

The Power of Education

June 2019

Edwardo is such a special boy. So much energy. So much life! Some might say he's hyperactive. A.D.D.? Maybe. It could just be the way God hard wired him. Or it may have been caused by his mother's illicit drug use while he was in the womb. But at eight years old, this abundance of energy has proven to be at the same time both a blessing and a curse for Edwardo.

The administration at the elementary school in his neighborhood didn't want him because he caused too many problems in the class room his first year there. No one went to bat for him, so this whole past year he's spent his days by himself at home. Not a good situation for a boy with so much energy to burn!

That leads to his other problem. He's not really wanted in his home either.



Edwardo is a great boy with so much potential!



Although rarely fashionable, schools require certain types of shoes to go along with their uniforms.

His mom isn't around. She lives in the red light district and moves from place to place, prostituting herself to help support her drug habit. She left Edwardo with his grandma and grandpa who don't have the energy or desire to keep up with him. Truth be told, if grandma had her way she would put him in an orphanage. Edwardo needs a good home, with people in his life who love him and teach him to point all of this excess energy toward healthy growth. He needs someone who believes in him!

We met Edwardo this past year at one of our outreaches. Upon hearing his story we decided to see what we could do to help get him back in school with good teachers and other kids around him. We connected him with a psychologist, a Christian woman from a local church that we know. She's been great to listen to Edwardo and help him cope with some of his challenges! We've also scheduled him to meet with a tutor every week. That way, when the fall rolls around and it's time to re-enroll him in class, he won't be too far behind. The tutor charges \$10 per week and we pay that from the education money that's



Each child is required to have a whole list of various school supplies before they begin classes.

been donated this year from Spectrum donors. Without this help, Edwardo’s grandparents could never cover the costs. His grandpa makes his money cleaning up for a local construction company and earns between forty and sixty dollars a week. The costs for the tutor are almost a quarter of what he brings in!

Edwardo’s story is just one of many all throughout our neighborhoods in Tijuana. Some situations are better, and unfortunately some are even worse. But each of these children is unique and has so much potential. Spectrum is committed to coming alongside families, both to encourage and help when necessary, their children stay in school.

What does that look like? Throughout the year we may help with uniform costs (every child has to have a uniform to go to school) or books. And each summer we put together a drive to bring supplies like paper, pencils, pens, back packs and more to give to the kids we work with. These efforts are designed to both ease the

strain on parents who often have multiple children to put through school, as well as promote the importance of education. Many of the parents we work with are often uneducated and because of that, don’t value it.

Even more so than in the States, education through high school and college can be the factor that breaks the poverty cycle for a child. Such a low percentage of people here have a college degree, it’s almost certain to land a well-paying job in Mexico. On the flip side, what often awaits those who drop out is to repeat the very things their parents did – teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse or the drug cartels. Education is so important to help keep them off that path!

This June we start our push to raise funds to purchase school supplies for kids in our neighborhoods. We’ll begin distributing the middle of July to approximately seven hundred children. We want to help them be ready to start the new school year toward the end of August. If you would like to be a part of helping these children go to school, please simply indicate “school supplies” on your preferred method of giving.

The Scriptures tell us that God loves Edwardo and each of the children we work with. He has big plans for them! Thank you for all you do to help us play a role through our outreaches, kids clubs, camps and so much more, to help them realize all that God has in store!



Our goal is to have enough school supplies to help seven hundred kids from our neighborhoods be ready for school!

From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director

“...for it is God who works in you to will and act in order to fulfill His good purpose.” - Philippians 2:13