

Mission News

Foundation for His Ministry - Transforming communities in Mexico starting with kids.



Eternally Grateful



In this stage of my life, I have realized how fortunate I was to know Foundation For His Ministry (FFHM). I had a difficult childhood without my parents; I grew up in a hostile home that was far away from my family and without the love of my mother and father. But, one day, when I was a teenager at 16 years old, the leadership took me in at FFHM in Oaxaca. They received me with so much affection, and they spoke to me about the love of God, and the most beautiful part is that they showed me that love with acts.

I remember when I was there for about a year and I thought, "If I don't have sponsors I think I'll have to leave," but after three days I received the news that the Juarez Family would sponsor me, and I was shocked. Then, just like that, I heard that Ralph and Marilyn Carlson would sponsor me, too. In one month I knew a wonderful family, the Dukes, with whom I had a special connection from the beginning. I was so happy.

They would write to us in an email or with letters. God touched their hearts so that they'd give me love and support. After that, I received more sponsors like Leticia Beltrán and Keith and Kay Euhus.

Now I want to thank all of them. I have the tools to change my destiny, the first tool being my faith in Jesus Christ, and the second my university education. I am currently doing what brings me the most passion: working as a general practitioner in the IMSS hospital in Oaxaca. We have had lots of patients with COVID-19. On March 1, 2021, I will begin my specialty in gynecology.

Thank you so, so much.

Rubí Garcia
FFHM Graduate



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Child Sponsorship

Being a sponsor is like being a long-distance foster parent – you love the kids while they are there, but some eventually return home. This is after all, a goal of foster parenting. Of the five kids we’ve sponsored over six years, three have returned home. For those still at the children’s home, we love watching them grow up, and plan to continue as sponsors until they are adults.

Sponsoring one child in a house unofficially makes you family to everyone in that house. They each have sponsors, but see them rarely, so visiting sponsors become great substitutes.

The kids are taught to share everything, so we try to provide mostly-shareable items. On every visit, we ask the houseparent what our sobrinas need. Often that has meant taking several kids out to get shoes, jeans, coats, etc. We always take a houseparent or staff member with us, both for safety and to be sure we buy exactly what is needed.



As a retired couple, our first visit to FFHM Baja in 2014 was with a work group from our church in Chicago (Willowcreek). We gave and received so much love during our week-long visit that we returned in a refurbished Airstream trailer for a month-long stay the following December. This allowed us to build a real relationship with a young girl who needed a sponsor. Why did we choose a girl? Because our family included only grandsons who were growing up.

Our first “Sobrina” (sponsor child) soon returned home, but during our December visit, we found another girl crying on Christmas Day, because it was not safe for her to go home for a visit. We soon also sponsored a second girl who was friends with our first sobrina. That became our pattern, as a third young girl also chose us.



We have also gone out together for Thrifty ice cream or to the park or to the Conexion Cafe, and sometimes just bring in pizza and/or ice cream for the whole house. Another great outing if you have a 4WD car is to help a houseparent take kids to the nearby beach.

Many of the kids have siblings in different houses,



who also become unofficially yours, as they love to be together doing something fun. One of our favorite memories was having a staff member help us take three of our sobrinas plus their three brothers out for a day at a pool. We also once bought a pair of roller blades requested by one sobrina, who then asked us to bring another larger pair for her older brother on our next visit.



Many of the kids are there due to past abuse. For that reason, one sobrina only wanted to deal with Ellen at first. It was such a joy to see her open up and feel safe with men at the mission over several years. Even if you can only visit once a year, it is amazing to watch the transformation of a sad child into one who smiles easily.

What can you do for your sponsored kids, even when you cannot visit?

1) Learn some Spanish. The Duolingo computer program is a great way for you to learn some Spanish and for the kids to practice their English while you are together.

2) Visit or communicate regularly. We aren't good at writing letters, but before COVID-19 were able to visit in person every couple of months. Even once a year is enough to see how they grow and build a relationship. We have also delivered gifts to kids sponsored by friends who couldn't visit, resulting in still more great relationships with their kids.

3) A cool way to ship items to your sponsor kids is via Amazon.mx, the Mexican branch of Amazon. If



you find something on the U.S. Amazon site, copy the ASIN part#, go to Amazon.mx, and search for the same part#. Often you will find it there as well. Then you can order as normal, using your U.S. login and credit card, and it will be delivered directly to the office at FFHM Baja. (Delivery address is: Av. Vicente Guerrero No 1000 Oeste Vicente Guerrero, BC C.P. 2290. A.P. 57 MX Mexico.) Be sure to send an email to sponsorship secretary Minerva (sponsorshipffhm@hotmail.com) and office receptionist Celina (repcionbaja@gmail.com) so they will know to expect a package addressed to you, and what to do with it on arrival.

Jim and Ellen Strasma

FFHM Child Sponsors

**Become a FFHM Sponsor at
www.ffhm.org/sponsorships or email your
sponsored child at sponsor@ffhm.org**



FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

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Return Service Requested

February 2021

Would you like to receive our newsletter by email?
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address label with your email orders in the
enclosed envelope.

Thank you, Father, for those who care!

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Give a gift in memory or honor of someone special. The individual's name will be mentioned below. A card can be sent to the individual's family. Donate online www.ffhm.org/donate or call Linda at (949) 492-2200

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Pamela Broughton, daughter
By Amos W. Broughton Jr., husband
& father
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By Alice Winarski
Eduardo & Nena Sanchez
By Don & Janet Skudlarek
Harvey & Ann Holler
By Sandra Saiki
Chris Egger, husband
By Christeen Egger
Chuck & Phyllis Mills
By Gail Orr
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By Margaret Peterson
Richard Peterson
By Chuck & Charla Pereau
Kenneth & Aurora Dwyer
Kermit & Marilyn Dwyer
Barbara & Gordon Dwyer
By Mark & Rosie Smith,
Linda Mosse and children, Wynter &
River;
Diana LaCerte; Maria Schaefer and
children, Reese & Willa

Gloria Teibel, My wife
By Thomas Teibel
Velda Selke – Don Selke, son
By Jo & Tom Vande Venter
Jeff Geboy
By Robert & Carol Gerlach
Mark Spaeth, sibling
Rachel Spaeth, sibling
By Walter & Marjorie Spaeth
Carl Soerens & Elaine Soerens
By Brian Swartz
By Jean McCauslin
By Thomas Mary DeVries
Genevieve & Harold Bredesen
By Dagny Bredesen
Jerry Buckalew
By Jerry & Shirley Buckalew
Matthew Schneider
By Bob & Nancy Lagalski
Jack & Betty Nichols
By Cindie Rhoderick
Richard Oswald
By Brian & Julie O'Connor
Pastor Stiles & Pattie
By Carolyn Taylor
Harry & Betty Sherda
By Steven & Linda Bartel
Agnes Bartel
By Steven & Linda Bartel
John Dewar, My husband
By Irene Dewar
Roberto Munoz-Flores
By Lynn Cory
Jan Holter
By Ruth Koehler
James & Joyce Hart
By Peter & Laura Gittlen
Charles Hickey, My husband
By Marilyn Hickey
Corrine Ehrick
By Coey Austin
Sherman Hunter, My little brother
By Kenneth Hunter

Harts Hobbs
By Yasuko Yamauchi
Ernie Mills
By Russ Mills
Gerry Witt
By Sandy Witt
IN HONOR OF:
Hilda Pratt's 90th Birthday
By Jack & Kim Leighton
Carolyn & Terry Barnes
By Josephine Jackson
Hans & Nancy Benning
By Richard & Karen Julian
Irene Bushfield's 99th Birthday
By Jack & Kim Leighton
The marriage of Jaymes & Maria Beamish
By Jack & Kim Leighton
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By Norma Engeman
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By Lori Ness
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By Chris & Leslie De Mott
Hilda Pratt's 90th Birthday
By Jack & Kim Leighton
Esther Ellickson
By Nancy Ellickson
Carl Holter
By Ruth Koehler
**Marlene & Will Fisher and
Mark & Cindy Burgess**
By Kenneth & Debora Anderson