

# Casa de Ninos Frank Gonzalez

## Summary 2008



Casa de Ninos in 2008 was not much different than other years. Many little lives pass through our doors. As seen in the picture above Sergio and Hernan two boys with very different but yet very similar stories. Sergio has been with us for several years spread out over two separate times with us. Hernan the same was with us twice but only for a combined time of several months. Homes broken by different circumstances but the same “destroyer”. God not only creates but he loves to fix things as well. That sums up our ministry in 2008 and in others years as well. God loves to see a child laugh, smile, and play when they have every reason to be angry, bitter and destructive.

**Casa de Ninos continues to be a place where God places a child that he has rescued from the grasps of the destroyer giving that life security and hope.**

We received several new children in 2008 which most of those left us in that same year. The welfare agency frequently asks us to take a child that they have pulled out from a dangerous situation while they investigate and look for a relative that can be responsible for the child. It is always a joy watching the transformation of that child in the first couple of days. Many children used to being abused and learning to trust no one come to know and experience a marvelous environment for the first time of security, love and peace. Seeing the joy on their faces and hearing the laughter is a great reward that we experience many times.

Normally we do not accept an older child because of the danger it can bring to our young children but this past Christmas season we agreed to help out the welfare agency that picked up a 14 year boy and a 16 year old girl on the road with their dad. The dad had physically abused the boy and the girl was carrying a child by her father. The dad was put in prison and the welfare agency was scrambling for a place for the teens, because the welfare office was closing down for 3 weeks over the Christmas holidays. When we first received the teens we did not have the whole story. The welfare agency did not know that she was pregnant and that she had some brain damage. It was a very tragic situation but God gave us and them a wonderful Christmas time. The teens were well behaved and had a marvelous Christmas season with us.



**It is indeed a joy being a blessing to so many lives.**

We had several groups here at the Casa again this past year and they were a tremendous blessing to us, but toward the end of the year had a couple groups cancel because of financial concerns. We are feeling the struggle that is affecting the USA. Times get harder and the donations decrease. We began to experience God's faithfulness in a new ways this past year. Our flesh loves the comfort of blessing and does not like that comfort changed as it was this past year. God is faithful and can be trusted to fulfill his promises. So we began to see God working in different ways at the close of 2008 bringing new blessings.

My wife and I have the opportunity to travel some, visiting nearby cities as we need to talk with welfare persons in those cities. Many children that come to us come from outlying areas. We see first hand the sad situation that some of our children come from and feel the despair that is in these situations. God is so good, but deep within the darkness of bad situations it is very hard to see goodness. Being some of that goodness of God is a breath of fresh air for children and persons that come to the Casa.

**Many welfare workers come to the Casa for business but seem to like to hang around a while enjoying His presence which they do not recognize it that way, but always say there is something special about Casa de Ninos.**

We struggled last year with a few teenagers that fell into deep struggles. These are very hard and trying times as we pray, talk, encourage, instruct, and discipline these older children. As an adult it seems so easy to see the situation, but as they struggle for answers and hope they cannot see very far ahead in their paths. Three teens were placed back with family this past year even though it did not seem to be the best answer. These are hard and challenging things but part of our lives.

At the end of the year we had a time of testing as the federal government came to close down our federally funded daycare center. Making a very long story short the local office here that had completely changed staff since we opened at Casa de Ninos the first federally funded daycare in the state. The corruption, abuse of power, and outright lies motivated us to stand up against the local office of the federal government. With God's help we were able to stop the closure of our daycare, and to stand up against the abuse of power.



In 2008 we made the decision to change our K-6 school from open to the public to only for Casa kids. We tried for a few years to draw in enough students from outside to cover the expenses but were not able to do so. The school year starting in August of 2008 we opened our school to only 15 Casa children in two classrooms 1-3<sup>rd</sup> grades and the other classroom 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades. We reduced our teacher staff from 9 teachers down to 3. In the picture the boys are working on the end of year

school project making hammocks. Having our own school is beneficial to our children because of their situations and sometimes learning disabilities.

In September of 2008 we started a church at Casa de Ninos. Having a church was part of the vision from the start but never realized until this past year. When our school down sized we had space available so we followed our hearts and made plans to start the church. I had recently joined Harvest Network International for reasons of getting to know other leaders and talked to them about being ordained. Even though I had no schooling in that area they said with my 20 years of experience they



would be willing to ordain me. My wife and I then took that additional responsibility to pastor our new church. It has been great having this additional spiritual focus. Every week day we start with devotions and then have our Sunday service.

December is always a very full month with many activities and visits from persons near and far. It is the only month generally when we receive more than what we need. The kids are thoroughly blessed and new children are awed by the attention that they get from visitors and people that they don't even know. We share with friends, neighbors and whoever God may send our way the blessings that come to us in December.



Our everyday activities add to this list but is difficult to write out all details. Daily we counsel with kids, staff, and others. Daily we try to raise support for the work here. Daily we pray and seek God's guidance. Daily we spend time with the kids. Meetings, planning, decisions are part of our daily lives here. This summary gives an idea of our activities in 2008.

Thank you for your prayers.

God bless and have a great day,

Russell Krube  
Director of Casa de Ninos Frank Gonzalez