

UNITY, TRUTH AND LOVE AND CASA HOGAR LA GLORIA

THE MISSION OF SERVICE CONTINUES - BY WILLIAM BAUGHMAN

Growing up in San Diego California, I was exposed to a plethora of different cultures. However, I was sheltered to many of the issues that were taking place south of our border. I made it all the way to high school before I was able to take a trip down to Mexico, and even on this trip I had yet to discover Casa Hogar La Gloria. It wasn't until our Wednesday school mass at Saint Augustine High School, where I heard about this organization and all the great work that it does. The school was conducting a weekly doughnut sale to raise funds for the orphanage, and like most high school students, I was intrigued as soon as I heard the word doughnut. After purchasing my doughnut, I decided to stay around for a while and speak to the Casa Hogar La Gloria club. They told me all about the orphanage, kids, and caretakers who needed our help. When this discussion concluded, I knew that I needed to do my part, so I decided to join the club and try my best to help the orphanage.

The core values of unity, truth, and love were always very important to me, and I tried to live my life by them. These service opportunities, including Casa Hogar La Gloria, were when I felt closest to the core values. Without Saints, I wouldn't have had these values instilled in me which helped to make me the man I am today. My older brother was also a key influence in my life in regard to pursuing service. He was an avid member of the Casa Hogar La Gloria club, and even had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala for a service trip. I would always talk to him about these

service opportunities, and he wouldn't hesitate to explain how important and meaningful they were to him. Not to mention, he would always have a smile on his face because of how much fun he had serving others. While Augustinian values played a role in my life, my brother was the one who inspired me to follow in his footsteps and serve others.

My first trip to Casa Hogar La Gloria had a profound effect on my life. This was my first time going to a different country to serve, and even though the trip only took an hour it felt like I was stepping into a different universe. The children at Casa Hogar La Gloria have been dealt such a hard hand in life, but the caretakers at the orphanage do their best to improve their life and give them happiness. Upon arriving at the orphanage, I was greeted by a mob of smiling and laughing children. Just seeing the smiles on their faces at that moment is what made the trip worth it. That day I made a whole new group of friends who welcomed me into their home and treated me as their own. The day consisted of playing with the children, a mass service, and handing out supplies that we had gathered for them through fundraising. Even though my Spanish was terrible, I was not embarrassed because the children did not care that I couldn't communicate well with them. They were happy that I was there for them and cared for them. However, the only thing that I was embarrassed about was being utterly destroyed in a game of pick up soccer with the children. This was actually my favorite activ-

ity, because I could tell the children were having fun not only out showing me in soccer but were able to give me a newfound appreciation for the little things in life.

After visiting Casa Hogar La Gloria, I was able to reflect on my Augustinian values and how they applied to this trip and my life. Unity, truth, and love do not just apply to ourselves or our friends. These values are to be applied for everyone we encounter in life, and we are to treat everyone as if they are our own family. This trip was pivotal in the shaping of my life and helped to mold me into the person I am today.

Even though I am no longer in high school, I have brought what Casa Hogar La Gloria has taught me to college. I currently attend Marquette University, which is a Jesuit institution that shares similar values to my earlier Augustinian education. Since attending Marquette, I have found myself participating in a variety of service clubs, and even some service opportunities through my fraternity. Now that I am in my senior year, I have done much reflection in hope that I could continue to incorporate service into my life. I thought back to my time at Saint Augustine High School and Casa Hogar La Gloria and I realized I could continue my service with them, despite being halfway across the country. With the help of my fraternity, as well as other sororities I will be conducting fundraisers to support the orphanage in this especially trying time. Planning these events has brought me back to my time at the orphanage, and resurfaced the core values of unity, truth, and love within me. To anyone that has participated with Casa Hogar La Gloria, I encourage you to return to your roots. No matter where you are in the world or in life, there is always something you can do to help others. You will find that going back to this wonderful organization will help you to reflect on your life and what you have done but will also directly help the children of the orphanage. I will conclude with this quote from Acts 2:28,

"You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence,"

Travel down the paths of life that will lead you to closeness with God and true happiness.

TELE-HEALTH AT CASA HOGAR LA GLORIA

In March, the company, Tytocare selected 4 family homes that are rated excellent by virtue of the health care of children, and they donated a digital health portal. This equipment allows the staff to do a medical review, create files and allows us the ability for medical consultations to take place virtually. As moving about the city of Tijuana during the pandemic is dangerous for the staff and the children this allows them to have a medical examination as if the child were in the doctor's office. The equipment is very valuable, and we are so grateful to Tytocare for their support. The training and technical support

which have accompanied the donation are invaluable.



MISSION

Our Mission is to give each child in our care a secure home and loving family in which to develop and grow. Hogar Infantil, Inc. is committed to providing for children in need and does so by providing support to the children's home, Hogar Infantil La Gloria.

Contact us:
hogar.infantil.lg@gmail.com,
(619) 618-0348,
www.hogar-infantil.org

Hogar Infantil Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in California and recognized by the United States of America. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.



WISH LIST

ALERT: Some regular donation sources have been curtailed due to school fundraisers being cancelled! We need donations for general operations and monthly subscriptions throughout the year. Cash Donations help defray the cost of Utilities, Medical Expenses, Tuition, Clothing, Diapers, Formula etc.

Recurring cash/credit donations can be set up at our website, www.hogar-infantil.org. These ongoing donations help us better budget and provide for all of the children's needs.

Like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/hogarinfantil> and follow us on Twitter, @HogarInfantilLG.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

Resilience and hope are the hallmarks of Casa Hogar La Gloria's response to challenging times. Five new babies/toddlers arrived this February and we are so glad they have a safe place to stay for a while. This spring we are hoping that the world is renewed, and the children will hopefully soon be able to return to school. Countless people across the Hogar Infantil family have reached out asking

how they can support our children, especially given the state of the world. Our answer is first of all prayer for the continued health of our children and caregivers, but a very close second is please consider becoming a sustaining donor by making a contribution online at hogar-infantil.org or by mail at 3180 University Ave, Suite 255, San Diego, CA 92104.

The generosity of our patrons over the past few years has been crucial to our caring for the children of Casa Hogar. This year donations are needed. The staff of Casa Hogar La Gloria is caring for some of the most vulnerable at a time when we all are being pushed closer to despair. We are grateful for their commitment to our children. Thank you for joining us on the journey to accomplish the mission of Casa Hogar La Gloria.