

Life Link Children's Homes

Rescuing Lives Today – Making a Difference Tomorrow

Adam awoke shivering. January in Chihuahua, Mexico is very cold. To Adam, this morning seemed colder than others did. Maybe it was because **he hadn't eaten anything in two days.** On the other hand, maybe it was because the thin blanket he tried to pull around him was too small. Huddled next to him, his brother and sister tried to draw some warmth from his back.

Adam was in no hurry to get up. His mother didn't come home again last night, and he hadn't seen his father in years. So, for Adam, today would be just another day of searching for food to feed himself and his family.

At 14, Adam was two years behind in school. He would never catch up because his mother refused to pay for the books and uniform he needed so he could attend. She spent what money she had on drinking. Sometimes he wondered where she got the money in the first place. He had an idea – and thinking about it made him sad – so he tried to put it out of his mind.



Adam

What Adam didn't know, as he tried to stretch the cold stiffness from his arms and legs, was that something would happen today that would change his life forever.

Someone told Adam's mother about **Refuge Ministries Children's Home.** He and his siblings were taken to the home where house parents, Francisco and Chela, immediately welcomed them with open arms.

Tonight the children would sleep in their own beds, each with their own blanket to snuggle under comfortably. They would have three meals a day and start school! Adam's teachers soon found that he was extremely intelligent and would quickly catch up with his class.

Thanks to **Refuge Ministries Children's Home,** Adam would have the time and opportunity he needed to learn and grow, rather than carrying the burden of caring for his family. Now he had foster parents who loved him and took care of his needs. A wonderful new life full of hope and promise was now his.

Adam had another life-changing experience. He was introduced to the gospel of Jesus Christ! Soon, the other children at the home became his "family."

Because of people who cared, enough to do something about his need – Adam has a bright future.



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I met Adam at **Refuge Ministries Children's Home** on our recent trip to Mexico. He's a great kid! I was impressed at the loving way the staff met the needs of the children there.



Francisco & Chela

The children were all bright and happy. The home was clean and well kept. In addition, the food plentiful – and good!

We very much enjoyed our visit. Francisco and Chela were gracious hosts and, as I observed their parenting style, top-notch house parents! Francisco is even starting to mentor other couples willing to parent homes – when they can get more homes built.

**This is where you, as a Life Link partner come in.**

Brother Ron Gartner has been given land in the city of Lerdo, which is about a 5 hour drive south of Chihuahua. He has started building a children's home there but **he needs about \$20,000 to get the wall and first section built.** It will house about 15 children and the house parents.

What we observed during our trip has confirmed that **Rescue Ministries Children's Homes** is a solid and effective ministry doing a much needed work in the area.

**God is expanding Life Link's vision to rescue children wherever He leads and however we can.** We've been praying that you'll join us as we stretch our faith and giving toward this new endeavor.

**Please consider helping to build the children's home in Lerdo, Mexico. Life Link will be involved every step of the way!**

Every dollar designated for this work will go directly to the project. Simply write "for Mexico" in the memo section of your check. When you do, you'll be helping children like those pictured this month.

You'll be taking them off the streets, out of abusive family situations, and giving them a safe place to learn and grow and be loved. **What a great way to say "Thank You!" to the Lord, during this season of thanks, for all the blessings the children in our families enjoy.**



Jan Ruckman & David Alessi at the Lerdo land. (Below land & building plans.)



*Together for the children!*

*Connie Alessi* (President – Life Link)

## Mexico Report in Pictures!



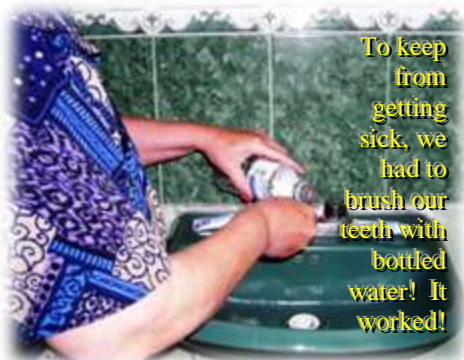
Jan Ruckman (Life Link board member) and Marta!



Playing Games!



Blanca & Celeste



To keep from getting sick, we had to brush our teeth with bottled water! It worked!



Connie & Chela



A building that is available to purchase for a children's home in San Juanito. About 4 hours from Chihuahua.



David, Blanca, Celeste, Daniela, Marta.



Lunch!

Life Link is a non-profit international human service corporation committed to improving the quality of life for children everywhere. All donations are tax deductible.

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