A Wonderful Teamwork

Many years ago a classroom door leading to a bathroom fell out of use. Over time, it became permanently damaged due to disuse. The Office of Civil Protection of the State of Yucatán requested that we find a solution, since it presented a risk to the boys and girls of the program. It was decided to remove the door and close over the space. This was achieved thanks to the teamwork of colleagues and families from other programs, who collaborated in the organizing of fundraisers.

Helping the Education of Our Team

As part of our overall efforts to improve our impact on the community we serve, it is important for us to develop and update the skill set of the personnel who work in the nursery, so that as a team we can provide better service. They are currently receiving training in computers and the use of Windows Office; this is important for the staff as this helps them to reach the next level of their potential. With a better foundation, our team can pursue new horizons in their research into activities and planning that complement the development of our children’s knowledge and skills.
Always Happy to Share our Good News

We are happy to announce that, for the last two months, the Medical Dispensary has once again been able to provide services to the community at pre-pandemic levels. Members of our community who depend on the Dispensary for their family’s medical needs continue to seek out our care.

In the months of May and June there have been a total of 140 consultations. The age range of the patients varies from an infant of one year old to seniors 65 and over.

The most frequently encountered diseases in recent months are respiratory problems, diabetes control and hypertension.

We are happy to share the news that our basic inventory of medicines on hand has increased, thanks to the fact that some of the missing medicines have begun to arrive (we had several months of shortages or lack of resources to get them). With these increased resources, we can support more and more patients who will be able to get medicines at very low cost.

Celebrating the Chrism Mass
In Merida

We share this beautiful event that took place in Mérida, at the Cathedral of San Idelfonso, which was the first Cathedral in the Americas to be completed. The priests of the Archdiocese of Yucatán attended the Mass for the renewal of priestly vows and the blessing of the holy oils. We ask your prayers for all the priests of the Archdiocese, that they may remain faithful to their vocation and service.

In these difficult times, may the Lord continue to bless you.
Amigos Testimony: Nancy Esmeralda Gomez Chuc
Electromechanical Engineer

My name is Nancy Esmeralda Gómez Chuc. I studied Electromechanical Engineering at the Technological Institute of Progreso, Yucatán, and I currently work in a private company called EM, (Electromechanical Merida), where I apply the knowledge acquired in my studies.

I would like to thank my sponsors Dan and Debra Drayer for this achievement in my life because we have been receiving economic and moral support from them since I was 11 years old and in elementary school. We had the privilege of meeting them here in Mérida, and have very beautiful memories of time spent with them.

They and my parents (Nancy Florencia and Elias) motivated me to study and reach this life goal. During the years that I studied for my university degree, I lived in the city of Progreso, Yucatán. We did not have enough money to travel daily to Progreso. It was very expensive. It was difficult for me, during the time I studied at the university, not living with my family. I had to solve daily problems myself but I got over that difficult stage of my life by remembering my sponsors and my parents who sacrificed a lot for my university studies. The conclusion of my studies in Electromechanical Engineering was a great joy for all of them and (I humbly say), for me, an accomplishment to be proud of, reaching my life’s goal.

With my job, I now help my parents with the household expenses, to have a better diet, and to support the care of my grandmother Florencia who lives with us.

My little brothers Manuel and Oscar also thank our sponsors Dan and Debra Drayer for the financial support they receive for their university studies, which are very expensive, here in Mérida. They are making an effort in their academic preparation. Due to the financial support they receive from their sponsors and our parents, they feel committed to completing a university degree and then working and supporting our parents and, when possible, a needy family member with their studies.

Blessings to my sponsors and my parents

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, June 27, 2023

Nancy Esmeralda and her dad Elias
All those who are part of the Mission of Friendship are committed to overcoming adversity.

We recently enjoyed hosting a bazaar to raise funds to repair the playground slide of the “Nueva Vida” After-school Program. The slide has been deteriorating for years, and in fact, was totally out of commission for the last six months.

The old slide had provided fun for many years to countless families, ever since Nueva Vida was a full-time home. Now, it is used by new generations of children who come to the Nueva Vida After-school Program.

Without a doubt, we have high hopes of achieving, in the not-too-distant future, a park with more opportunities for modernization where the girls can find various games and activities that allow them to continue promoting their cognitive, physical, and social development.
**Amigos—“In-Kind” Distributions**

Our Amigos families are always happy and grateful to receive in-kind donations! But, how does this work? Thanks to the good effort of the Amigos coordinator Silvia Gonzalez and her team of volunteers, our Amigos families in Mérida can receive not only cash donations but essential items for their homes and families from their generous sponsors in the Diocese of Erie.

The distribution of monetary and in-kind donations usually takes place monthly. Each month families receive different items according to their needs or their request such as groceries, home appliances, clothing, shoes and more.

Family needs are assessed through home visits and surveys.

Besides regular monthly donations, the sponsors provide families with special occasion gifts such as birthday, graduation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The program also provides families with gifts for special occasions such as Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Children’s Day and also Christmas baskets.

It is a great happiness that comes to the Amigos families with every donation and present that they receive; however, the most precious gift for them is your friendship along with your love, prayers, and care for them!

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Braga Sosa family, May 2023  
Pool Che family, April 2023  
Estrella Cob, May 2023

Artemia Puch Che, June 2023  
Cetz Can family, April 2023  
Estela and Sofia Saldivar Alonzo, June 2023
Note From the Director’s Desk

Dear Amigos,

Happy Summer to all!

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.

Just a reminder that the Acceptiva “Amigos” and General Mission of Friendship is available on the Mission Office website. The “Acceptiva” site is to make electronic donations easier, and to allow one-time donations. It is also a quick and easy way to invite family members and friends to make a donation to the Amigos Program, Nueva Vida Program or the Mission of Friendship in general.

Once again, we want to invite you to visit your Yucatecan family or have a tour though our Mission of Friendship Program/facilities. 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.

I am pleased to announce that letters and kids report cards from your sponsored families are underway! You should expect your letter in the mail in August.

Some Important Reminders

The Mission Office in Erie continues to receive the donations sent by Amigos sponsors, Nueva Vida sponsors and Sister Parishes by way of checks and online credit card contributions. 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 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 Sister Parish Program has not undergone any changes at all. Each Sister Parish in Yucatán receives the monetary contributions made by their specific Sister Parishes in the States.

Many blessings,

Indira
Mission of Friendship

Mission Office of the Diocese of Erie, Indira Suarez, Director

429 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, PA 16504

TEL: 814/824-1231  FAX: 814/824-1264  isuarez@eriercd.org  www.ErieRCD.org