

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

### at *Hogar de Niños Emmanuel*

Sponsoring a child at Emmanuel Children's Home ("Emmanuel") in Juarez, Mexico is one of the ways you can help to extend God's love to children in need. With your support, Emmanuel can be a place of refuge for children who need safety, stability, and love.

You might be asking, *why become a sponsor of a child at Emmanuel?* By becoming a sponsor, you are helping all the children at Emmanuel; but more importantly, you have the opportunity to build a relationship with one child that will grow deeper and deeper. You will get to share in news of the child's daily life, rejoice in the child's accomplishments, and pray for the child's needs. **You may also have an opportunity to visit Emmanuel, and nothing compares with the ability to build relationships first hand through smiles and laughter.**

As you consider child sponsorship, here is more information on Emmanuel Children's Home and what it looks like for those children that call it home from week to week.

#### *The children at Emmanuel come from many different backgrounds:*

- Many children are from single-parent homes, or are being cared for by a relative (grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, etc.).
- Their life situations are generally very unstable.
- Emmanuel becomes the "back-up system" for the parent/caregivers (primarily moms).

#### *Why are children brought to Emmanuel?*

- Adult caregivers are unable to properly care for the children, yet they want to keep their children safe and protected.
- The child's parent or caregiver must work double shifts at the local factories to earn meager wages. The average income for adult workers in this part of Juarez is typically the equivalent of \$42 per week.
- The adult caregiver or another adult(s) in the home is an addict (drugs, alcohol, etc.) and unable to provide proper care or safety for the children. Emmanuel has received children who have suffered sexual abuse from people staying in their home, from neighbors, or from strangers.
- The child and caregiver/family have moved into the city from another part of Mexico and have no friends or relatives who are able to provide any help to care for the children while the parent/caregiver is at work.
- In many cases, the children are left locked in the two-room homes; the older children are held responsible for caring for the younger children. Emmanuel has received children who have burn scars from cooking accidents when the children tried to make their own food.

*An Emmanuel Ministries staff member visits the family home of each child who lives at Emmanuel. A personal visit provides valuable insight into the child's daily life and helps the staff know how to more properly nurture and care for each child.*

#### *What is the cost for a child to live at Emmanuel?*

- If the parent/caregiver can afford to contribute money for their child's care, they are asked to pay up to \$4 per week (per family) for their child to live at Emmanuel. Note: \$4 US dollars equals approximately 70 Mexican pesos.

- The actual cost of caring for one child at Emmanuel is estimated to be at least \$30 per week for housing, food, clothing, education, school supplies, toiletries, ballet and dance classes, sports, medical care, and dental care.
- Your financial sponsorship support goes directly into the Emmanuel general fund. It is crucial and essential support that helps to provide food, shelter, educational, medical, and dental care to the entire population (all the children) at Emmanuel.
- Emmanuel asks that if you feel called to be a sponsor, please make a 1-year commitment to the children at Emmanuel. This 12-month commitment helps the Emmanuel staff project their income from the sponsorship support program and helps indicate how many children Emmanuel can properly help. As you consider child sponsorship, here is more information about Emmanuel Children's Home and what it means to sponsor a child.

***How long does a child stay at Emmanuel?***

- Children between the ages of 2 and 12 years of age may stay at Emmanuel for as long as necessary.
- A child may stay at Emmanuel for a few weeks, for 6 months, or even up to 10 years; it is very unpredictable.
- Children live at Emmanuel during the weekdays of the academic school year, late August to mid-July. Parents/caregivers bring the children to Emmanuel each Sunday and are encouraged to attend church as a family. The children live at Emmanuel during the week and have their daily needs met. On Friday afternoons, the parents/caregivers return to pick up their children and return home to live as a family for the weekend. Children also return home for major holiday breaks in the academic year (i.e., Christmas, Easter, summer break).

***How many children live at Emmanuel?***

- The number of children living at Emmanuel can vary during the academic year.
  - At the start of the year, September to November, there can be up to 100 children living at Emmanuel.
  - The total number of children starts to decrease in November as parents/caregivers remove the children from the home (because their family situations change, or moms don't follow the rules of staying involved).
  - There is another decrease in total students as they return in January following the Christmas break.
  - The final drop in total children returning to live at Emmanuel occurs after the Easter break. April through July, generally, is the lowest census of children living at Emmanuel because moms or other caregivers have taken the children from the home (because they cannot afford to pay for the child's continued care, they are not willing to follow the rules set to protect the child's best interests, they have moved away, and various other reasons).
  - Emmanuel Ministries' staff tries diligently to stay in contact with each child's parent/caregiver and find ways to help children stay at Emmanuel. For example, one mom missed seeing her children each day, so the staff arranged for the mom to have lunch with her children every day at Emmanuel (at no cost).
- Once the child's/family's life situation changes or becomes more stable, the parent/caregiver may choose to take the child out of Emmanuel and bring them back home to live.
- Parent(s)/caregiver(s) of the children are required to follow certain rules and stay involved in their children's lives in order to have their children continue to live at Emmanuel.

### ***Do children living at Emmanuel go to school?***

- Isaac Newton Academy is a private school within Emmanuel Ministries and located next to the Emmanuel Children's Home. Each child living at Emmanuel attends school at Isaac Newton Academy.
- Academic testing is done with each child arriving at Emmanuel. Many children coming to Emmanuel have not been able to properly attend school and are not at the academic grade relative to their age (for example, it is not unusual for a 10-year old child to have been absent from school since 1<sup>st</sup> grade).
- Isaac Newton teachers work with the Emmanuel children on a one-to-one basis, as needed, to help the child eventually achieve the academic grade that is appropriate for their age. The children flourish in the nurturing, safe learning environment.
- Isaac Newton Academy educates children from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Following graduation from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, children also "graduate" from living at Emmanuel and return home to live with their families. Emmanuel Ministries' staff prays that the child's personal relationship with Christ and the faith foundation that Emmanuel has helped build in the life of each child provides the proper guidance for the child as they make their life choices.
- After 6<sup>th</sup> grade, children may attend junior high school, move on to high school, and eventually attend college. If students are not interested in attending junior high school, they may choose to pursue training for a specific trade—beauty school, baking, mechanics, etc.
- Education standards are regulated by the Mexican government. Because Isaac Newton Academy is a private school and receives no funding from the Mexican government, they may teach faith-based classes in addition to the regular academic subjects. Typically, students at Isaac Newton Academy will learn mathematics, reading, language arts, writing, history, music, art, and English. Participation in soccer, precision drill teams, dance, and other sports is also strongly encouraged.

### ***How does Emmanuel Ministries try to help the children's family?***

- The family situations of children at Emmanuel vary constantly because of the root problems within the family itself. Emmanuel Ministries' staff interviews the parent/caregiver at the time the child is brought to Emmanuel.
- Emmanuel tries to encourage the parent/caregiver (primarily women) to be honest about their current relationships, living conditions, the child's home life, medical conditions, education, etc.
- Emmanuel staff counsels the parent/caregiver (primarily women) to help them get a realistic perspective on the child's home life and the family living situation.
- Psychological, neurological, and physical analysis is done for each child coming to live at Emmanuel. (Unfortunately, some of the children's problems stem from irreversible damage while they were in-utero.)

### ***Does Emmanuel Ministries reach out to the local community?***

- Emmanuel Ministries tries to help families who have housing needs in their community.
- Periodically, meals are served after church on Sundays to anyone attending the service.
- Christmas care packages are given to anyone attending the Christmas service at Emmanuel.
- Parenting classes are held for people in the local community.
- Periodically, trade-skill classes are held for local women (such as jewelry making).
- Staff members and teachers for Isaac Newton Academy are employed from the local community, and they receive significant training seminars.