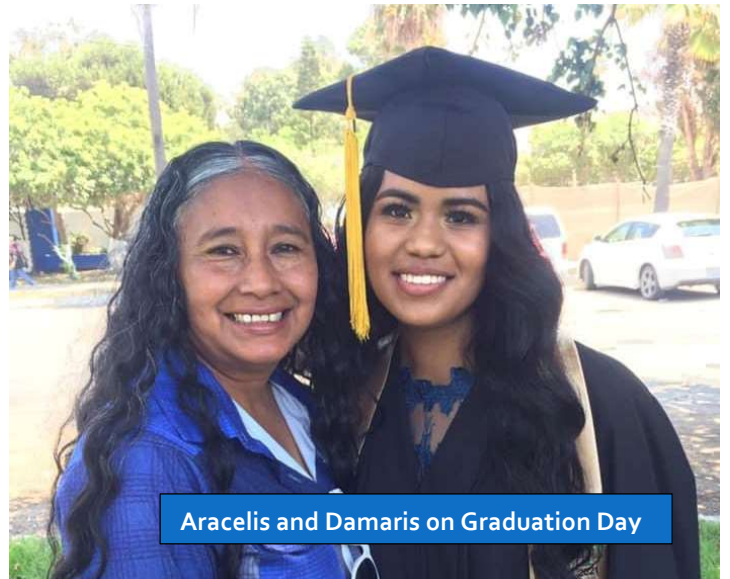


where the ♥ is children's ministry

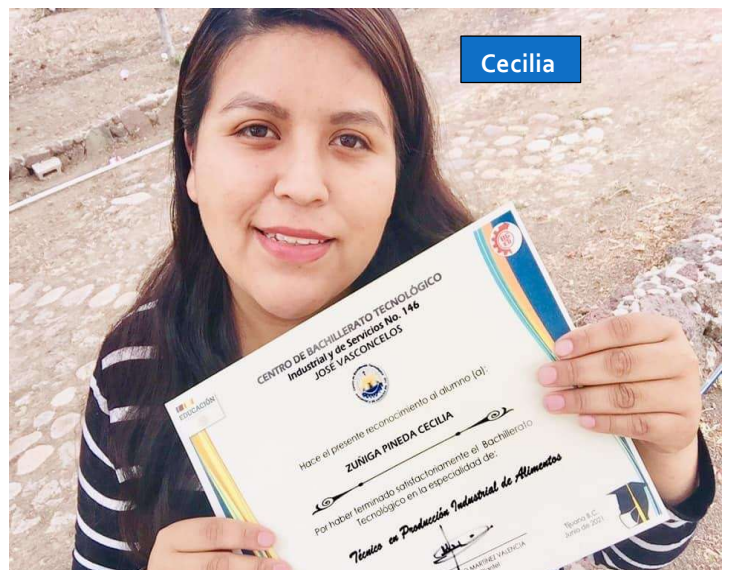
education edition - summer 2021



Aracelis and Damaris on Graduation Day



Celebration at Kayros Comunidad Cristiana



Cecilia

A Note from the Directors of Casa de mi Familia:

We are beyond grateful to GOD, to The Eternal, to the one who lives and reigns forever, who makes everything possible, thankful for allowing Damaris to finish Lic. Psychologist University, Neftali in completion of his communication major and for Cecilia's graduation from high school with her studies at the university beginning in August!! God has been more than good, always!! We give glory and honor to him, for allowing this achievement for Damaris, Neftali and Cecilia.... And more achievements to come in their lives with the help of the eternal. Three now have finished college!!! Others have learned trades so they can work. We want to thank everyone for making this possible!! Thank you for your help Where the Heart is Children's Ministry; Thank you for your ministry that God has used to bless my family's home!! Thank God for Casa De Mi Familia and for the children who are still at the home of my family! Thank God for his provision, thanks to you who are part of this. God bless you and God bless the work of your hands and that God gives you more than what you have given. Thank you for every single person who made all this possible!!!! Glory and honor to the Eternal... Hallelujah!! - Aracelis & Alejandro

Only 45% of kids in Mexico graduate from High School!
For girls the number is even lower yet we have three girls
and one young man that have beat the odds!

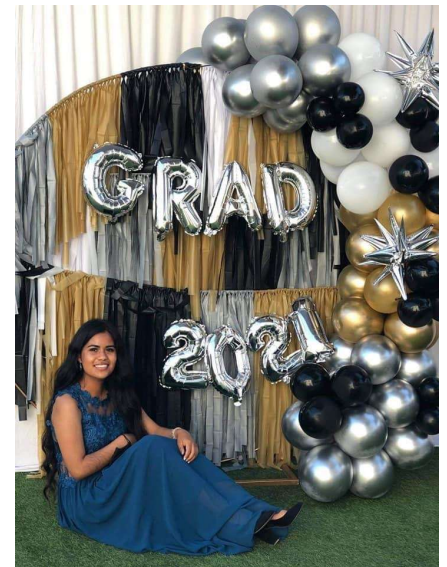


Noemi and Eliezer's first baby due August 2021!

Noemi, who was our first university graduate, became pregnant during the pandemic. Due to health concerns her employer at the hospital insisted that she take time off with pay to ensure her safety and the that of the baby! She looks forward to returning to her nursing position when the timing is right. In the meantime, she is preparing herself for motherhood!

Damaris who has worked at the children's home for over 3 years became part of the Casa family as a caregiver for the children. Damaris originally came from Sonora, Mexico where she and her younger sister were raised in a Christian home by their grandmother. Her goal in moving to Tijuana was to attend a university as a psychology major. In exchange for her work at Casa she was provided room and board. We also assisted her with tuition and additional expenses associated with her education as needed.

This past week Damaris achieved her dream and graduated with a degree in psychology. She is planning a well-deserved one-month break in August to visit her grandmother and sister in Sonora. Then, she'll be returning to complete her internship that is required by Mexico to officially become a psychologist.



Cecilia, who came from an underprivileged background, believed she would never be able to attend high school much less go to college. From the beginning Cecilia demonstrated her commitment to education by faithfully showing us her grades and sharing her career dreams. Most recently, she expressed the desire to attend a private university with a major in nutrition. She is now registered and about to embark on a 3-year commitment to achieve her dream. Once again, education provides the opportunity to change the cycle of poverty and we want to express our gratitude to those who have helped to make Cecilia's dreams a reality!





For wisdom will enter your heart
and knowledge will fill you with joy!
Proverbs 2:20



Neftali arrived at the children's home at age nine with his two brothers. Over the years it has been a joy to watch him grow into a wonderful young man with Christian values, impressive musical talent and natural leadership abilities. Neftali's desire was to continue his education yet our funds were limited as we had recently moved the orphanage in an urgent situation. In 2017 God answered our prayers through the amazing ministry of Travis and Amber Owens, founders of SOW Ministries, who offered their financial support. They, too, felt God was calling them to help children and offered to assist Neftali in finding a path out of poverty and a brighter future through education! This past month Neftali graduated from the local university, UABC, as a communications major and will be starting his internship program soon. In addition to school and full-time work, Neftali often leads the Praise Team at his church which is televised live.



Photos of Neftali:
Fishing with Alejandro, 2005
Learning guitar, 2007
Leading worship, 2020
Visit UABC, 2015





Birthday celebrations

for May - August:

Marvin (10), Giovanni (9),

Estaban (9), Chuy (16)

Kimberly (10), Eymi (13)

Viviana (16) and

Griselda (15).

Viviana is a bright, beautiful and caring young 16-year-old who celebrated her birthday on June 1st. She was originally placed in the orphanage in 2018 due to problematic family circumstances. Soon thereafter, Viviana became ill and was diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney disease. Much to our surprise, when diagnosed she was returned to the care of her family in Tecate where her father was terminally ill and her mother, who is disabled (deaf, mute, illiterate and lacking sophisticated sign language skills), was the sole caregiver. Her mother struggles to advocate for Viviana's medical needs. This past month, Viviana's health condition worsened and she was rushed to the hospital after passing out and bleeding from the nose, the result of high blood pressure that is often associated with kidney disease. This last episode has given us a sense of urgency for Viviana's need to seek additional medical help in the U.S.

There is also a financial issue related to Viviana's challenges; Her father, a Nationalized U.S. Citizen, passed away in 2020 and Viviana's family found themselves in financial jeopardy as the family no longer qualified for the dad's Social Security checks. This was devastating for a family that was already living in poverty! Mom is unable to work due to her disability that renders her unable to effectively communicate. As a result, Viviana had no choice but to give up her high school and cosmetology studies to work full-time in support of her family. Aided with family documents we have been able to contact a Social Security representative and discovered that the family could be eligible for \$600 per month. To qualify, Viviana would have to enter the U.S. with a Visa and stay a minimum of 30-days every six months. By doing so, the family would receive benefits. We've also been blessed with the opportunity to meet with a local immigration attorney who has a heart for children and supports an orphanage in Mexico. She believes that her law firm can facilitate the process for Viviana with minimal administrative fees associated with the visa.

Furthermore, *Sherri Guedea*, founder of a newly established non-profit, *Alex's Way*, connected us with the director of a local transplant center in California who has offered to review Viviana's medical records and, if appropriate, write a letter stating the urgency of her medical condition. In addition, there is a possibility that he may be able to facilitate medical care including a kidney transplant if needed. This letter would be instrumental in obtaining an Emergency Medical Asylum Visa for Viviana.

As you can see, there are many pieces to this puzzle and God is already working full-time in leading this project! We ask to keep Viviana in your prayers as we know that He can work the miracles needed for Viviana's health, safety and well-being! Blessings,

Ted & Karen Springer, Shelley Hoover, Delia Christian