



Newsletter for the Mission of Friendship

Diocese of Erie, USA

July 2024

Contagious Excitement and Hope

It is absolutely true that great efforts can bring great rewards, and with that in mind, we are happy and excited to share our news with you.

At the beginning of the year, an enthusiastic group of co-workers visited the Mission of Friendship Daycare program seeking opportunities to volunteer and share some of their knowledge and skills with us. This group learned of Los Amiguitos at one of the Mérida community events where we had the chance to participate and spread word about the Mission.

After spending some time at the Mission's facilities, one of these new volunteers helped us to make the connection with their company --Amazon (as they currently have a distribution warehouse in Yucatán). The volunteers from Amazon were able to provide our little boys and girls of the daycare with memorable times of friendship and sharing. They also decided to spend National Children's Day with us, in which they distributed gifts to the Los Amiguitos children. The toys that they brought were collected specifically for the Daycare children for this special occasion.

Seeing our children enjoying those good moments filled us with great satisfaction! We hope that the Mission will continue to bring joy and great times like these to the Amiguitos kids. We also hope that our work will continue with even more motivation to bring the best to the little boys and girls of Los Amiguitos Daycare.



A Testimony of Love and Support

My name is Donatila Calán Chi and I am 64 years old. I work cleaning houses and I have been working at the same houses since I started over 30 years ago. My job has allowed me to support my children with food, clothing and studies. The father of my 6 children is unfortunately an alcoholic, an addiction that prevented him from being able to help with the needs of the home and our children.

My children are: Ricardo Abraham, Yaneli del Rosario, Mario Alberto, Rossana Michel, Yicel Saraí, and Nidia Noemí Cobá Calán.

My two older children missed a lot of school because I used to leave them at home to take care of my younger kids, Mario and Rossana, while I was working. Thankfully God never abandons us in difficult circumstances. One day, one of my nieces told me about the daycare center, “Los Amiguitos,” that was next to my in-laws’ house. My niece took me there and I was able to enroll my kids in the program in 1997.

In 1999, when it was time for my son to leave the Los Amiguitos day care to start elementary school, then Cari and Marilyn told us that the Amigos Program of the Mission of Friendship would support us by sponsoring my children for their studies. After a while our first Amigos sponsor could not continue supporting us, however God sent us other sponsors, Monica and Stephen Dvoranchik, who have been our sponsors ever since. They have helped tremendously with my children's studies.

All of my children have great memories about the wonderful support that “Los Amiguitos daycare” and our Amigos sponsors had have given to us. Where are my children now? Here’s an update: Mario Alberto is happily married, Rossana, who always enjoy very much the letters and photos that the Dvoranchik’s send us every year updating us about their children and how they were growing, telling us about their beautiful family, and also sharing with us some of their own achievements.

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Mrs. Tila with her children:
From left to right: Nidia,
Mario, Mom, Rossana and Yicel
The family sponsored

The Cobá Calán family: From left to right: Yicel, Rossana, Nidia, Suemy, Mario, Erick Israel, Erick Eduardo, Mrs. Tila, Dylan Ezequiel and Mateo Alexander
All family



Rossana and her sons:
Erick Eduardo and Erick
Israel

(Testimony cont'd)

My other daughter Yicel Sarai, who is 25 years old, she truly believes that our Amigos sponsors are a great blessing to our family. Currently Yicel is back to school to study accounting. Lastly Nadia, the youngest child of the family, had similar experience with the Mission of Friendship as she was part of the Amiguitos daycare. Nadia is in college now attending the Education Sciences program. We all remember their Christmas gifts, the greetings cards sent by the Dvoranchik's, the good times at the day care, the Amigos meetings to receive our monthly support.

On behalf of myself and the Cobá Calán family, we thank our sponsors and all the sponsors of the Mission of Friendship's Amigos Program for the love, time, dedication and effort that they make to send us their monetary support. May God bless you all for helping us to achieve our goals!



Mario and his family:
Suemy, (wife), Dylan Exequiel,
Mario and Mateo Alexander



Just Like a Family



At the Estancia Nueva Vida, our goal is to make our girls to feel at home. With that in mind, our team always tries to arrange fun and educational activities to create that environment.

We know very well that having the active participation of the parents of Nueva Vida girls in some of our activities promotes better self-esteem to our girls, as well as creates stronger bonds between them and their families. Following these ideas, we had the initiative to organize an activity, in partnership with the Santos Lugo pastry company, for parents and their daughters to make a cake together. The participants moms learned along with their girls how to make a delicious cake and also, they helped their girls decorating handmade cookies.

Between games, laughter and hugs, it was an unforgettable day for the girls and their moms. We are grateful that our NuevaVida community had the opportunity to enjoy this joyful, learning, activity in family!



Different Style... Same Faith

Mexican Catholics show their devotion to our Saints in unique and amazing ways. They celebrate the feasts of their parishes' patron saints, as well as some of the most well-known saints on the Church calendar. Many of these celebrations are big and meaningful to them -- and sometimes they last for a week!

In the month of May alone — in Yucatán they celebrate Mary for the entire month! In many parishes the community gathers each night of the month to pray the Rosary, and by the end of the month, they have a closing Mass in which young people, along with the members of the Legion of Mary, all leaders of parish ministries, and people of the general community participate. The closing Mass starts with the final Rosary for the month, then a Mass, followed by a crowded procession.



It is beautiful that almost the whole community, every member, has an active participation in all of the parish events. Everyone, from the youngest to the oldest of the community, are happy and honored to help in any way they possibly can with the parish celebration as a united community.

We are encouraged by their vibrant faith!



Note From the Director's Desk

Dear Amigos,

Happy Summer to all of you! I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Amigos Program, Nueva Vida Program, and Sister Parish Program, and in general to all the Mission of Friendship supporters and friends for the marvelous support that you provided to the Special Appeal for the Amigos School Supplies project and the General MOF that we had in the past few months! Please know that your extra contributions are very much appreciated – and they are greatly needed. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage you to never forget that your financial support to these families and parishes means more than a simple help. It is an enormous blessing to them.

Our new online payment platform is now completed and it is very user-friendly! The online giving platform allows you to make recurring or one-time donations to the Mission of Friendship, or to a specific program like Amigos, Nueva Vida etc. Please check it out at the Diocesan Mission Office website.

As usual we want to invite you to consider visiting your Yucatecan family. Doing so is an unforgettable and life-changing experience. There in Yucatán, the Mission of Friendship staff members are able to provide transportation, tour guidance, translation and lodging for the modest cost of your donation to the Mission of Friendship. Please prayerfully consider this possibility. As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss how you might visit your family in Mexico.

May God bless you and your family this SUMMER!

Some Important Reminders

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of important points. The Diocese of Erie Mission Office continues to receive donations sent by **Amigos sponsors, Nueva Vida sponsors, Day Care sponsors and Sister Parishes** by way of checks and online credit card contributions.

Amigos sponsors can send special donations, in addition to their regular monthly contributions, that are earmarked specifically for their particular sponsored family as Christmas gifts, Easter gifts, or birthday gifts. These special gifts **are not added to the common Amigos fund**. They are kept separate to be given only to the sponsor's particular Amigos family. If you would like to give a special gift just for your sponsored family, please make a note in the memo line of your check or enclose a note of explanation with your donation. Your intentions for the special gifts will be communicated to the mission staff in Mérida.

The Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie is still receiving letters, cards, and photos from sponsors to be sent to families in Mérida as usual.

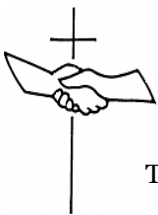
If you have questions regarding your donations, or would like to communicate changes in your contact information or sponsorship status, please contact mission office director **Indira J. Suárez** by e-mail: isuarez@eriercd.org or by phone: (814) 824-1231.

Please know that we are grateful for your prayers, concern, and financial support to our brothers and sisters in Mexico. We look forward to hearing from you!

Many blessings,

Indira





Mission of Friendship

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