

## Helping Those Who Are Hurting

April 2023



Baby Christina

A grandmother came to our community outreach this month in Laguna seeking help. Her baby granddaughter Cristina had been born with a serious birth defect. One of her arms did not develop and in its place the baby has only a small stump. With few resources to face the challenges and expenses ahead she turned to Spectrum. Over 10 years ago Spectrum came to her aid when her daughter fell into a cement waterway that was about a 12-foot drop. Spectrum provided for her daughter's needs during this period and so she sought us out once again. Lily helped grandma chart the next steps for the baby. Doctor visits, tests, and aid applications to charitable hospitals will be part of what lies ahead. Spectrum will be there to help see them through. It breaks our hearts to see little ones struggle, but it brings us joy to be able to assist families in critical times of need. Please help us pray for baby Cristina!

That same week we were also approached by two individuals seeking aid with cancer-related challenges. Leticia has been waging a long battle against breast cancer. She has gone through chemotherapy and Spectrum has assisted her through this process, and we will continue to help her face the challenges ahead. The doctor said she may need surgery now and requested another MRI. Pray for Leticia as she continues to fight cancer and for the hard decisions she is facing. The second individual, Ericka, is a mother we know well from our community outreaches. She has been coming with her children for many years now. She faced a battle with neck cancer, and four months ago her doctor told her that her cancer may have returned. This news weighed heavily on her. Spectrum helped cover the costs of the exams that eventually showed that the symptoms she was experiencing were not due to cancer, but rather side effects of the treatments. This is good news, but the road ahead is still a challenge. Pray for Ericka and Leticia as they continue to press on in their struggles. God is mighty to save! May he guide the Spectrum staff as they continue to assist these families.



We go to the need



Making new friends

We are very happy to have started supporting two young mothers who are going to nursing school and are working to prepare themselves to be able to pursue better opportunities in the future. Schooling is a powerful way to break out of poverty, but the costs can seem insurmountable for the poor. Spectrum supports students in many ways, from distributing school supplies, paying for school uniforms, helping with transportation costs, or helping with specific challenges unique to an individual's situation. We are always excited to be able to support motivated students who are working hard for a better future. Let's pray for these young mothers and for the schooling of the children we serve.

Poverty compounds problems, but we know God "...does not ignore the cries of those who suffer." (Psalm 9:12b) Helping those who suffer is God's work. He is the one who hears their cries. May we be busy with His business!

We stand in the middle of fields ripe for the harvest. We are constantly surrounded by so many needs. We cannot help all, but we are very happy to be able to help many. Thank you for supporting the work that we do here. The families we serve often express their gratitude. I pass that gratitude on to you. Through your support you are helping baby Cristina, Leticia, Ericka, and so many more this month. And your continued support of our general fund allows us to attend to the needs we will encounter in the weeks and months to come. May God strengthen the hand of the poor here in Tijuana!

Kids Camp is coming May 12th-14th. We want to provide over 100 children from tough, poor neighborhoods with the best weekend of their young lives. Abundant food for the kids, fun games, and gospel messages are things we are looking forward to sharing with the kids here. Thank you for your prayers!

From all of us at Spectrum Ministries,

Paul Alvarado  
Spectrum Ministries Director

*"The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, And their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the Lord, will answer them Myself, As the God of Israel I will not forsake them."  
Isaiah 41:17*

