



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

30 years of loving children.

2nd Quarter 2007

New Dining Room Open!

The Dining Room at Ejido Cardenas Officially Opens at Its New Location on 4/16/07

The dining room in Ejido Cardenas that was feeding children for almost two years from Marcela Avalos' home, has officially moved and reopened at the Maria Antonio Melendrez School. Operating the dining room from the school gives us a much more central location to which the children are going every school day, so it will be much more efficient and convenient for the children, many of whom walk miles across the hills to get to school.



All ready for breakfast, a group of children in their school uniforms are very excited and hungry.

brand new stove and other kitchen needs: pots, pans, cups, dishes, tubs, etc. We installed a new secure door lock and most importantly, potable water, which will be provided through a leased tank refilled bi-weekly as there are no utilities running to the school.

A dedicated group of mothers from the surrounding neighborhoods has coalesced around our dining room director, Leti Garcia, to serve the children every day.



Leti Garcia and some helpers hard at work getting everything ready for the kids.

Many thanks to Mike Luke and Bill Frey of Open Arms Outreach, Laguna Hills, CA, who provided enough funds for food for the initial months of April and May, part of which we delivered on opening day, as you can see from the photos. On this

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Breakfast at the new ejido school dining room.

We'll also be able to reach children who couldn't make it to the old location.

Getting the dining room ready for opening has taken several months as an old classroom needed to be completely

refurbished for food serving, including having new concrete laid on the floor and wall treatment. COTA provided tables and chairs and a

Cornerstone Church Delivers

Cornerstone Church, San Clemente, CA, Delivers Ton of Food

One of our staunchest, annual allies, Cornerstone Church in San Clemente, CA. Cornerstone has been a great supporter over the years and once again gathered a solid ton of food for the dining rooms and delivered it June 9th.

Many thanks to Pastor Ron Sukut and everyone at Cornerstone for this great gift. They are also the Velveeta cheese champions-- always getting a great stack of those gold bricks for the kids.



Katie Sinclair, with mom Delena looking on, handing Darryl McFann a box of food as big as she is as we load up at Cornerstone.

It was another picture perfect day as we unloaded most of the food at Chuy's dining room for storage and eventual distribution to our other dining rooms. From there, we traveled to the ejido school, the site of our newest dining room where the crew had prepared lunch for us and about 60 children who were waiting for us to arrive. Delena Sinclair and her two children had brought bottles of soap bubbles and lollypops, so they were mobbed by the children--a very festive atmosphere all around.

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New Dining Room at Ejido School

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opening day, over 180 children were fed as part of the fiesta--a special treat: quesadillas and beans along with drinkable oatmeal. On a regular basis, 70 to 80 kids, the 10 or so neediest from each class will be fed daily starting at 7:30 AM before classes begin.

We met with teachers and Principal Alberto Cabrera, who greatly thanks us all at COTA for helping their children. It was another great day with the kids. As maintaining a dining room is a big commitment, any of you who would like to



All lined up and ready to eat at new dining room.



Dave Brisbin helping unload food from the Open Arms Outreach organization.



Mike Morgan sharing food and a moment with a happy little nina.

"adopt" and support the new dining room, please consider helping us with food, water, and other needs through your donations or directly with materials. We can really use the help, and the kids are loving it, of course. ■



Here they are--the real heroes: Leti and her ayudantes (helpers) posing in front of the new stove.

Cornerstone Church and the Kids

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There was another adventure at the border trying to get home: it was so congested that all the access routes were being closed forcing us to drive around downtown Tijuana looking for other ways across. After about two and a half hours, we finally succeeded. I saw more of Tijuana than I have in a long time and a few new streets to be sure. Delena, driving with her children, was a real

trooper weaving through traffic and all those wonderful traffic circles... We got 'er done. ■



The happy group of food deliverers before lift-off in the Comerstone parking lot.



Olivia Morentin, our staffer in Mexico, and Dave presented with Chuy's homemade "nopales." Cactus salad made from cactus growing right on her property.



Darryl McFann brings in the heavy load with Nathan Sinclair and Sharon Harris helping.



Katie and Nathan found duck chicks at Chuy's.



Delena Sinclair with a really big load at Chuy's.



Chuy and one of her helpers, Juanita, in front of a whole lot of food for June and July.



Delena mobbed by kids looking for lollipops, soap bubbles, and doughnuts.

Home Building in Central Baja

COTA Finishes Construction on New Home for Family with 15 Children

From Wednesday to Sunday, April 25-29, our crew finished a brand new home framed by a group from Canada for an extended family with over 15 children living under terrible conditions.

The crew, most of whom have solid construction experience, insulated, drywalled, installed windows, prewired for electricity, and painted. All in four days! The difference in living conditions before and after boggle the mind as you can see from the "before and after" photos top right.



The crew getting ready to hit the road to Baja.



Mike Morgan and new friend.



Here are the family's living conditions in their previous dwelling. Dirt floor, makeshift walls, tarps with holes for a roof.



The "after" shot: main bedroom in the new house.

Special thanks to Maurice Maalouf at MCEC, Inc. who came to the rescue at the last moment, contributing toward building materials--and to everyone else involved. ■



Nick McCartney working the windows.



Bryan McCartney unloading materials.



Mother and father with their oldest son who was paralyzed in a recent auto accident.

Faces from the Ejido

More kids and smiles at the ejido fiesta. ■



Backpacks in August

We're only a couple of weeks away from our annual August drive for Rainbow backpacks and school supplies. Every year, we assemble hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies for kids who desperately need them in order to function in school.

This week, we took inventory of supplies on hand from last year and those donated by Jakks Pacific last December. There is still much we need. Please consider helping provide the school supplies our kids need through a cash donation marked for school supplies or by sending supplies directly to us. If you're in Southern CA, you can also come help assemble the packs in late August. Just call or email for more details.

If you'd like to purchase school supplies, here's the list of items we still need:

- ✓ nylon backpacks
- ✓ wood pencils
- ✓ ball-point pens
- ✓ filler paper
- ✓ rulers
- ✓ hand calculators
- ✓ crayons (small box)
- ✓ pencil erasers
- ✓ pencil sharpeners
- ✓ kids' scissors
- ✓ drawing compasses
- ✓ glue sticks
- ✓ index cards packs
- ✓ tabbed dividers



Two happy ninas last September with their new backpacks from caring folks like you.



Counting erasers as part of our school supply inventory.



Gene Spann with Jakks' Pacific donations behind.



Terry Neville, COTA's treasurer doing the counting.

We Need Your Help!

Changing National Conditions

As outlined in the letter accompanying this newsletter, cash donations for international agencies are down this year due to tightening economic conditions and other factors such as the immigration controversy here in the U.S. At the same time we've expanded our reach to children, raising expenses--and could really use your help right now.

Please consider a special donation or helping with school supplies for our kids. Thanks so much for your help!



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!



Credit Card Gift Authorization

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Name (Please Print) _____

Signed: _____

For greater security, we now need the 3-digit ID code from the back of your card. Thanks!



No credit card fees are deducted for Visa and MasterCard gifts.

Please join us at 7AM every morning for two minutes of prayer for all children.



*Give a man a fish,
and you feed him
for a day. Teach
him to fish, and you
feed him for a life-
time. With your
help, we've been
teaching children to
fish for 30 years.
That's a lot of fish!*

Children of The Americas
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Address Service Requested

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 gifts 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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