



*Mission Statement.* The Latin America Community Assistance (LACA) Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity dedicated to improving the lives of the rural poor in Latin America.



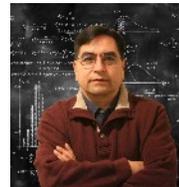
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## The President's Message by Jesse A. Canchola

Dear LACA Friends,

We are honored to continue serving the rural poor in Latin America and are humbled by the continuing support we receive from you, our donors. There is much for us to be thankful for.

This year is going fast but, even in the midst of the pandemic, we have many accomplishments to share with you in this newsletter ... from reporting on Tarahumara famine relief to scholarships to medical equipment and to migrant assistance in Mexico.



We are also looking for partnerships with you, for scholarships, other projects you may have, or wherever the need is greatest.

I've said this before and I can't say it enough, on behalf of our entire LACA board, I want YOU, our donors, to know how much we appreciate your generosity during this continuing pandemic.

My gratitude continues to be expressed through ongoing action to make sure your donations, big or small, make a true difference for those who are impoverished. Because all labor is donated, approximately 95% of your donation goes directly to the project or recipient in need. That is incredible!

LACA needs you! We are grateful for your support, now more than ever. Stay well and stay safe! □

## Goodbye to two Board Members

The Board would like to thank Alexis Lawson and Josephine Zertuche who have left the board after more than 10 years of service to LACA. Both have served in the executive capacity as either president or vice president. Alexis and Josephine were both instrumental with formalizing our LACA scholarship program along with Raquel Aguayo-Riffel and Karena McKinley, both of whom are still sorely missed after their untimely passing a time ago. □

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**Your generous donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.**

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The LACA newsletter is written and designed by Board members and LACA volunteers for FREE!

A special thanks to Jesse Canchola for contributing his graphic design talents for this newsletter free of charge.

The LACA Foundation  
P.O. Box 21000  
Castro Valley, California 94546

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Elvia Villalobos • Josephine Zertuche

### Emeriti Volunteers (10+ years)

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**Thank you to our Donors!** - Contributions received as of 04-Nov-2021

Anonymous	Individuals	Alicia	Perez
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**IN HONOR OF**

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**In honor of Janice and Jim Fisher**  
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Theresa M. Futvoye-Micus

**In honor of Lillian Trillo**  
Deanna Hisaw  
Burt and June Rigley

**IN MEMORY OF**

**In memory of Edward L. Wenik**  
Jesse and Alison Canchola

**In memory of Keith and Diane Fisher,**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Fisher

**In memory of Violet E. Rogers**  
John Manion

**In memory of Janet Smith**  
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You may also physically mail your contribution via the United States Postal Service (USPS) at the following address:

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Our apologies if your name does not appear on this list. We continue to update our records.

Please let us know of any corrections by mail or e-mail: [Info@LacaFoundation.Org](mailto:Info@LacaFoundation.Org)



**Mexico Update by Jesse A. Canchola**

**Famine Assistance.** You answered our call for famine relief for the Tarahumara Famine earlier this year. Fr. Miguel from Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico, has indicated that YOU through LACA were able to help provide 33,200 kg (73,193 lbs.) of corn helping 828 indigenous Rarámuri families in the Tarahumara nation. His report breaks down the communities served with one community example in the picture to to the right. □



**Medical Equipment.**

From your generous donations, LACA recently was able to assist in the purchase of medical equipment for the Santa Teresita Clinic in Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico. Specifically, Fr. Miguel was able to purchase Hematology and Clinical Chemistry Analysis Laboratory equipment to "continue serving many people in vulnerable situations, most of whom belong to the Rarámuri indigenous ethnic group (Tarahumara)." As of July 2021, the clinic has served over 2,200 patients. Thank you, our donors, for making this purchase possible. □

**Migrant Assistance in Piedras Negras by Dotty Gonsalves.** Last month Jesse Canchola and I had the privilege of meeting Sister Isabel Turcios while she was visiting our founder, Lillian Trillo. The following is a summary of what Sr. Isabel told us (translated from Spanish by Thelma Fones).

(Continued on Page 4)

# El Salvador Update by Kevin Sheil

## Niña Carolina Day Care Center Repairs

LACA helps every year with operating costs for The Niña Carolina Day Care Center in El Salvador. The center provides food, activities and a safe learning environment for pre-school children while their mothers work at jobs, earning very little.

Spring 2020 COVID restrictions in El Salvador temporarily shut down child care operations. The facilities were then used to provide food and other subsistence assistance to the families, most of

in January, 2020, we noticed desperately needed roof repairs. Water dripped into the classrooms; teachers had to place cans to catch the rain. The Board received two estimates for the work and we sent money for the smaller of the two. It took over a year to get the project going, delayed because of the pandemic, but repairs are now almost complete! The roof repair actually cost less than the amount we sent. Thus the board just voted to use excess funds to fix additional needs, like the doors to the children's bathrooms. I will keep you and the board updated.

Thank YOU so much for helping to make repairs for this haven for vulnerable children a reality.

*Please note that all LACA humanitarian trips are personally financed by all attendees and no LACA donor funds are used.*

### Scholarships

In January 2020, we interviewed 13 students in El Salvador for scholarships. Then the pandemic was thrust upon us and, as we all

know, EVERYTHING was shut-down, including their universities and educational institutions.

As things were locked down in El Salvador, some students dropped out as families lost their



whom had lost their jobs. Once operations restarted, the children returned to thrive.

When our president, Jesse Canchola, and I visited Niña Carolina

livelihoods, but many stayed active and eventually made the switch to virtual classes. The new 'Zoom' schooling necessitated a change in how scholarship funds were spent, namely paying for student's Internet access which, ironically, is cheaper.

This year, 2021, we accepted additional students into the fold, some now in a hybrid (online and in person) model of schooling, spending the remaining money from last year's scholarship assistance. The pandemic's impact is still being felt, with some students unable to continue because of economic or health reasons. □

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**LACA does not sell or trade its mailing list.**

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**We welcome your comments!**

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## El Salvador Update (continued from page 3)

However, I am happy to note that those remaining students are thriving in this new learning environment, and are giving back to their community through small service projects (tutoring younger children, helping at the church, etc.) We hope to see a new crop of applicants soon. Thank YOU for helping to educate the youth of El Salvador.

**Migrant Assistance in Piedras Negras** (continued from Page 2). "I am the director of Dignity Migrant House in the Mexican city of Piedras Negras, across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Migrants arrive to us from Africa, Venezuela, Cuba,



Central America, and Haiti. The majority are Hondurans as the situation there is extremely difficult. Many come with their children.

Recently, we have also had unaccompanied children who come trying to cross the border to find a relative. We have even had babies that are left at the edge of the river. Attached to the diaper is the address of the person to call in the United States to whom they should be delivered.

Another phenomenon that we have seen lately are parents with children with serious illnesses and/or disabilities who come in search of medicine or treatment not available in their countries.

It is painful to see families with children or women alone with children in search of a peaceful life. Their journeys have many times become a nightmare. It is a long trip from Tapachula, Honduras, to the north. Migrants often walk the whole way, or part of it on the top of dangerous freight trains. They arrive with many holes in their shoes. Many times they have been through kidnappings, rapes, and beatings



from officials and robbers. When they get here, we try to help them with food (feeding more than 100 people per day), clothes, shoes, medications, and medical help

Groups of women who are already pregnant have come to wait here because the "coyotes", many times, sold them the idea that if they came pregnant, they could get across the border and they could have their child in the United States. That is not true as the border authorities return them to Mexico. We offer to help these pregnant women by taking them to the hospital to be evaluated, paying for their ultrasounds and other charges. After birth we staff a home (Bethany House) where they can go with their babies to recover. We do this above all to convince the women to not risk crossing the river endangering their lives and that of their babies.

Migrants live in abandoned houses in Piedras Negras or outside, under a tree and even under bridges. We tell them "Ask for asylum in your country or request it in Mexico, stay in Mexico, stay in Mexico". Thank God, we also have a lawyer who makes migrants aware that they can request asylum to stay in Mexico. We also partner with a social worker to help migrants look for work. But God never abandons anyone. We always have the divine providence to be able to continue helping, thanks to organizations including LACA. Thank you for everything and may God continue to bless the hearts of each one of you, your family and all those who collaborate with LACA." □

**Looking for Partnerships.** Partnerships are commonplace in the nonprofit world to enhance good work. Over the years, LACA has had a wonderful impact in many communities across Latin America; from medical team visits to solar cookers, from day care centers to funding medical equipment and educational scholarships. All working on the ground and with partners in those countries. However, over time (and especially with COVID) the circle of LACA's contacts and partners, 'in country', has shrunk.

The LACA Board is requesting information from our donors for potential partners in the communities we serve. Even though a partnership may last for a limited time, for a particular project, the positive effects are long lasting. For example, if we wish to expand our scholarship program, we need a local partner to get the word out, gather the applications, and administer the funds. If you would like to entertain a partnership with LACA, or can recommend a name/group, or would like help out with our web pages - **please contact the Board or Kevin Sheil at [Kevin.Sheil.Home@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.Sheil.Home@gmail.com)**

**Giving Tuesday.** Every Tuesday after Thanksgiving, we celebrate the global Giving Tuesday movement - a day that encourages all people with a caring heart to do good. I encourage each and every one of you to give from your heart, whether it is your time, your voice, or even in the form of a donation. With a smile, helping a neighbor, providing for those less fortunate, acting with kind generosity, all are acknowledged deep within our hearts with humility and honor.

