



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

30 years of loving children.

2nd Quarter 2004

Food For Kids!

Cornerstone Church Delivers Metric Ton of Food To Colonias

June 12th '04 was another picture perfect day in Southern California as we prepared to leave Cornerstone Community Church in San Clemente. And the cool, clear weather followed us all the way into Mexico and the *colonias* around La Gloria. Gathered in the parking lot of the church, people were busy loading the metric ton of dry breakfast foods into as few vehicles as possible while still leaving room for the 20 volunteers of all ages who would be making the trip that day to deliver the food.



Sr. Pastor Ron Sukut passes out *dulces*, candy, to a few enthusiastic customers.

After a short prayer, we were on our way. Cornerstone members are old pros at this drill and don't need much prepping. This is Cornerstone's 5th consecutive year raising and delivering a metric ton of breakfast food for the 500 children who come to our nutrition centers every day. Darryl McFann, our liaison at Cornerstone, organized the food drive over the months of May and June, but now was left with little to do as the volunteers all went to their practiced work.

And hour and a half to the border, and we met up with Olivia, our staff coordinator based in Tijuana. Olivia obtains all the necessary permits and authorizations to bring the food across the border and makes sure the *comedors*, dining rooms, are stocked between deliveries. We were ready to go. Other than Pastor Ron being pulled over by Mexican police for using his cell phone while driving (Olivia did some fast talking to avoid a ticket), and Pastor Ron then getting separated from the rest of the group (later miraculously finding his way to us), it was a flawless day.

The food was delivered to our two comedors at Chuey's in *Panamericano* and at Rosenda's in *Lagunitas*. Though Rosenda was out of town caring for her ill mother, her *ayudantes*, helpers, made a great lunch for all before we left for the trip home.

Churches like Cornerstone are the cornerstone of our Food for Kids program. In addition, St. Michael and All Angels Church in Corona del Mar, CA, Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan Beach, CA, Christian Mission Church in Laguna Niguel, CA, Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara, and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Capitola, (northern) CA have been annual Food for Kids participants. We sincerely thank all the churches that have been helping our kids year and year out.

If you know of a church or any organization (Boy Scout Troop, civic club, school, etc.) that you think may be interested in sponsoring a month's food for our kids in this way, you can check out the Food for Kids button on our website (www.americaschildren.org) for more information, or call us to discuss. If we could get 12 organizations a year working for kids, we could save up to \$20,000 a year in food costs that could then be used for scholarships and other needs. Even if you aren't located in Southern CA, the program can still work. Let's talk!

Rainbow Backpacks

Family in Indiana Organizes School Supply Party

A call came into our office from Audrey Jiricko in Indianapolis, IN asking about our Rainbow Box program. She had found us on our website and was intrigued by how she could help us with getting school supplies. We sent her our video *Heartleap* that describes the program in detail, and Audrey was hooked. Her husband's birthday was coming up, so with her husband's blessing, his birthday party became a Rainbow Box party. All the guests brought school supplies (as listed on our website) instead of birthday presents, and the party consisted of organizing the supplies and preparing the boxes that would provide a full year's school supplies for an individual child.

Audrey said it was just a great night. Everyone had fun getting the Rainbow Boxes together, and of course singing birthday songs.

(continued on Page 2)



A happy school girl is armed and ready for the year!

Rainbow Backpacks

(continued from Page 1)

When we received the four big cartons of supplies, we were surprized how much Audrey and the gang had put together. It was wonderful. We'll be holding their supplies in storage until the fall when the new school year will begin in early September.

The Rainbow Box program works hand in hand with the Food for Kids program as the foundation of our work with the children. Keeping them fed and in school is how they will have a chance in life as young adults and be able to pass good life opportunities on to their children. We will need about 400 completed Rainbow Boxes, or better, completed Rainbow Backpacks to be able to supply the children we are serving in the *colonias*. At this point, we're about halfway there with 60 days to go.

If you would like to participate in this program, again, just go to our website for more information or give us a call. We can send you the *Heartleap* video as well, and see where that takes your heart. Thanks so much to Audrey and everyone in Indianapolis who came to us out of the blue, but certainly on angels wings to help our kids. These are the kinds of happy "coincidences" that we live for as we work for our kids.

In Other News...

Over the last two years, Children of The Americas has been operating an informal thrift store out of our warehouse space in Laguna Hills, CA, having rummage sales every month to raise money for the kids. The costs just weren't penciling out lately, so we've suspended the thrift store, dropped our overall square footage of space, and in the next couple of months will be establishing a new food program that in addition to storing and shipping food to our *comedors* in Mexico, will also provide needed food to families right here in Orange and San Diego counties. There are many children falling through the cracks in poor neighborhoods right in our backyard, and hopefully we'll start plugging those gaps for them.

We've been able to help Griselda, a long-time helper at Rosenda's *comedor* in Mexico. When we first met Griselda, she was living with her 7 children in a one-room shack with sloping concrete floor that had a river running through it every time it rained. An opportunity to have another organization build her a brand new house came up, as long as she owned the property to build on. We were able to raise over a \$1000 as a down payment on a small lot, and construction is under way. By mid-summer, Griselda and all those kids will be moved in!

We've just sent close to \$2000 to Guatemala as part of our educational scholarship program. Children of The Americas supports about a dozen children in Antigua on an annual basis, providing them with enough money to pay for fees, bus fare, uniforms, books, etc.

Last year, we built a brand new dining room at Genaro Vasquez, one of the local public schools in the *colonias*. Now that the dining room is in full swing, we will soon be outfitting it with a propane-powered cooktop, so we can begin providing hot breakfasts as opposed to the cold food we've been serving for the last two years. The hot food is actually cheaper to provide than the cold food and stores indefinitely without re Fridgeration. Big pluses. We feed about a hundred kids a day at Genaro Vasquez and another hundred at nearby Pedro de Gante school, where a new dining room is currently under construction.

Also at Genaro Vasquez, we are in the process of building a computer lab for the kids that will provide around a dozen fully-equipped computer workstations running updated Windows operating systems and applicable software. It's imperative that the children learn marketable skills, with computer literacy being at the top of the list. Thanks to everyone for all the help!

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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. Join us as we extend our outreach to US inner-city children. Help us continue to create hope, one child at a time.

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*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!*

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

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