

Hope for a Future

June 2018

Bringing a Family Together



Yulissa and her two kids happy to have a place to call home.

Last year, these conditions had forced them to make a decision they didn't want to make. They had to split up and live separately until they could rectify the situation. Yulissa and her young son and daughter went to live with her mom. Due to lack of space there, her husband went to live with his mom. Those months of separation and displacement were hard for their family. When I told her

The emotion was evident when I told Yulissa we would be coming to build her and her family a new home the following week. After months of waiting for her turn, a team from Grace Bible Church in Arroyo Grande, CA was coming to build a house with us and her name was next on the list! With dirt floors, rotten wood for walls and a roof that rather than repel the rain, invited it in, their old house was small and unlivable for their young family.



Yulissa receiving the keys to her new home!



Putting a roof over the family's heads.

equated those words with the reality of her family being reunited under one roof again. Emotion welled up within her causing tears to flow down the cheeks of this strong young woman.

It reminded me of the verse in Isaiah 40 that says God is like a shepherd that **"...gently leads those that have young."** My hope is that God will use this sturdy new home to show Yulissa and her family His deep love and care for them. Please join me in praying as well that they can connect with the church Spectrum partners with just at the top of the hill from their new house. I invited them the following Sunday, and I'm hoping they come!

Staying in School

Our children's ministry director, Paul Alvarado often describes the children in our neighborhoods as being on a "razor's edge". What he is talking about is the looming drug cartels that are idolized in the music and culture, and an ever present "opportunity" for a person to make some money. As these kids grow, almost all of them have an uncle, older brother or neighbor who is involved and more than ready to usher them into this dangerous life which **almost always ends in imprisonment or death.**



Kids need to purchase school uniforms in Mexico in order to attend.

A very practical way to stop these precious kids from crossing over to the world of the cartels is for them to stay in school. This both keeps them off the streets and gives them hope for a future! Last year with your help, Spectrum provided assistance with school supplies for over six hundred children in our neighborhoods. We also helped many with their required school uniforms. In a family of seven or eight kids, these costs can drive parents to have their older kids drop out of school, leaving them prime targets for the cartels. A teen with time on their hands is never a good thing, and especially one with no hope of a career!

Our plan is to purchase school supplies next month in July and bring them in to our neighborhoods in August, just in time for the new school year. We try to buy in Mexico as we get more for our peso with cheaper costs. It also helps the local economies and we don't have to try to smuggle them across an ever tightening border! Please pray we can deliver, helping our kids continue in school, stay out of the drug trade, and on a path towards a hopeful future!



Holding a new Spectrum backpack under his arm.

From all of us at Spectrum, thank you for all your love, prayers and support!

Matt Kooi
Director of Spectrum Ministries



We hope to supply our kids with what they need for school.

"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them." - Isaiah 41:17