



Sunshine of Summer

Newsletter for the Mission of Friendship

Diocese of Erie, USA

June 2026

New Support to Nueva Vida's Families

I am pleased to share some excellent news. For the past few months we have established a collaboration through which the Amistad Erie-Yucatan association receives food supplies for the Nueva Vida Comprehensive Child Development Center program from a Food Bank at a low cost.

This generous gesture allows us to offer members of our community, and our children, additional support to cover their basic needs, enabling families to allocate resources to other important expenses. We receive non-perishable food items (rice, beans, pasta, etc.), which are what we consume at the Nueva Vida Center, as well as personal hygiene products and other essential items.

This collaboration allows us to continue providing this service to improve the quality of life for our families and children. We are confident that through this teamwork, we will continue to provide even more benefits to more families in need.

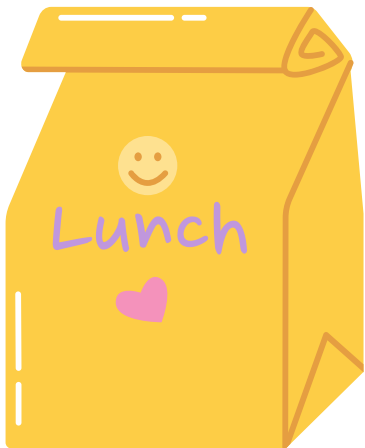
By Azucena



Collaboration that Inspires!



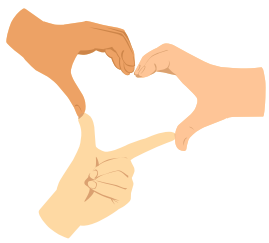
The Nueva Vida Comprehensive Child Development Center merges the "Amiguitos" Daycare and "Nueva Vida" Daycare programs. In this new unified program, we provide services for boys and girls from ages two to fourteen years old.



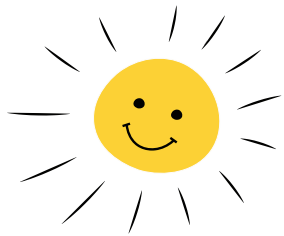
We are excited to share with you the joy the children experience when they receive lunch, snacks, academic tutoring, bathing services, classes with volunteers, and more. Here are some updates about the social work that several young people from various schools are doing to help vulnerable communities. Since last November, we have been invited to Anáhuac High School to speak about the Association of Erie-Yucatán, the work we do, and our mission in Yucatán.

Such was the impact that several student groups signed up to support Nueva Vida. In January, young people from other schools also came to Nueva Vida to help. This increased interest was due to friends and family sharing their experiences and the warmth with which we welcome our volunteers and donors who join us so that the Association of Erie-Yucatán can continue serving the communities in the south of Mérida. To date, we have approximately 35 high school students participating in activities such as cleaning, helping with homework, watering the garden, and spending time with the children.

We hope that schools and teachers will continue to encourage young students to perform community service to continue building a better future for our children and the needy families in the south area of Mérida. We also look forward to welcoming more volunteers from Erie, to continue building cultural bridges.



By Azucena



friends





Bridges Between Two Cultures With One Faith

The Sister Parish program has been a part of the Mission of Friendship for over three decades and is a symbol of hope for us to continue welcoming our brother Priests and sponsors today.

Father Paul Siebert, Parish Priest of the Sister Parish- Saint Mark, Emporium, recently visited Mérida and other locations of his close friends. He also had the opportunity to visit his sponsored family in the "Amigos" Family Sponsorship Program, who joyfully welcomed their benefactor and shared their academic achievements with him.

Over the weekend, Fr. Paul, along with other members of his community, had the opportunity to travel to their sister parish in Tinum, Uayma, Kahua, and other communities. It is always a blessing for the priest brothers to reunite. Let us continue to celebrate Friendship and Brotherhood!

By Azucena



Fr. Paul, Emporium with Fr. Luis Miguel, Tinum

Meaningful Visits!



Last February, two of the Mission of Friendship’s long time supporters from St. Mark’s Parish,Emporium, visited Yucatán with the purpose of visting their Sister Parish in Tinum. The friendship between St. Mark and St. Antonio de Padua,Tinum is one of the longest Sister Parish relationships in the program.

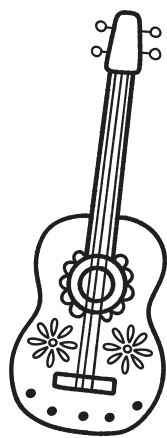
As usual, Mr. DeLucia and Fr. Siebert had a tour through the Mission of Friendship facilities, and visited the Amigos families that they personally sponsor. The visit was made more special because these individuals asked the Amigos program coordinator to take them to visit some of the Amigos families sponsored by some of their friends in the St. Mark’s community. This simple gesture of love and generosity, greatly impacted the brother priest of Fr. Siebert, the children of the Nueva Vida program (who love visitors), the Amigos families sponsored by them. Of course, the staff of the Mission of Friendship always appreciate having visitors from the Diocese of Erie!



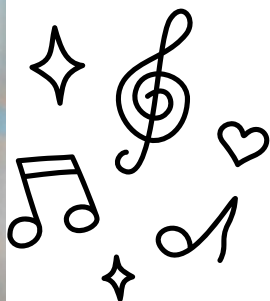
Pete DeLucia,and Fr. Siebert visiting the Medina Ku family in Mérida, (sponsored by the Summerson family, Emporium)



Father Paul with the Lopez Uc family (sponsored by the DiBello family, Emporium)



Grajales Seca/ Coba Grajales Family (sponsored by Dayton and Martuccio families)



Father Paul with his sponsored family Martinez Xuluc and his friend Pete



Thanks to all of these Amigos families for their hospitality to Fr. Paul and friends, and thank you to our friends in Emporium for your generosity and love to the Amigos families.

...A comment from one of the Amigos families... Even though the visit was not directed by our sponsors, it feels that they were here!

By Silvia

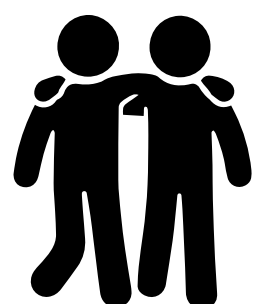
WELCOMING BACK HOME OUR FORMER COORDINATOR AND OTHER FRIENDS!

For several years, Patricia Pipkin, the former coordinator of the MOF, has been regularly visiting the mission and other friends in Mérida. Paty is still an active member of the Mission of Friendship's family, as she is one of the biggest supporters of the mission. Just to mention some of her initiatives in support of the mission, Paty runs several personal appeals to her family and friends, and she also coordinates the participation of the MOF in the Missionary Cooperative Plan (Mission Co-Op) in some of the dioceses in the United States. Sometimes, she also makes the MCP appeal on behalf of the mission herself.

Many thanks to Patricia for her love and loyalty to the Mission of Friendship!

Also, this spring, Lanora Queckborner, another dear friend and supporter of the MOF for many years, visited the mission. Lanora has been supporting the mission over the years in several roles as a volunteer by helping to translate letters and by interpreting for visitors as needed. She has also helped the mission financially. Special thanks to Lanora!

By Azucena



VISITS THAT TASTE LIKE HOME

Last March, once again, the Mission of Friendship was pleased to welcome the visitors from Gannon University, Erie. At that time the MOF had simultaneously a visit from a long-time friend —Myrrah, who used to be volunteer at the Mission when she was student. Myrrah is now a wife and mother. We were more than happy to have, not only the students from Gannon, but also Myrrah, her two children, and her mother spending time on the mission. This has become in a tradition each spring break!

Among other activities, this time our dear visitors were able to learn how to make some of the most traditional Yucatecan dishes---“panuchos” from scratch. It truly was a great time cooking, chatting, and laughing as we tried to share stories, and cultural experiences. The language barriers between us certainly made for an interesting time. Lots of fun!

By: Azucena



A Note From the Director's Desk

As usual, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the participants of the Amigos Program, the Nueva Vida Program and the Sister Parish Program for the extraordinary support you give to our sisters and brothers in México.

I also want to take the opportunity to encourage you to never forget that your financial support for these families and parishes means more than simple help. It is an enormous blessing to them.

Remember to use our online payment solution which provides you the opportunity to make recurring or one-time donations to the Mission of Friendship, or to a specific program like Nueva Vida or Amigos. Please find this on the Mission Office website.

Please prayerfully consider the possibility of visiting the Mission of Friendship. Visiting the Mission will be an unforgettable and life-changing experience. In México, the MOF staff will provide transportation, tour guidance, interpretation and lodging for a modest donation to the mission.

Some Important Reminders:

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of an important point. The Mission Office in Erie is still receiving donations sent by **Amigos and Nueva Vida sponsors, as well as Sister Parishes** by way of checks and online credit card contributions. We also encourage you to write cards, letters, and provide photos for your Amigos family or Sister Parish. Amigos sponsors can send special donations, in addition to their regular monthly contributions, that are earmarked specifically for their particular sponsored family as Easter gifts, birthday gifts or Christmas gifts. These special gifts are not added to the common Amigos fund. They are kept separate to be given only to the sponsor's specific 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.

As usual, this Summer the Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie is running a special appeal to support **Amigos families with school supplies**. Please consider helping us in this initiative in favor of the Yucatecan children. If you have questions, please contact the 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 have already helped with our Annual School Supplies Appeal. We look forward to hearing from you! Many blessings and Happy Summer!

~Indira~

