



Fall Issue, '06

GENESIS™

Learning Experiences for Orphanage and Migrant Children

So much is happening ...

- 6 churches with 125 individuals joined Genesis Diez, A.C. at Rancho Genesis this summer along with 229 children from 8 Casas Hogars (Orphanages)
- Within days of our last newsletter going out asking for help locating the owner of the Santa Rosa Valley land, we received information on the US owner and we hope to make contact very soon
- Missionaries Sam and Janna Dyck have been asked to help develop and run a new orphanage and elder care facility in LaMision. This has been a desire of theirs and we wish them all the best.
- GIOF is planning a February Gala event to be held in San Diego
- We are pleased to announce that David Balfour is the new GIOF President and Chairman of the Board. We wish GIOF Co-Founder, Ken Amstutz, a successful "retirement" as he pursues his art and writing career.



Genesis International Orphanage Foundation GIOF

P.O. Box 6458
Chula Vista, Ca. 91909 U.S.A.
USA Tel.: 619-977-7072
Office@GIOF.org
www.GIOF.org

Genesis Diez, A.C.

C. Atenas #45
Col. Ampl. Moderna
Ensenada, B.C. 22879 Mexico
MEX Tel.:
011-52-646-174-5257

Greg Amstutz

Co-Founder
RanchoGenesis@GenesisDiez.org

Gabriela Velazquez

Executive Director
Ejecutiva@GenesisDiez.org
www.GenesisDiez.org

"...care for orphans and widows in their distress..."

James 1:27

Contents

- Happenings
- Summer 2006
- Genesis Diez, A.C. staff
- Evangelina & Yadira
- Note from Patti
- Oaxacan family update
- Quotes
- Big Events
- The Children
- Needs and Prayers
- Special Thanks

Summer 2006...

Roasting marshmallows, singing around the campfire, hiking, scavenger hunts, riding the Jersey Park train, building sandcastles, and playing in the waves are only some of the many exciting experiences that were shared by the niños and amigos this past summer at Rancho Genesis. Each week the niños and amigos had an opportunity to participate together in different crafts, sports, and cooperative games. Many of the activities were programmed around the book, *You are Special* by Max Lucado. This book helps to build positive self-esteem, as it encourages the niños to recognize that they are special simply because of how God made them. We also used this theme to celebrate how everyone has different talents and gifts to recognize and respect!

There were eight Casas-Hogar from the Tijuana and Mexicali areas that came to stay at the Ranch, each for a week. We were excited to have many familiar faces return, as well as welcome for the first time CAHOVA, an all boys Casa Hogar from Mexicali! For many of these boys it was their first time to visit the ocean, you can only imagine the excitement experienced by these kids during our day at the beach as they jumped the waves and rode boogie boards! At the end of the week one of the boys described the best part was that he was able to go to Genesis' pool - the largest pool in the world!

Our summers would not exist without the help from our amigo groups: **Grace Baptist Church [Manteno, IL]** helped Genesis kick off the summer in June. Their enthusiasm was contagious! Some of the niños were very impressed and a little confused that the amigos could perform puppet shows in Spanish [pre-recorded] yet only talked in English when they were together! **Compass Point Bible Church [Burlington Ontario Canada]** definitely earned the award for not only finding the most bugs, but for also finding the most interesting critters! The amigos also pampered the niños with facials, manicures, and pedicures. It was a week of bugs & beauty! **Highland Park Community Church [Casper, WY]** pulled up in their bus with lots of energy and ready to serve! This extremely hard working group of amigos helped out wherever needed on the Ranch, including repairing our dining tent after a huge sandstorm! **Upside Student Ministries [Vienna, VA]** demonstrated God's love through their creative program of music, drama, crafts, and sports. Each amigo also worked very hard to make a storybook for his/her niño as another way to share Christ. The **Coleman Family [Silverdale, WA]** of four quickly made themselves at home on the Ranch, as they developed great friendships with 35 niños and made some amazing memories, including their hike to the top of the mountain! **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church [Grove City, Ohio]** prepared a VBS based around the theme of a "Mexican Fiesta!" It was a blessed week of songs, games, and celebrations!

Every week had it's own memories...but one thing that was the same is that every group of amigos were willing to pour unconditional love into the niños.

'I give you a new command. Love each other. You will love each other as I have loved you. All the people will know that you are my followers if you love each other'. John 13: 34-35

- Amanda DeVries



Genesis is the official news and update publication of GIOF & Genesis Diez, A.C.



Genesis Diez, A.C. has been very blessed with the staff the Lord has brought together. This is a loving caring team who support and encourage one another as well as everyone who comes in contact with them. The 2006 Summer Genesis Diez, A.C. Team consisted of:
 Gabriela Velazquez, Executive Director
 Greg Amstutz, Co-Founder
 Amanda DeVries, Program Manager
 Sam Dyck, Webmaster and Spring/Summer Construction coordinator
 Analilia Alvarado, Secretary
 Haty DeSylvia, General Assistance and Relations with Casas Hogar
 Evangelina Garcia, Head Cook and Prayer Warrior
 Yadira Rosas, Assistant to Cook
 Madai Flores Lopez, Spring/Summer Counselor



Diana, Ali, Anna



Gabi, Greg, Amanda, Jay, Lisa, Isabelle, Madai

Many volunteers came for 2-6 weeks and were very hardworking, faithful and encouraging teammates. They include Jay Halden, CA, Lisa Sillib, and Isabelle May, Canada, Diana Stapp, WA, Ali Kara and Anna Knierim, OR and Ruben Alvarado Bustos, B.C. MX

‘The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.’
 Matthew 22.11-12



Evangelina and Yadira... When groups are asked to comment on some of the best things about Genesis, many comment on the great Mexican food. Genesis is extremely blessed to have Evangelina. She’s not only a good cook, she is also a woman of God, a prayer warrior and has a great love for the niños and amigos.

Born in the valley of San Quintin, Evangelina has lived in Ensenada many years. Her family is a very important part of her life. She is the mother of 5 and grandmother of 12. Often while cooking she enjoys sharing stories of her family.

Evangelina is also a very important part of the Genesis family. This is her 4th year as Head Cook. She always shares how blessed she is to cook for the niños and amigos. When asked why, she said because of her “gran amor” (great love) for niños. She also shared how when she was a little girl she was very sick and a volunteer group of doctors from the United States took her to a hospital in San Diego to help her get better. The impact of volunteers on her own life has given her love and appreciation for the amigos who come to serve.

Although there are many dishes that Evangelina enjoys to prepare, her favorites are: tostadas, chilaquiles, and the famous fish tacos! I think most would agree that no one goes hungry at the Ranch!

The past 3 summers, Evangelina’s granddaughter Yadira has helped in the kitchen. This past year, Yadira specifically helped Evangelina buy the food and other items for cooking. Like her grandmother, Yadira loves to work in the kitchen as she too has a love for the niños. Yadira said that she loves to watch the niños when they discover what is on the menu and the happiness they show while eating! These memories, along with the smiles and laughter of the niños are some of the things that Yadira enjoys about her time with Genesis.



A Note from Patti ... The Lord will use you, when we ask and allow Him to. Ask “Your Will in my life Lord” and He will let you know one way or another what that is. Serve the Lord Joyously – here I get confused. I just don’t feel like jumping up and down. Now Greg, my esposo of 33 years, he jumps up and down! Our personalities are quite different however. I’m a homebody, he loves to be around lots of people most of the time, I have a small comfort zone, I don’t think he has a “zone”. He’s athletic, I’m not. He gets excited way in advance about vacations or some get-away, I get excited once I’m on my way or when I get there. My Webster’s dictionary explains Joy as the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something good or satisfying. I’m thinking I don’t necessarily have to feel like jumping up and down to experience “joy”. I raised several litters of Shetland Sheepdogs. Sitting in their pen with 6 or more puppies jumping all over me – that was a joyous feeling. Even though she can’t hold up her head, when little Maria, the Oaxacan girl we’ve been sharing about, does lift up her head and looks at you and you see her smile and her eyes that have life and light in them – that is a joyous feeling. Even though the present location of Rancho Genesis has dust and dirt everywhere, the laughter and delight of the kids showing the true joy they are feeling...is a joyous feeling. I think I am getting a better understanding. Looking at photos of the kids showing their joy, watching the Genesis Diez staff, visiting Maria and her siblings, the thank you notes and photos around me in my at-home GIOF office are the reminders of the blessings that can come from what little I can do thru my work. May we all be “joyous in our work” so that we can help bring joyous feelings to others and in doing so feel joyful ourselves!

Oaxacan Family Update: Genesis Diez, A.C., DIF and a local church are supplying Bonaficia and her children with food on a weekly basis and medicines for the girls on a monthly basis. This has allowed them to relocate to a 2-room place. Maria and Margarita have grown and look healthier. Margarita is getting around much better and has a beautiful smile. Maria is still wheelchair bound and Genesis is helping arrange for her to be placed in an orphanage for handicapped children where she will receive the physical therapy she needs so badly. The orphanage is located near her family so they would be able to visit her regularly. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Quotes: Rancho Genesis Summer 2006

...through the eyes of Amigos...

My experience was challenging, fun, and amazing. I thought that I knew almost exactly what to expect when I came on this trip, but I had a completely different experience than I had expected, I never knew that in a week you could grow to love someone sooo much!

This week has been everything and more than what I expected. It has been such an amazing experience to form a connection and bond with a niño. I really enjoyed the activities, day at the beach and campfires with the orphans. The time spent laughing and playing has been so wonderful. It was all worth it just to see the smile on my niña's face.

This was one of the best experiences of my life. I loved seeing the niños smile and laugh, coming here made me realize how much we take for granted. I will definitely be going on many more missions. I love these children and they made everything worthwhile.

...thru the eyes of Orphanage Staff...

What I admired that in this place everyone loves God. I'm very thankful of this time we could share together & we had fun. I think the experiences here show love to the kids. I would like to be invited again, God bless you.

I had different emotions. I liked a lot working for & with the kids, this is my first opportunity of working outside my city & meet more people that work with kids. It was very enjoyable & a new challenge to learn English & first aid & someday to bring kids that doesn't know about God. I know it's the beginning. Thanks to the friends & Genesis.

...thru the eyes of Niños...

It was a very fun, sensational experience & very enjoyable with my friend. It was fun going outside to places like La Bufadora, the beach, the park, & other fun places. I had a lot of fun between the meals because I spent time with my Amiga, class time, singing, the fire, marshmallows with cookies, & playing sports was fun too.

I loved having a friend that comes from very far, understood me, & we didn't speak the same language. I liked the activities we did, I liked going everywhere, doing bracelets, receiving things with love, & I learned there is nothing more kind, like they come from very far to serve & not to be served.

It was very fun working with Genesis personnel. I loved climbing the mountain. I had so much fun. I loved the parks, the beach, La Bufadora and meeting everyone. It was fun thinking of languages. Everything I've lived in Genesis I think it will be something I will always remember. Thanks Genesis for inviting me all these years. (A Nina who has visited several times)

We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do. -Mother Teresa



Two large one-day events...

On July 8th, Genesis Diez and the First lady of Rosarito DIF organized and hosted a large one day event at the Rosarito Cultural Center. This event 'Pintando Una Cancion' (Paint a Song) included 380 children from 12 different Casas Hogar in the Ensenada, Rosarito and Tijuana area. A performance from the rhythmic Latino group 'Arbol Azul' was followed by a painting contest where the niños expressed their thoughts about the music. Judges selected 5 winners, with Santa Terasita, an all girls Albergue from Ensenada placing first. All the murals were displayed at CEMAC (The Municipal Art & Cultural Centre in Rosarito). After lunch, the niños also participated in a variety of activities including: musical chairs, face painting, sac races, and parachute games. Genesis was also able to recognize the directors of the Casa Hogars and present them all with special gifts at the end of the day. We are very thankful for the 25 volunteers from Ensenada and San Diego area who helped at the event, making this day a possibility!

On October 6th the Day of the Volunteers was celebrated nationally by the company Delloite. At the beginning of this year the workers of Delloite from Tijuana sponsored an elementary school in a very impoverished area. The goal of the company is to improve the environment for the niños (bathrooms, classrooms, etc...) as well as to help expand programs (i.e. computer classes). Genesis worked with The Foundation for Niños to help prepare a day of fun and educational activities for over 650 students of this school. The niños learned about safety from the Police, nutrition from the Hospital Infantil de las Californias, caring for the environment from Eco Inteligente, as well self-esteem from the Staff of Genesis.

The Children

Wide-eyed, full of wonder, curious, love to be held, trusting and innocent—normally. The children Genesis serves are now safe in orphanages, wide-eyed, full of wonder, curious, sometimes want to be held, not so trusting and almost never innocent. They may have been sexually abused, physically abused, abandoned and/or their parents are in jail or rehab because of drugs.

One can only pray they receive enough love and guidance to overcome their past experiences and become positive healthy adults.

Author and speaker Joyce Meyers grew up being sexually abused and is now using her life experiences to reach out to others thru trusting the only truly perfect Father, our Lord—the one who saw her through it all.

In her *Battlefield of the Mind Devotional* she talks about how what we allow in our minds affects everything in our lives:

Positive minds produce positive lives and negative minds produce negative lives.

What we are taught growing up, from our family, peers and teachers can affect us most of our lives. Some of us grew up with happy family experiences and have high expectations. Some of us grew up with unhappy family experiences and have low expectations. This affects our personalities and relationships for years. What we forget is that we do not have to carry on the pattern. We do not have to do or say what was said or done to us. We can grab hold of He who got us thru and be more like Him. Genesis' goal is to build up the children thru unconditional love, encouragement, emphasizing the importance of education and offering fun learning experiences to remember. We desire to foster positive minds and for them to know God loves them.

Help Genesis help **the children.**

- Patti Amstutz



Naturaleza
Baja

Current Genesis Diez, A.C. Needs and Wishes

- Materials and Labor needed on Bajamar House Fundraising Project:
New cabinets, electrical, plumbing, counter tops, lights, etc. and/or Home Depot,
Lowe and Costco gift cards. To coordinate labor, contact Greg at 619-997-7890.
- Office Depot & Staples gift cards for laser printer ink cartridges at the Genesis Diez office.
- Donated printing and mechanic services.

Specific Prayer Requests:

- That the orphanage and community children leave Rancho Genesis after our fall and winter weekend retreats with wonderful memories, higher self-esteem, a sense of positive self-worth, and even more hope for the future.
- That the orphanage and community children know God is with them everyday and that He is the perfect father that loves them unconditionally just as they are.
- That a permanent site for Rancho Genesis comes to Genesis Diez, A.C. according to the Lord's Will.

Make checks payable to GIOF

Please use the attached envelope to mail your gift or if receiving this newsletter by E-mail send your donation to the GIOF address.

A special Thank You to all the many individuals who have been donating so many items on our wish lists on a regular basis. So many of these items are used on a daily basis during camp. Every church that visited us left many wonderful useful items as well and some groups even purchased extra building materials while they were here. God Bless you.

A special acknowledgment also goes to the following two exceptional groups of kids who sent the most items at one time. Between these two groups, all items on our early summer wish list were provided!!! The niños thoroughly enjoyed everything and a lot of the items we will be able to use for a long time:

- **Joy! Lutheran, Kids Klub VBS**, Gurnee Ill, sent so many heavy boxes—UPS asked what we do. They were very impressed. Joy! sent absolutely everything that was on the wish list we gave them along with funds for 10 bunk beds!!!
- **Karen Core's 5th Grade Class' 'Pay It Forward Day'** project, San Mateo, CA, sent 17 boxes that included sports equipment, art supplies and games that were used all summer!

Muchas Gracias! You helped give 229 orphanage kids a wonderful summer camp experience!



Genesis needs your help in providing the many materials we use for our programs. Materials include items for literacy, science, recreational, and other educational learning activities for the children (as well as feeding, housing, and caring for them when at Rancho Genesis). The programs change with the season and while some needs are consistent, others are different depending on the time of year. We truly appreciate your help.



P.O. Box 6458
Chula Vista, CA 91909-6458

Learning Experiences for
Orphanage and Migrant Children

STAMP

