

History Highlights



Building More Than Just a Dorm

In the early 1990s, Ted Boyer, our first Board president, had a vision to build a dorm in Tijuana for hosting Spectrum groups. One of the reasons Pastor Von had formed Spectrum was to allow youth from different churches to join in the ministry that had been so successful at influencing lives for Christ. As churches from farther away took advantage of this, housing became necessary. At first many stayed at Clairemont Emmanuel Baptist Church, Spectrum's home base. However, scheduling conflicts with other programs at the church eventually required groups to be out by 6 a.m. – a feat even on a missions trip! Having a dorm would solve the early-morning challenge and would save the groups time and money by eliminating the daily commute across the border. Also, the groups would have the experience of living in-country during their trip. With plumbing fixtures in place, the dorm hosted its first official group in 2002. Many of those early groups spent some of their trip working on the finishing touches, such as the group that slept on the floor while building bunk beds.

The dorm was not the only area of Spectrum where Ted Boyer and his wife Joyce invested during their lifetimes. They also supported Spectrum financially, often buying extra things – rice and beans for the food distribution, a property so the family of a disabled child would have an accessible place to live. They hosted Christmas parties for the vol-

unteers and bought boxes of chocolate for the staff and volunteers each year, and they always had kind and encouraging words for others. For many years Ted drove a van of volunteers to Mexico every Thursday.

The Boyers' support of Pastor Von and Spectrum continues to impact lives today. Building the dorm in Mexico has had consequences far beyond offering groups an economical place to stay. The dorm has become the headquarters of Spectrum, where staff meetings are held and equipment and donations are stored and readied to be used. The kitchen has been utilized to make food for breakfast clubs. The dorm has hosted Bible studies and discipleship groups as well as occasional staff celebrations. Having this home base has enabled the Mexican part of our team to have a more active role with Spectrum and in the larger work of sharing the Gospel through words and deeds. It has fostered deeper relationships between the staff and the visiting groups.

Spectrum began as a group of Americans meeting in a church parking lot, but building the dorm has allowed us to transform into a ministry organization staffed with people who live and serve in the city we are seeking to impact.

