



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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Grateful For YOUR Support!



After being abandoned, Enrique found home as one of the first children at El Oasis. Now, he shares his thanks to the people, like you, who continue to support children in need.

Can you imagine what it must feel like to be abandoned as a small child by someone you love and trust? That is what happened to Enrique, one of ICC's children who grew up at the El Oasis Children's Village in Mexico.

When he was only four years old, Enrique's grandmother took him to a children's playground. To most children, this would be a joyful occasion – playing chase with other children and taking turns on the slide and swings. Imagine the extreme turn in his emotions when time passed and he couldn't find his grandmother. Where had she gone? It was getting late. The other children were going home. And still, no grandmother. Fear gripped his little heart. What could he do? Where

could he go to find her – the one he trusted to take care of him?

Enrique spent the night in that playground wondering what had happened. Cold, alone, frightened, abandoned.

Enrique's experience is not unlike many of ICC's children. With their parents or grandparents unable or unwilling to care for them, they are left, dropped off, discarded as unwanted. **But not in the eyes of God! And not in the eyes of ICC family members like you!**

On that cold morning, someone with a compassionate heart found Enrique suffering, alone, and scared. He was taken to the police. After a thorough investigation and evaluation were made, Enrique became one of the first children to join ICC's El Oasis Children's Village.

Enrique was placed in a loving family at El Oasis and was supported by the generosity of ICC family members like you. He grew up at El Oasis, attended primary school, graduated High School and eventually received his degree in computer science engineering. He now works in a responsible position providing technical support within a major brand of convenience stores across Mexico.

What a transformation Enrique experienced! From being unwanted and discarded, to being loved and helping to support others!

When asked what message he would like to share with those who are supporting El Oasis, Enrique had this to say. "Thank you for all you have done for me, in particular, for my education, food, a roof over my head, and a new family. And thank you for providing a place where I could be happy. I thank God for all the help you gave me... I would want to ask you not to stop there. Please continue to support the children who are living at El Oasis. All the effort you've put in for them is going to pay off. And just like me, they will be grateful to you and thank you for the rest of their lives.

Because of the care you provide to ICC children, their lives are being transformed. And like Enrique, they are grateful for all you do for them. Thank you!

To watch a special video of Enrique's story, access the QR Code or link:



<https://vimeo.com/957417407>

Project Spotlight – El Oasis Children's Village, Mexico

The Impact of Your Support

The saying has never been more true, “It takes a village to raise a child.” While a small family setting is deeply important to the care of orphaned and vulnerable children at El Oasis Children’s Village, there is a community aspect that provides unique opportunities for children to play and grow.

The “village” is very important – and you are a part of that village!

Project Administrator, Mauro Reyes, recently shared an update from El Oasis. It described a lively campus, full of exciting and meaningful activities that you help to provide. From spiritual to physical, children participated in a busy

calendar year. This is all in addition to typical school and home activities.

The following photos depict activity highlights from the last six months. These types of community events help to foster a safe and supportive environment for children to thrive, despite past hardships. Every single member of the community takes part in teaching and loving the children.

Then, at the end of the day, each child returns home to a consistent family routine. Chores, dinner, and family worship bring the household together. The same parents tuck their children in each night. This consistent care, by

the grace of God, is saving and transforming lives.

In addition to these photos, Mauro Reyes shared a special video message to the extended El Oasis family. If you are reading this letter, then the video is for you! We hope you take time to watch his message of thanks.

Scan the QR code to view this video, or find it at:

<https://vimeo.com/1094200176>



Thanks to your support, this El Oasis update is full of children who know they are loved by God, by their parents, and by their village. Thank you for being a part of that village!



Spiritual activities help to set a Christ-centered tone for the village and beyond. Above, one mother prays with her children during a week of prayer, which took place from April 21 to 26. At the end, everyone participated in the Washing of the Feet and the Lord’s Supper, pictured top right. Your support makes this possible!

Several months earlier, the children prepared a Christmas pageant for the entire community, pictured bottom right. “This Christmas message excited our members from six churches in Mexicali and Tijuana,” said Reyes. “The children realized they are part of a larger family. The churches greatly appreciated the children’s participation and motivated them to continue praising God through their gifts.”



“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18 NIV

Project Spotlight – *continued*

El Oasis Children's Village, Mexico

The Impact of Your Support



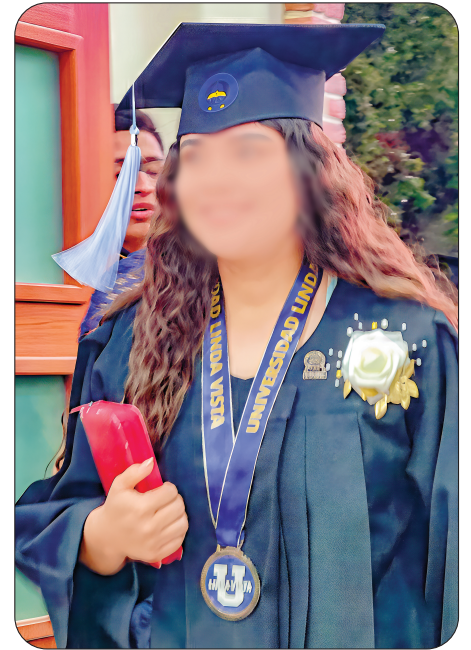
Thanks to your support, the children may participate in an active Pathfinder program. In April, they experienced a new honor's class – rock climbing! It encouraged children to confront their fears and, at the same time, build confidence.

In addition, the entire village took a trip to San Felipe at the start of May (pictured right). This served as a celebration of Children's Day, as well as a chance to participate in a Pathfinder swimming honor class. “We enjoyed a day at the beach, where the children made the most of the warm waters and collected all kinds of shells and snails,” said Reyes.



From the youngest child, held in his mother's arms, to the oldest child, graduating into a bright future, your support provides hurting children with a new chance at life. Pictured left, one young boy rests after a long day of activities. He sits safely in his mother's arms as he waits for the older children to load up their van for the drive home.

Pictured right, a young adult from El Oasis completes her degree as an educational psychologist from Linda Vista University. “We know that behind the graduation of one of our children is the effort of many people who contributed to making this a reality,” says Reyes. “Thank God for all these blessings!”



Join the Village – Change a Life!

People like you are the reason El Oasis, and all ICC Children's Villages, exist! You are helping to raise children – not just for happiness on earth, but for eternal joy in heaven. Thank you for providing a “village” and a family for those who need it most. The children continue to need you. Please send a special gift today to support El Oasis children. Thank you!

Tennessee Girl Leads Sabbath School Project for Congo Family

by Wendy Clark



Edith Dietrich stands beside her Sabbath School bulletin-board project in support of Patmos Children's Village. Her project is making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children – and yours can too! What will you do to help the kids?

At International Children's Care (ICC), we often say this is God's *ministry*—and time and again, He proves it through the creativity and generosity of donors around the world, people who hear His call and respond in unique ways to care for orphans.

One recent example comes from 16-year-old Edith Dietrich and her family from the Brayton SDA Church in Graysville, Tennessee. After meeting an ICC representative at the Michigan Camp Meeting and signing up for this monthly newsletter, they began learning more about ICC's mission and children's villages.

The Dietrich family attends a children/youth Sabbath School class at their small church, which regularly participates in mission projects. When it came time to choose a new cause, Edith's mom suggested helping ICC. After a phone call with ICC staff to discuss cur-

rent needs, the class decided to support a house family at Patmos Children's Village in the Congo.

Edith took the lead and created a colorful mission board for the project. She listed essential needs like housing, clothing, school supplies, and bedding. On one side of the board, she posted slips marked with \$10 donation amounts—small, achievable goals that added up.

Each week, the class of 5-10 people brought in gifts. Over time, their donations grew to several hundred dollars—enough to make a real difference for a house family in Congo.

Some may feel that their contributions are too small to matter. But like the young boy's lunch of loaves and fishes, God blesses and grows every gift given in faith. Thank you to all who answer His call to support orphans through ICC!

A Giving Story

Income, Taxes & Legacy

John and Sue, both in their early 60s, are preparing for retirement and reviewing their financial options. They're considering how best to manage taxes and future income from their real estate, stocks, and retirement accounts.

The couple has a deep love for children and a desire to live out James 1:27 by caring for orphans and widows. Confident their retirement needs will be met, they hope to use their surplus assets to make a lasting impact by supporting ICC.

They expect income from Social Security, IRAs, and other retirement plans, but additional funds will need to come from their appreciated real estate and joint investment accounts. Selling those assets outright would trigger significant capital gains taxes.

Their advisor recommended a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) as a smart solution. By transferring real estate and stocks into a CRT, they receive a lifetime income stream, avoid capital gains taxes, and earn an immediate partial tax deduction. These assets are also removed from their estate, reducing or eliminating estate taxes.

John and Sue are grateful. The CRT allows them to reduce their tax burden, secure their retirement income, and create a future legacy for ICC's children.

To learn how a CRT might work for you, contact Wendy Clark at 800-422-7729.