

The GOOD NEWS

Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua

La Gran Familia

September 2020

SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AT LA GRAN FAMILIA - REMOTELY

Public schools started in Cuauhtémoc on Monday, August 24th. Our 46 students will be attending online, but they will be assisted and supported by our five in-house tutors. It is not clear when 'in school' classes will begin

The 24 elementary school students will re-

ceive their instruction over video and computers. Their tutor will be Lesli.

The nine high school students will begin class on August 31st. They will receive instruction by computer and *What's App* and their tutor will be Claudia. She also supervises the other tutors.

Our four university students have already



DONATE WITH PEACE OF MIND

LGF is now capable of accepting wire transfers and credit card payments through our new LGF website (lgfmexico.org).

Find the 'Donate' tab, scroll to the bottom of the page & locate this graphic.

Donate



Clicking the picture will take you to the safe and secure PayPal website. You do not need a PayPal account to donate.

Donating made quick, simple, and absolutely safe will save on postage, envelopes, and checks.



Fabiola with 1st & 2nd year primary students

ceive their classes over television with books that are provided by the schools. The students will be tutored by Cristina, Fabiola, and Citlaly. Each tutor will have two grade levels to work with.



Citlaly with 3rd & 4th year primary students



Claudia with high school students

started classes online. Joel is in Nursing School. Miguel is studying Renewable Energies. Gabriela and Esmeralda are studying to become teachers.

The older students also have jobs. Esmeralda works in a paper store, Gabriela works for a shoe store, Karla is employed by a clothing store, and Ricardo works on a farm.

So far, we have had no Covid-19 cases at La Gran Familia. We hope that this further isolation from other students will keep us safe. We are no longer on total lockdown like we were in the Spring. So, in spite of Covid, things are very busy at La Gran Familia.



Weekend house parents, Diego & Karely

WE WELCOME ANA LUISA

Ana Luisa arrived at the shelter on June 20, 2020. She is nine years old. She was found by the police in the streets of Cuauhtémoc at about 10:00 PM. She was with a group of adults who were drunk. She was in danger, and she told the police that she had spent several nights sleeping on the streets. Her father was one of the intoxicated adults with whom she was found.

One day when Martín and some of the children including Ana Luisa were going someplace in the van they saw a woman on the street and Ana told Martín that she was her mother. Martín spoke to the woman and asked if Ana was her daughter, but the woman said no, she was not her daughter. She said her daughters were back in the mountains. Ana assured Martín that she was her mother.



Ana Luisa is a Tarahumara Indian. She speaks very little Spanish, and she has never attended school. She has been very difficult to help. We have had to take her to the doctor several times with stomach pain and headaches. The Child Protective Services of Chihuahua has searched to find her family but have not been successful, so she will stay at La Gran Familia for the foreseeable future and will start school in the fall.

SAFE AT LAST

She is a rescue from Cuauhtémoc and we have chosen to protect her identity by giving her the pseudonym 'Jane'. She escaped from her home where she had suffered severe abuse and mistreatment. She eventually went to a neighbor's house and asked that the police be called to see if they would find a place for her in a shelter. DIF, the child protective services for Chihuahua, quickly became involved and brought her to LGF in August.

Evidently, her mother sold her to several different men. The men kept their faces covered and were armed. She is very thin and malnourished and has required visits to the doctor. She is thrilled to be at LGF.



OUR KIDS NEED YOUR PRAYERS MORE THAN EVER

There has been a change at La Gran Familia. In the past we have received children from parents who find themselves unable to raise their children and seek help from LGF. One example is the Tarahumara mother who works in the apple orchards all day and has to leave her small children locked in a room for their safety. Another example is a grandmother who is left with small children of an extremely ill parent. I have been struck by how emotionally undamaged the kids from these sorts of circumstances are.

The children mentioned in this newsletter have to deal with mothers who see them on the street and say "I don't know her. She's not my daughter." The other example is that of a mother who would sell her pre-teen daughter into prostitution. Dealing with their level of abuse is something different, and these kids need not only your financial support but your prayers to be able to handle this degree of rejection.

THE COST OF EDUCATION

At La Gran Familia, school began Monday, August 24th. All the classes will be over the internet which means that some of our usual costs for uniforms and sports will be avoided, but there will be unusually high demands put on our in-house tutors. In the United States online learning has not been a resounding success, but with the help of our four tutors, we hope to keep our kids advancing.

Many of them have started their schooling behind grade level or not speaking Spanish (some speak only Tarahumara when they come) and we cannot afford for them to fall further behind.

Our tuition costs for the start of the school year are as follows:

	Students	x	Cost	=	
Primaria / Elementary	25	x	\$15	=	\$390
Secundaria / Junior High	12	x	\$25	=	\$300
High School	9	x	\$65	=	\$585
University	4	x	\$175	=	\$700
4 Tutors	4				<u>\$6,720</u>
					\$8,675

If you can help us to cover some of these expenses, we would greatly appreciate it.

WHAT IT COSTS TO CARE FOR 48 KIDS AT LGF

In 2019, we cared for an average of 48 children at La Gran Familia. We provided everything for them that you would provide for your own children. Some of the costs are food, housing, utilities, a staff of cooks, cleaners, tutors, accountants, bus drivers, etc. We also provided tuition for school, medical care, clothes, and all the myriad of expenses that you are familiar with in your families. The cost in 2019 for the children was \$136,465.62 or \$3,032.57 per child per year or \$8.31 per child per day.

This daily cost has decreased in recent years due to an increase in children cared for with about the same staff and the weakness of the Mexican peso, which makes our dollars stretch further.

The income for LGF comes in the following ways.

- Individuals donate 40.5% of the annual income.
- The Diocese of Ft. Worth donates 31.3% of the annual income.
- The LGF Apartment investment in the U.S. transfers 19.3% of the annual income.
- St. John's Episcopal Church in Jackson, Wyoming donates 3.6% of the annual income.
- And, other churches in the United States donate 5.3% of the annual income.

As you can see the largest source of income is from individual donors like you and we thank God for our faithful donor base.

The results of our efforts in Cuauhtémoc have been impressive!

a. The care of needy children trapped in

absolutely desperate family situations

b. Remarkable scholastic successes: 2 Registered Nurses, 1 Engineering graduate, 1 MBA in tourism, and about 30 high school graduates since 2001 (in Mexico being a HS graduate is a big deal!)

c. We have also provided tons of food to feeding ministries in Harlingen, Eagle Pass, and El Paso. In 2019 this amounted to a value of about \$49,000.

You are the engine that drives this train. We truly appreciate your support in making this ministry possible.



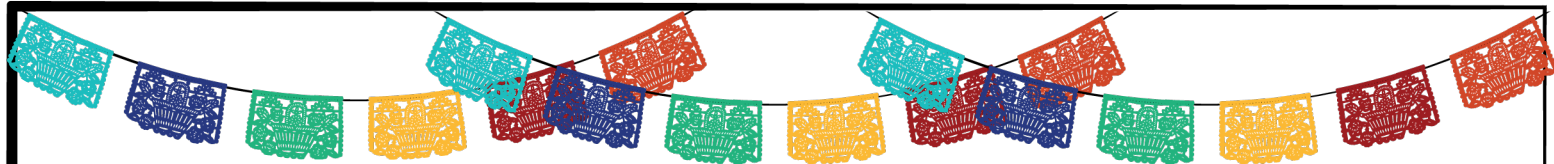
OUR PLEDGE TO EDUCATE

The Covid Virus has brought a huge change to how schooling is accomplished in Cuauhtémoc. Our students are being instructed on line. This will continue until sometime yet to be determined. Much of the actual instruction falls on our in house tutors. Fortunately, **Claudia Rascon** is in charge of our tutors.



Claudia has degrees in education and psychology. She is a teacher in a local high school and her husband is a Registered Nurse. She teaches our high school students and supervises the other tutors. She is totally invested in our education program and has her three daughters at LGF as part of the tutorial program. They are aged

7, 11, and 14. We are blessed to have this family with our kids.



La Gran Familia needs your help.

If you would like more information on how to become more involved in the mission of La Gran Familia, please direct your inquiries to:

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La Gran Familia is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization

Summer
was full
of picnics,
campfires
and fresh
air



La Gran Familia

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