

Dear Friends,

Last weekend we had our annual Christmas party in which the children performed a musical drama portraying the story of Noah's Ark. Many friends joined us for the festivities, including several church groups from California as well as some of the kids' families, friends from school and members of the local community. After the children presented their drama we all sat down for a tamale dinner, then the moment for opening presents arrived. The children were truly blessed by the gifts they received - everyone got to unwrap a gift, even the dog!

This year we are celebrating five years of serving the children of Tijuana with you. As we look back, we pause to remember where these kids come from and what God is doing in their lives. We think of little Ana who arrived here at just a few months old. Her mother would never disclose exactly why she was unable to take care of her beautiful baby girl but it was clear she was in some type of abusive relationship. Like many parents of the kids living here, she brought her to us out of love, in an effort to provide her a better life. We thank God for this precious little girl and for the opportunity to serve her and watch her grow up at City of Angels. This year Ana is five years old and played the horse on Noah's Ark.



We also look at Jesús - our eldest child at eighteen years. His mom brought him to us four years ago. This slick kid had learned the ways of the streets at a young age and was tougher than children much older than him. Within weeks of his arrival he had already stolen from the staff, the other kids, the American groups that came down to help, and even food from the kitchen. It took a lot of time and patience to convince him there was a better way; that he no longer needed to steal because God had already provided everything he needed. Today Jesús is doing great. He fell behind in his education early in life but has turned into an exemplary student and is working hard towards his high school diploma. He played Noah in the musical.



We would like to take this time to thank all of you who have been praying and sending support this year. We have had a difficult time financially in the last few months. A couple times we were forced to delay paying bills and staff, but we thank God that our children never went hungry. We learned a lot and have since instituted a program to help avoid these problems in the future. Of course you can always send checks or make a special gift using your credit card but now - to provide further stability for the children - fill out the enclosed donation slip and mark the 'automated giving' box. We will charge your Visa or MasterCard in the amount you specify on a monthly basis for one year. Maybe you can give five dollars a month, maybe one hundred, maybe much more. Whatever you are able to give, it will go a long ways toward providing a brighter future for these kids.

Merry Christmas from all the children and staff at City of Angels!