



NEWSLETTER | LAS ALAS

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Our Mission

Casa de los Angeles is a community of caring people who gather to nurture children, serving the needs of the less fortunate, treating each person with dignity and respect as they work to make a better life for themselves. It is located in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, and was founded on September 18,

Dia de los Muertos

November 2 is a special day in Mexico . . . Dia de los Muertos. We remember those who have gone before us with special altars called ofrendas. The Casa de los Angeles altar has grown to include three volunteers, a mom, one of our children and the man who was one of our Kings for Three Kings Day in January. We fondly remember each person with food, flowers, candles . . . but most of all we remember them with stories of how they are a part of Casa de los Angeles.



Use **GoodSearch** as your search engine and you can help Casa de los Angeles. Go to www.goodsearch.com and type in Casa de los Angeles as your charity. The pennies will add up! **GoodSearch** can also be used to earn money for Casa de los Angeles when you shop online. What a great and easy way to help!

From the View of Volunteers Stacey and Eva

The unknown can be scary. Not knowing any Spanish, never having worked with children and moving to a foreign country. What was I in for I asked myself? But, now, after having been apart of Casa de los Angeles for 5 weeks now I know I made the right choice.

I recall being nervous on my first day, feeling slightly awkward feeding and handling the children and speaking only a few "Tarzan" words with the teacher. Oh and the first time that I changed a diaper, that's something I will never forget! But as time passed my confidence grew and caring for the precious souls that exist at the Casa feels a part of me and I'm not quite sure what I would do without them.

In the beginning I was unsure if I was making a difference, but now I know simply being there to hold a hand so that a child can walk safely to the park, being there to quiet the tears after a fall, or being there to comfort a child to sleep . . . you can feel the difference.

Courage is being really scared but jumping in anyway.



I've been in San Miguel for a month now, yet every day still holds a surprise for me. However, an event that occurred last Friday proved to me exactly how much an unforgettable experience this was going to be. An excursion to the river was planned for the older kids from both guarderías, as well as teachers and volunteers, which came up to a headcount of about 40 people. Imagine my skepticism, then, when I was told that we would all be getting into the one Hogar de los Angeles "company car", an 11-seater van. Well, somehow, we all fit. Children on both our knees, standing, holding on to each other. The teachers were all acting like it was perfectly normal - so it was. By the time the van roared off on the uneven cobblestone, I wasn't anxious anymore, but excited. I was living my first tangible experience of "doing it the Mexican way". It is little wonders like that that keep me looking forward to every new day here. I'm here for another 3 months, and wouldn't have it any shorter.

Join us on FACEBOOK.



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Casa de los Angeles featured in Nurse Practitioner World News

Volunteer and friend, **Nancy Leigh Harless, ARNP, WHCNP**, says "I was taken by the enormous opportunity to effect change in the lives of children and mothers. After spending time at Casa de los Angeles, I realized that the life most changed was my own."

Nancy is a writer and Nurse Practitioner specializing in women's health care who has traveled to many countries to work and volunteer. In her article for the September/October 2009 issue of *Nurse Practitioner World News*, Nancy talks about her experiences, and says that she has seen numerous humanitarian projects during her travels, but nowhere has she found a project so holistically helpful for women as Casa de los Angeles.

Nancy met Donna Quathamer in 2008, when she attended a fundraiser for Casa de los Angeles. When she heard Donna speak of the amazing things happening there, she knew she had to get involved. These two women who share a passion for providing a way for the poor, especially poor women, to help themselves formed a fast and firm friendship.



All at Casa de los Angeles are grateful to Nancy for sharing her experience with the Nurse Practitioner community.

Thanks to our runners!

On Sunday, October 11, 2009 a fine team of people ran the 2009 Bank of America Chicago Marathon as part of Team Casa - an official charity of the Marathon. They used their run to raise support for Casa de los Angeles. We appreciate their dedication to our work and we are grateful to all who supported them.

We hope to be an official charity of the 2010 Bank of America Chicago Marathon- let us know if you'd like to be part of the Team!

Go to www.marathon.casadelosangeles.org to see our runners times and to read their stories.



Ivan Jimenez 3:42:39



UNDER THE PEPPER TREE:

Stories of Casa de los Angeles

By Donna Quathamer

You can order your copy online at www.casadelosangeles.org

Click on merchandise

Great gift for your favorite volunteer!