

## **ALTO REFUGIO**

### **Needs**

In Mexico there are said to be over 2,000,000 children living on the streets. We have discovered that the city of Puebla is known as the last gate to Mexico City where the children seek fortune and opportunity only to be lost without hope. Knowing this we understand that the children we reach may very well be experiencing their last chance to make this very important decision to change the course of their lives.

### **Mission**

Alto Refugio is dedicated to personalized attention for these abandoned children from the street as well as children whose parents find themselves imprisoned or who have forsaken their offspring completely.

### **Vision**

Since these children have lost their family unit, Alto Refugio has been designed to fill that precise need. Each of the six apartments have the objective of giving the children a family setting where common family activities are carried out and at the same time where we strive to avoid at all cost falling into an institutional atmosphere. Each apartment has a supervisor who is dedicated to their group of children 24 hours a day, six days a week only taking one day off for rest and being relieved by a volunteer.

### **Objectives and Solutions**

Alto Refugio is unique in its vision in that it receives children of all ages whose situation is permanent or at least will be staying for a minimum of three years. As a result our children arrive in various situations, some 15 or 16 years old and only in grade two. For this reason we have an educational program which runs internally to capacitate and meet the needs of the children that cannot attend a regular school due to their age. Most of these children study a trade or career in the morning and advance with their regular studies in the afternoon. Our goal is that all may receive an education, a trade or a degree when possible, thus taking the child to be self sufficient and a positive part of our society.

Our children know that this is now their home until they are able to support themselves or leave to start their own family.

## **Results**

Although over the past years we have accomplished many goals we still consider our greatest achievement to be the transformation of our children's lives. It's amazing to see what a little love and attention can accomplish and it has even been a testimony to the government officials with whom we work closely.

Our children have come a long way receiving awards for first place in their groups at school, trophies for winning championships in sports, blue ribbons at cultural events.

## **Needs at the orphanage**

Although God has helped us to accomplish many of our goals, we still find ourselves with many challenges. One of these challenges is putting the children into school each year since uniforms, school supplies, shoes and fees set by the government add up to quite an amount when multiplied by all those who are able to attend.

There is also still a great need in the building itself and financial barriers to be able to reach many objectives that we have set to better our ability to serve the children. This will always be an ongoing effort as we hope to grow and enlarge our sphere of influence.