



Baja Vision Ministries – City of Angels

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Dear Friends of City of Angels,

The time has come to celebrate the ending of another school year and anticipate the long, hot days of summer. Currently we have 45 children between the ages of 2 and 17 living at our home, 41 of whom attended school this year. We are so proud of all our kids who have stuck with it and successfully completed another year of school.

At this year's kindergarten graduation, buttons will be busting as three of our kids leave kindergarten behind and get ready for school with the "big kids" next year. Giovany is one of our kindergarten graduates who has a special place in our hearts since he has been with us since he was one year old. Now, as we watch him strut his stuff at the graduation, we ask ourselves how the years have gone by so fast and are thankful for the opportunity to invest in his little life before poverty, abuse or addictions had a chance to damage his heart and mind. Congratulations to Giovany, Christian, and Layla for finishing strong in kindergarten!

We are also proud of our graduates who will be finishing elementary and continuing on to middle school in the fall. Not only does this signify a change in schools, but it signals the coming phase of adolescence in these students' lives. The middle school years will be both exciting and challenging for them as they continue to learn and grow academically as well as experience physical and mental changes. Congratulations to Antonio, Perla and Damaris for successfully completing grade school!



Amid all these school celebrations, we must share the story of Luz with you. Luz is a 17 year old girl with a painful past who arrived at our home nine months ago. From the time she was born she has experienced rejection and abuse. First, at the hand of her mother who wanted nothing to do with her and abandoned her to a friend's care. Later, the same "friend" prevented Luz from attending school and used her as a live-in babysitter for her own children. When she tired of the abuse, Luz ran away to find her birth mother. After the painful discovery that her mom still did not want her, Luz lived with one family member after another until she finally landed at DIF (Mexican Children's Services). DIF contacted us and Luz was able to come live at City of Angels where—for the first time in her life—she enrolled in school! This year, she attended adult classes where she has been learning to read and write. Although she is a very intelligent young lady, she is not used to the discipline and structure of a school environment and struggles to apply herself to her studies. However, she likes living at City of Angels and has developed a good relationship with our on-site director, Israel, and his wife, Maria Elena.

Understandably, Luz has been deeply affected by the painful circumstances of her life. Although she is 17 years old, her maturity level and decision-making abilities are closer to those of a 13 year-old. We are so happy that she finally has the opportunity to attend school and would love to see her stay with us long enough to receive the academic, emotional and spiritual education she needs to break the cycle of poverty and abuse. However, with her 18th birthday coming up in July, the decision will be entirely hers as to whether she wants to stay with us or set out on her own.

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Please remember to pray for City of Angels even as you are involved with all the busy activities of your own summer. Pray for Luz that she will make the wise decision to stay with us after her 18th birthday. Pray that God will continue to faithfully provide for all our physical needs as we continue to feed and clothe 45 children on a daily basis. Pray for our staff that they will have wisdom and strength as they parent the children God has entrusted to us. Most of all, pray that these children will heal from past hurts and truly know and experience God's unconditional love through their time here at City of Angels.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sergio Gomez
President and Founder