

November 2023

Foundation For HIS MINISTRY

One Heart at a Time

By Cheryl Trever
Baja Mission Director

Francisco arrived at the mission with his two sisters when he was three. Although it was hard for him to be away from his mom, he had a caregiver who really loved him and often told him and the other boys about Jesus. He taught them about God clearly and concisely and led the boys in a prayer that was an essential moment in Franco's life. He realized that God was his father, which allowed him to be free of what had happened to him in the past. God reminded Franco that he was not alone.

Franco has always loved soccer. After dinner, the kids would all head out to the soccer field until the sun went down. The older boys would play with neighborhood kids, and Franco always wanted to join them. However, he was only eight, and they didn't want to play with the little kids. One day, Franco gathered a team of little kids and convinced the big kids to let them play. To everyone's surprise, the little kids beat the big kids! During these games, Franco learned to look for the kids who



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think they can't do it. He loved inviting kids that others wouldn't ask. And he loved to achieve impossible things, like beating the big kids!

Franco was always a great student, breezing through school at the top of his class. At age 17, he finished high school and moved to the TJ house to study computer engineering. He thought college would be as easy as high school, but he failed his first two classes within the first semester. For Franco, this was a huge shock! He struggled to establish good study habits because he really enjoyed video games, movies, and sleeping. His courses became more challenging and complex as he advanced in his studies, and he kept failing. As a result, he was asked to leave the TJ house. During this chal-

lenging time, he reflected on his prayer many years ago, remembering God as his father. So, he continued to trust God and cling to the promise that God would always be with him.

This was a challenging year for Franco as he studied and worked to stay afloat. In 2020, when the pandemic began, his school announced that they would shut down for a time. This meant that he no longer needed to live in Tijuana if he didn't have to go to school. So, Franco returned home to the Baja mission, where he began volunteering and studying online.

Susan Eichensehr, one of the staff members, always invited him to get involved and



participate in different activities around the mission. She became an important part of Franco's life. She asked him to join the running club, motivating him to keep pressing on. Serving alongside Susan helped Franco realize how much he loved soccer, sports, and teaching kids. As his time at the mission passed, he made the huge decision to change his major from engineering to education to become a PE teacher.

All the kids that come to the children's home have come because of hard situations, but like Franco, that doesn't have to define their futures. Franco loves spending time with the kids, from the toddlers in the nursery to the teenagers. He sees each of them as capable kids who have been given a new opportunity to reach their full potential.

I am so grateful for this place and proud of my home. I am reminded of the many things God has done here and am happy to be a part of it. I am thankful for people like Susan who have believed in me and pushed me towards a hopeful future."

-Franco

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