate. Six classes, 1st through 6th grade each costumed in themes from traditional Mexican to Polynesian to animal characters to formal for the graduating 6th grade, each did a choreographed dance number as part of the ceremonies. The passing of the colors of the Mexican flag from the 6th to 5th grade was military in its precision and very moving. The kids were beautiful, and we were just glad to be a part of it all.



The graduating class in traditional dance and formal attire.

# Olive Crest and COTA

## Partnering with Olive Crest for US Kids

One of our goals for this year is to begin working again with U.S. children. One immediate way we'll be helping domestically will be through a partnership with Olive Crest, a 30-year-old CA-based foster, adoption, and abuse sheltering organization. Olive Crest operates 17 residential homes, foster family and adoption agencies, and a residential treatment center for high risk youth throughout CA, Las Vegas and Seattle, providing shelter, care, and professional treatment to more than 35,000 children and families.



For their foster and abused/sheltered children, we will be helping by providing Rainbow Backpacks full of school supplies just as we do for kids in Mexico. We're excited about this partnership, because one of our strategies in the U.S. is not to recreate wheels, but to identify solid agencies and orgs doing great work for kids and help them do their work better. Olive Crest is a perfect partner in this work. Rossy Bustillos, at Olive Crest wrote to me, "I'm very excited about the collaboration of our two organizations to provide school supplies for our kids. The idea of the Rainbow Box is awesome! Our kids would love them! We have plenty of elementary-aged kids and quite a few older

teenagers from 13-18 years of age. We appreciate ANYTHING and EVERYTHING you can do!"

The partnership means we need to beef up the number of backpacks we produce this year. Typically we do 400-500 packs, and last year we did 400 for Mexico alone. If we can make sure we at least get to 500, we can send up to a hundred to Olive Crest.

Please consider preparing a Rainbow Backpack and sending it along to us. If you can get a group together from your church, neighborhood or other organization and have a school supply party, so much the better. If you just want to pick up some raw school supplies or empty backpacks, all is welcome. You can go to [www.americaschildren.org](http://www.americaschildren.org) and hit the Rainbow Box link for more info and what to include in your backpack. You can also go to [www.olivecrest.org](http://www.olivecrest.org) for more about Olive Crest. Call Dave for more details. 949-709-0673.

## In Other News...

● **Independent Charities of America**, a national association of non-profit organizations has awarded COTA with its "Best In America" seal. The ICA states, "Of the 50,000 + charities that participate in the Combined Federal Campaigns, only about 1,500...will have the opportunity to display this "Best In America" seal of approval. Your organization is one of those chosen few. The ICA is acknowledged as the most

rigorous in the application of (industry) standards in conjunction with its own additional tests. Your organization has documented that it meets those standards and tests. Your recognition is well deserved." We're certainly happy to have this endorsement in order to encourage more people to help our kids.



● **In addition to this newsletter**, we're starting a COTA email news list that will bring more immediate news and photos via email. I have only a few email addresses for our overall mailing list, so if you'd like to be included, just email me at [dave@americaschildren.org](mailto:dave@americaschildren.org) and ask to be in the loop.

## Parting Shots

● **Couldn't resist one more shot...** These three beat the heat by jumping into one of the water barrels that our workers were using for the stucco project at the ejido school. With kids, everything's a game--we should be taking notes.



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### Car Donation Program

You can click on this icon on our website or call the toll-free number, and a tow-truck will be there before you can say Food for Kids!



One Child is the quarterly newsletter of Children of The Americas.

Our work began in Santa Teresita Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico on March 31, 1974. Paul Weiss and his friends founded an interfaith organization, Los Ninos, to help the girls of Santa Teresita. The work and the dream grew and by January, 1984, a new structure was needed. Children of The Americas was created to match the work with the expanding dream to reach children throughout our hemisphere, but especially kids in the US and Mexico. Help us continue to create hope, one child at a time.

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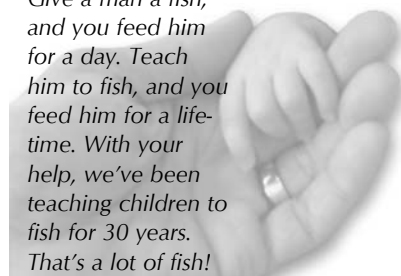
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Please Join us at TAM every morning for two minutes of prayer for all children.

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