



Newsletter for the Mission of Friendship

Diocese of Erie, USA

November 2025

Amigos Program is Always Happy to Gather Sponsors With our Mexican Families!

We are grateful for the Amigos sponsors who recently visited their families here in Yucatán! This time, Miriam Alonzo and Cindy and Dean Collins, had the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of friendship, love, and unity with their Mexican families. It is always very appreciated that despite the long distance to this land with a high temperature (average 80 to 100 degrees) many of our American sponsors have decided to come to visit those who they truly consider family.

We are proud to say that everyone who has made the effort to visit their Mexican families has received in return a warm welcome, and great hospitality from their sponsored families. Here in Mérida, the Amigos Program families are always looking forward to someday receiving a visit from their sponsors. This is so that they can have the opportunity to show them their gratefulness and love in person.

Thank you to the sponsors who already have made the effort to visit their Mexican families and also thanks for extending your generosity and love to our Yucatecan people. Please know that your financial support is enabling Amigos' children to get an education which will allow them to achieve a better life in their future.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe-- Queen of México--bless all Amigos' sponsors abundantly!

By Silvia Gonzalez



Miriam Alonzo, visiting
her Family



Collins Family



So Grateful to Our Great Volunteers

As many of you know, Nueva Vida is a program in which we promote skills development to help prepare for adulthood. We are blessed to have great volunteers who have joined us to support and continue our mission.

Following this idea, we are pleased to let you know that computer classes at Nueva Vida have resumed. Back in February, the computer lab began operating thanks to the help of our volunteer Tim Kolar, who is taking care of the maintenance of the computers. Tim is also dedicated to asking his friends and acquaintances for donations of unused computers, and thanks to his efforts he makes it possible for the Nueva Vida girls to have computer classes. In the beginning of this project, the computer classes were taught by a volunteer named Audrey. She taught the first six sections, covering topics such as introduction to computer components, software, keyboard skills, word processing exercises among other topics. And on the last day of class, the girls concluded the course by printing their own diplomas.

Then in March, Tim Weaver and his wife Marsha, who belong to the English Rotary Club, joined the group to teach four classes. The goal of the classes is to increase the girls' understanding of computer hardware and software. It was encouraging to see that by the end of the season the girls were able to write their own thank you letters to the American Rotary Club.

Everyone involved in this program is grateful to the volunteers who help us to continue providing the basic tools for our girls' future. We hope to continue working with people who can contribute to this project, and we pray that soon we can have a full-time computer teacher on our team!

By Azucena Santos



Another Mission of Friendship Testimony of Support and Solidarity!

At the Los Amiguitos Daycare's facility, we have a cistern system to provide water for its daily use. However, last year, after 38 years of supplying water to the facility, our water cistern collapsed due to excessive rain and soil erosion. The damage to the cistern caused severe water shortages for the entire facility, jeopardizing the safety and well-being of the children.

Fortunately, the Healdsburg Rotary Club in California learned of our situation and decided to support us with a donation of a new cistern.

Their generosity and support allowed us to overcome this setback and maintain the quality of our services by supplying clean, potable water, which helps us to provide a safe and healthy environment for the development of the children who attend Los Amiguitos.

In March 2025, our new cistern was successfully installed. Needless to say, we are very grateful to the Healdsburg Rotary Club for their support, and care for our people.

As you know, the Daycare program recently moved to Nueva Vida facility site – which they now share. The former Daycare facility now houses medical services (i.e. eye and dental care) as well as mental health services for children and adults and health workshops. It also hosts a used item thrift store for the benefit of the families, and this facility is used for the distribution of the in-kind and cash donations of the Amigos Program, among the other services.

We hope the new cistern will allow these services to be provided for many years to come!

By Azucena Santos--



Daycare Project 2025

Young Visitors Who Reinvigorate Us with Joy and Hope!

Every year we welcome a group of students from Gannon University. Last March, the group of eight students and two staff members arrived. They joined us for a week of adventures and activities with the various Mission programs

The visitors enjoyed learning about the Mission of Friendship programs and helped us to make traditional panuchos and salbutes. They also took the chance to do some mission work such as painting the walls of the Daycare Center stage, washing the roofs of Nueva Vida facilities among others.

In addition to visiting the Mission, the Gannon group also got to experience several local attractions such as Chichen Itza (Mayan pyramid), cenotes (underground swimming lakes), the beach, and participating in the Yucatecan carnival! Our visiting friends were thrilled to immerse themselves in Yucatecan culture for which we were happy and grateful.

The students and staff of Gannon University are always a welcome support to our mission. They are impressive young women and men that we are sure will be the future of this kind of work!

We look forward to the Gannon visitors every year!

By Azucena Santos



The New Nueva Vida Center for Integrated Childhood Development in Mérida

Since July, the Nueva Vida and Los Amiguitos Daycare programs have merged and now share one location. Both programs will now be housed in the Nueva Vida facilities. We are working with great enthusiasm and devotion to receive both boys and girls from 2 to 14 years old. This transition has been achieved with the help of great people such as social service students, volunteers and mission staff.

We are pleased to share with you some pictures of the inauguration of this new program so that we can continue helping communities with the goal of improving the lives of all of our neighbors.

By Azucena Santos



Note From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

As usual, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Amigos Program, Nueva Vida Program, and Sister Parish Program participants for the marvelous support you give to our sisters and brothers in Yucatán.

As Christmas time is approaching, I would like to encourage Amigos, Nueva Vida and Daycare sponsors, who are planning to send monetary Christmas gifts to México, to please be sure to forward your contributions to the Diocese of Erie's Mission Office by **November 26, 2025**. This to assure that your sponsored family can have your gifts **before** Christmas day. Contributions received after the deadline will be still forwarded to your family as soon as possible, but more likely after Christmas.

The Mission Office is pleased to announce that, for the third year, the Mission of Friendship is participating in the **#iGiveCathoic- Giving Tuesday!** Thank you once again to all who supported our cause last year! Please know that we count on your support to again achieve a great success this year. Advance donations will be open on **November 17!** A link will be provided at a later date through email. The actual **Giving Day is on December 2nd, 2025**. Together we can make a great difference!

May God bless you and your family this Autumn!

Some Important Reminders...

The Mission Office in Erie will continue to receive and forward to Mérida cards, letters, and photos sent by **Amigos sponsors, Nueva Vida sponsors, Day Care sponsors and Sister Parishes**. The Mission Office also continues to receive financial contributions by way of checks and online credit card donations. These funds will be wired periodically to the mission account in Mérida.

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 specifically 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.

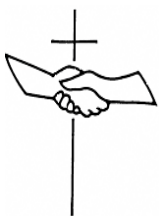
If you have questions regarding your donations, tax deductions, or new sponsorship or would like to communicate changes in your contact information or sponsorship status, please contact mission office director **Indira J. Suárez** by e-mail: isuarez@eriercd.org or by phone: (814) 824-1231.

Please know that we are grateful to all of you who made the generous decision to sponsor a family or children in Mérida through the Mission of Friendship programs, for supporting them with your prayers, concern, and financial support.

Many blessings,

Indira Suarez





Mission of Friendship

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