

## Helping the Sick

July 2018

Almost every Thursday and Saturday at our Spectrum outreaches in our neighborhoods, we encounter people who have some sort of medical need. Situations can range from a tooth ache to any number of serious conditions. Often people need help financially, or with transportation or even knowing where to go for help. These challenges can be overwhelming and inhibit them from seeking out the help they need. That's where Lily comes in! Lily is our Spectrum "social worker", and she does an amazing job of making people feel loved and cared for as she walks with them through hard times in their lives. Truly, Lily is Jesus' representative. She encourages them to turn to and rely on Jesus as He will never leave their side! I'd like to share the stories of a couple people Spectrum has been helping in recent months...



Yoselin and her grandma

### Yoselin

Thirteen year old Yoselin has lived with her grandma since she was a baby. Her grandma has done a fine job raising Yoselin! One detail her grandma failed to follow through on however is to officially register Yoselin under her name. Doing so requires waiting in long lines at governmental offices and costly paper work she wasn't able to afford. Where this becomes an issue is in regards to Yoselin not being eligible to receive the social security insurance her grandma has.

When Yoselin was eleven she began having infrequent, albeit strong seizures. Frightened, her Grandma took her to the doctor for treatment but soon found it difficult to come up with the funds to cover the costs. Despite the medications, the seizures persisted and Yoselin's physician decided a more detailed brain scan was necessary to see what was going on in her young mind. Here's the problem.

The cost for the test is \$400. Time went by and grandma worried she wouldn't be able to reach the needed amount for the exam. Then a friend told her about Spectrum. She came out to our activity day to see if we could help, and was introduced to Lily to share her story. Lily went to work talking to people she knows at the hospital and was able to get the cost lowered to \$300! Grandma was thrilled. She had been able to save \$50 dollars herself and we were happy to help cover the remaining 250!

What the tests revealed is a condition called AVM that has to do with abnormal veins running through the brain. A symptom is seizures but the condition can cause a brain hemorrhage if left untreated. Surgery is needed to fix the problem, but here we go again with the absence of insurance. The cost for the surgery is \$10,500! That's almost four year's income for grandma!



Lily spending time with a woman at our Spectrum outreach

She is planning a fund raiser dinner in the neighborhood to encourage people in the community to contribute. We at Spectrum plan to help as well. Please pray for Yoselin, and that God will provide the much needed funds for the surgery!

**Salud**

As I sat down at the table, Salud put a heaping bowl of Pasole (traditional Mexican soup) in front of me. She explained that she invited me to her house and wanted to cook a meal to thank us for the help we have been giving her with vitamins. Salud is eighty-seven years old and feels much healthier and stronger since Efen (Spectrum staff) began purchasing good vitamins in the States and bringing them to her. She lets him know when she gets low and he stocks her up! She also told me how grateful she was for Juan Toscano's (Pastor and Spectrum staff) church. It's only a block from where she lives so she can easily still get there on Sundays. They pray for her at the church and visit her often as well. She said she's not sure what's helping more, the vitamins or the prayer. But she's thankful for both!



My bowl of Pasole



Salud and I in front of her small house in Grupo Mexico

That thanks, extends to you! Your gifts enable us to be here and walk alongside people in our neighborhoods no matter what challenges they are facing. It's with funds you give that we can help them meet their challenges in real and tangible ways. Doing so allows us to show them that God knows and cares about what they're going through, and He's willing and able to help them!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi  
Spectrum Ministries Director

*"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you.'" - Luke 10:9*