



Mission to Mexico

Matthew 25: 31-46

Board of Directors

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- Rachel Fannin, President
- Steve Myers, Vice President
On-Site Logistics
- Pat Gavia, Treasurer
Financial Oversight
- Caryn Wontor, Secretary
Communications

Program Directors:

- Shannon Donahue
Teen Girls Mentorship
- Melanie Fannin
Child Sponsorship
- Ken Mahler
Crowd Control
- Judy Maldonado
Medical Team, Infant Needs
- Frank Maldonado
Member at Large
- Steve Muras, Facilities
On-Site Labor Foreman

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February Trip Update

By Rachel Fannin

The February 10th/11th Mission Trip is to replenish school supplies for over 1,000 students in addition to the regular grocery *dispensa*. The trip is quickly approaching and we have some pressing needs including:

➤ **Volunteers:** If you can participate, please join as a member on our website and register under the event section for the February Trip. By using our website, we can automate much of the administrative tasks in preparing for a mission trip.

You can also email me directly at rachel.fannin@mtmaustin.org. Please sign up as soon as possible so I can make reservations for our hotel accommodations and coordinate transport of our love cargo.

➤ **Financial Donations:** We are still collecting monetary donations for the monthly *dispensa* to help feed the families in the colonia. Please donate online today by visiting our website at www.mtmaustin.org!

➤ **Medical Supplies:** Padre Antonio has informed us that there is an on-going need for over the counter pain medicines, antibiotics, vitamins and syringes at the clinic. In addition, there is a specific need for Plavix, Micardis and Lipitor. If you can help or have questions, please contact me.

Many thanks to the 2011-2012 scholarship committee, **Julie Jimeno, Mary Ann Condon, and Mary Moreno**. They did an outstanding job in evaluating the applications. Five scholarship were awarded.

I would also like to especially thank the many donations of toys for the Christmas gift distribution. The children of the colonia were so very excited to receive their presents.

Amor y Paz!
Rachel



Bicycle for Christmas

SPECIAL NEED:

Laptop needed for sponsorship and other administrative business tasks associated with the Mission. We can provide you with a receipt for your tax deductible donation. If you can help, please contact [Caryn Wontor](mailto:Caryn.Wontor@mtmaustin.org) for technical specifications.



Monthly Benefit Night Taco Cabana

Fourth Thursday of each month*
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm



Taco Cabana
6611 S. Mopac Expwy
Austin, Texas
(corner of Mopac & William Cannon)

Place your order inside and be sure to tell the cashier that you are there to support Mission to Mexico. 20% of all sales proceeds will be donated to MTM Austin. (*)The schedule is subject to change around holidays.

February 28	June 27
March 28	July 25
April 25	August 22
May 23	September 26
	October 24



By Mike Gwynn

You might say that the most relevant saying which applies to our most recent Mission to Mexico trip to the colonia in December is "to whom much is given much is expected".

As usual, we engaged joyfully in the distribution of food, clothes, and toys (it was the CHRISTmas season after all!) to our impoverished brothers and sisters. In addition, we had the distinct pleasure of addressing the intellectual needs of the teenage youth in the colonia by providing modest scholarships to five individuals to assist them in paying for various programs of post-secondary education.

Unlike a bag of beans or rice, which is consumed to provide momentary sustenance for the body, education delivers permanent knowledge to the student's mind which will enhance his or her earning power and thus enable them to rid themselves of the shackles of poverty.

I was blessed to have been born into a family which possessed the economic means to provide me with an excellent education which led ultimately to a bachelor and masters degree. So, as a Mission to Mexico volunteer, I would like to believe that I am honoring God by paying it forward, so to speak, by taking part in this educational assistance program. We can only hope that the young recipients of these scholarships will always remember and appreciate the fact that this assistance was bestowed upon them and this will encourage them to engage in a similar act of philanthropy. **Amen!**

Perseverance Personified

By Shannon Donahue

During the December trip, we recognized the achievements of five college students from "our" community in Nuevo Laredo by staging an awards ceremony to announce the results of our recent college scholarship application.

Edith, Gerardo, José Luis, Laura, and Viviana had each completed an application created by the Mission To Mexico Board of Directors. In addition to submitting a copy of their current grade reports and proof of tuition payment, they were also required to respond to four essay questions, demonstrate evidence of community service involvement, and include a letter of recommendation from an employer, teacher, or pastor.

All five students returned their applications, which were reviewed by a panel of judges (none of whom are members of the MTM Board).

On December 3, 2011; these students were seated in front of their families and peers to learn the outcome of their efforts. What they could not have guessed is that each of them would receive a scholarship as well as a certificate!

The scholarship amounts varied, with the highest award being \$125 with a tie for second place for \$95 each, \$75 for fourth place and \$60 for fifth place.

It was incredible to see not only the gratitude in the faces of the scholarship recipients, but also to witness the clear pride of their family members at their achievement. These scholars are truly an inspiration to their community and to us volunteers, who can only begin to imagine the obstacles they have had to overcome to continue their education.

Thank you to all who have donated to our student sponsorship program in the past and present – your contributions directly supported the success of these students! We hope to continue and expand our support to university students in the colonia as our resources allow.

Infant Needs

By Sue Gartner

I want to send compliments to the Baby Department, Maria and Kay, of the December Mission Team. They did a fabulous job of organizing and setting up the distribution, were calm and patient throughout as always, but what really touched my heart was their obvious joy in serving the mothers! They were so loving and positive with the mothers, they greeted each one personally and quickly identified the needs of the family and then searched for the perfect match of clothes, diapers, formula and of course a toy for each little one in the group.

We were grateful to have a few strollers and even a beautiful cradle from Deacon Mike to share with some of the moms. Whoever brought the little backpacks for the older toddlers really deserves thanks for their thoughtfulness. They were such a hit. It was so special to see Kay and Maria show the little ones how to put them on! When one toddler put it on herself, Maria and Kay really were excited to see them learn so quickly.

As each family moved on, Maria and Kay then wished them 'Feliz Navidad' with such love! Times like these is when I know for sure that we are making a difference!

There were lots of diapers and formula, and even some lovely NEW blankets to give to the families, but they can always use more strollers, infant clothes and toys.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be the hands and voices of love to those in need.



God bless the little children!

The pleasure of giving and helping others

By Maria Carrillo, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January, 2012

My husband and I started our journey to MTM leaving Baton Rouge on Thursday December 1st, to Austin, to visit with our daughter and grandchildren. Early Friday morning we drove to Laredo where we met with the rest of the volunteers at the Hotel. Before departing to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, we gathered in a circle in the parking lot to pray for the people of the Colonia and for all the volunteers driving across the border with the "love cargo". Our first stop was at the Grocery store to buy food for the people at the Colonia. The volunteers take care of distributing around 900 bags with rice, beans, oil, flour, soap, diapers for the babies, etc. When we arrived at the Church, the people were all around the fence and in line waiting for us, all with a big smile on their faces.

This December trip was very special. It was the Christmas trip, and thanks to all the donations and volunteers, we were able to give the people of the Colonia a very special Christmas. You really have to be there to see the children's happy faces!

On the October trip, we had a mother with a 2 year old boy coming to the Clinic (I work with the Doctor translating) looking for vitamins and in need of a stroller. The boy has muscular dystrophy and the mom has to carry the boy everywhere. At that time, we didn't have any strollers available, so my goal was to give her one on the December trip.

Unfortunately, we didn't have a clinic in December, so how was I going to find the mother with the little boy? Well I was helping distributing baby clothes, formula, diapers, etc. and the first thing I know, here was the lady with the son! I was so happy to see her. She asked me if I had the vitamins, I told her we

didn't because there was no clinic, but I did have a stroller for her. And that made my day!

When you experience things like this it is such a good feeling helping others that need so much! If you have never done mission work, please get involved by donating your time, talents or treasure. My husband and I got involved almost seven years ago, and we will continue as long God give us the health to do so. Thank you to all those who made this trip a big success.

*Blessings to all in 2012!
Maria Carrillo
Baton Rouge, Louisiana*



Strollers are of great need in the colonia.



Treasurers' Report

By Pat Gavia

Sponsorship Renewal Status

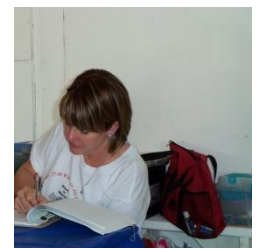
- 195 renewed & new sponsorships
- 49 sponsor renewals pending
- 25 current waiting list

February Budget for Groceries - \$7,560

Donations are down and the expense budget has been adjusted as a result. The following programs have been eliminated for this fiscal year.

- Sack Lunches for families in the colonia
- Baby Strollers
- Blanket Distribution was reduced from 700 to 300 blankets.

At such time as funds are available, we will consider reinstating these expense line items.



Pat Gavia validating grade reports.

Website News – Online Donations Now Activated

We continue to work on refining our website and are pleased to announce that our donation link has now been configured to accept your secure donations to either our general fund or the sponsorship program. You can also designate your donation in someone's honor or in their memory and MTM will mail a personal card to the gift recipient per your instructions. We have received numerous requests for monthly automatic donation renewals and we are working on making that available. We appreciate your patience as we sort through the technical challenges.



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Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mission-To-Mexico-Page/191292420931260>

The mission statement
for Mission to Mexico
Austin is found in the
Gospel of
Matthew 25: 34-40

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.mtmaustin.org

Editor: [Caryn Wontor](#)

URGENT NEEDS ...



- **Laptop Needed.** A laptop is needed to help with the administrative needs of the mission, particularly onsite to track sponsorship details. You will receive a receipt for your tax deductible donation. If you can help, please contact [Caryn Wontor](#) for the technical specifications.
- **Financial Donations to cover the monthly food dispensa.**
- **Child Sponsor Renewals:** If you have not yet renewed your child sponsorship, please visit our website below or contact [Melanie Fannin](#) for additional information.
- **Medical Supplies** – See Rachel's article on page 1

THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS...

Many thanks to Cherie Guy of **Dynamic Reprographics** for absorbing the cost of printing the newsletter for the September mail-out. The quality of the printing was outstanding and the cost savings allowed us to allocate more dollars to groceries.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

MTM is dedicated to helping the poor in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Fostering faith, hope and love while living out the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25. Our objective is to provide the opportunity for any willing volunteer to serve the needs of their Christian brothers and sisters in the community of La Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles Parish in Colonia Voluntad y Trabajo III.

As we serve, we must keep in mind that we are there as much for our own spiritual growth, as we are to help the poor. While our presence there requires some degree of organization, we try to stay focused on the spirituality of the mission. It is a tool of evangelization, not just in a spiritual sense, but also in a very real physical sense. We are families serving families in the name of the Lord.

2012 Upcoming Events

- ▶ **2/10 - 2/11: Mission Trip**
- ▶ 2/15: Board Meeting
- ▶ 3/13: Board Meeting
- ▶ 4/10: Board Meeting
- ▶ **4/13 - 4/14: Mission Trip**
- ▶ 5/8: Board Meeting
- ▶ **6/8 - 6/9: Mission Trip**
- ▶ 6/12: Board Meeting
- ▶ 7/10: Board Meeting
- ▶ **8/2 - 8/4: Mission Trip**
- ▶ 8/14: Board Meeting
- ▶ 9/11: Board Meeting
- ▶ **10/5 - 10/6: Mission Trip**
- ▶ 10/9: Board Meeting
- ▶ 11/13: Board Meeting
- ▶ **12/7 - 12/8: Mission Trip**

MISSION TO MEXICO

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