
LILY OF THE VALLEY ORPHANAGES

A U.S. Non-Profit Organization for orphanages in Tijuana and Chihuahua, México.

Website: www.LilyoftheValleyOrphanages.org

October 2007

Dear Partner,

Greetings from your children and staff at the Lily of the Valley Orphanages. The children are settling in to a routine of school and homework.

This month we want to share with you the story of Diana (14 years old); Rosario (seven years old); Manuel (six years old); and Lalo (Eduardo), who is two years old. This family came to us about over a year ago when the authorities found out that the boys' father was raping Diana!

When they arrived, Diana was already a bitter, anxious, fearful little girl. She was so very angry. Not only had her mother chosen this man who had hurt her so badly, she had physically and psychological abused her and did not believe her when Diana told her about the rapes. Diana herself wanted to talk to the authorities and tell them everything so that there was no chance that they would give her and her siblings back to her mother.

Lalo was just a baby, not yet walking, and very malnourished. He cried and cried, wanting to be with Diana constantly, and unable to understand that Diana was still a little girl herself. The staff would walk the floor with him night after night, trying to comfort him. His digestive system also had to get used to the good food that was now available to him.

Diana had been to school sporadically but not within recent years, and not enough to even know how to spell her name! She should have been in junior high school at her age but after an assessment of her skills by our elementary school Director, seeing that she had much trouble doing simple reading and writing, Diana was only at a first grade level.

We quickly learned that Diana was a very bright girl but she had never been encouraged to even go to school, let alone excel. The Director of our school came up with an educational plan for Diana to get her skills equal to other children her age.

The Upper Room Learning Center is such a motivating force and we are so blessed to have our very own school on premises so that we can craft the learning experience for a child with special circumstances like Diana. Our Director has a background in dealing with special needs children.

Your love offerings insure that we have qualified teachers, good curriculum programs, and the necessary textbooks and supplies.

Suffer little children to Come unto me, and forbid them not: For of such is the kingdom of God.
(Luke 18:16)

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Because of everything Diana had been through, it was thought that it would take her two to three years to catch up.

Diana began to take her school work very seriously. She was relieved to be a child, not the care giver for her sister and brothers. It was a very special day when Diana was able to write her name in cursive for the very first time! That was the beginning of Diana's self esteem being rebuilt through excelling in school.

In less than a year, Diana's skills had equaled those of the other children her age and she is now doing very well in junior high. She is so proud of her brand new uniform and wears it proudly to class.

Rosario and Manuel are also doing well in their classrooms and receive encouragement from Diana to follow in her footsteps. Lalo is now a happy, healthy two year old. He is full of joy and looks forward to meal times. He interacts well with the other children and regards Diana as his sister, not his mother.

Being able to provide an education to those who would otherwise be illiterate is one of the greatest blessings that our partnership continues to provide to these precious children. Education is a key that can unlock doors for them so that they will be able to provide for themselves when they grow up. It allows them to explore the special gifts and talents that the Lord have given each of them. They will grow up to be productive members of the society in which they live, and not be like the destitute adults who turn to crime or beg for a living.

We pray that you are blessed as we are to hear success stories such as Diana's. These children come to us as "ore" and then over time, turn into polished "gems", fit for the Lord's crown.

"And they shall be Mine, 'saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Malachi 3:17

Thank you so very much for joining with us to make a better life and an educational commitment to these children.

Yours for the orphans,



John and Marie Sorrentino
Founders

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