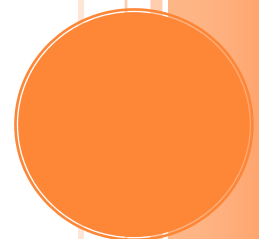


2009 REPORT

Paper Houses Across the Border, Inc.

Bob Decker

1/15/2010



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Paper Houses Across the Border, Inc.

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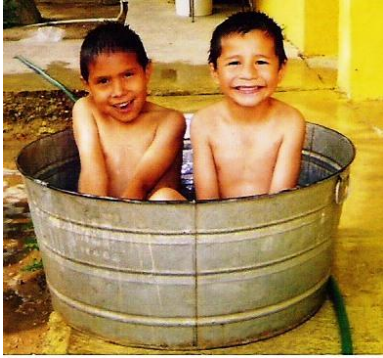
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CONTINUING MONTHLY SUPPORT

The following shelters and programs received minimum monthly support and additional money as needed for repairs, equipment, special situations, etc.

Casa Hogar del Nino Ciudad Acuña	Minimum Monthly Support	\$1,500
Casa Esperanza Ciudad Acuña	Minimum Monthly Support	\$1,000
Casa Emmaus Ciudad Acuña	Minimum Monthly Support	\$1,000
Centro Rehabilitacion (New Life Drug Treatment) Ciudad Acuña	Minimum Monthly Support	\$500
Special Needs Program (mentally and physically challenged) Gilberto Sanchez Ciudad Acuña	Minimum Monthly Support	\$1,000
Casa Santa Rita San Carlos (30-minutes from Acuña)	Minimum Monthly Support	\$1,000



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2009

Casa Hogar del Nino

We continued our monthly support at Casa Hogar del Nino, where 18-children received food, shelter, clothing and other necessities. We've seen several of the children literally grow up since 2002. Several will graduate in the 2009-2010 school year. When we first arrived, these children were in the 1st and 2nd year of school!



Casa Esperanza,

This is another shelter for children that continued to receive monthly support from Paper Houses Across the Border. Most of the children at this shelter have relatives working in the maquilas. The take-home pay is so low that it is impossible for the parents to feed, shelter and clothe their children. Normally, these parents will visit their children on Sundays and will take their children during vacation. However, with the factory lay-offs it is difficult to predict what will happen in the coming summer.

In addition to our regular monthly support, we also provided assistance with building repairs and plumbing.



Casa Santa Rita

We provided monthly assistance to Casa Santa Rita, a shelter for 22-children that is located about 40 miles from Acuña. This shelter is in a small town between Piedras Negras and Acuña. Because of its location, it is seldom visited by groups from America and it is difficult to raise money for support because there are no nearby factories or large businesses.



Casa Emmaus

Casa Emmaus also received \$1,000 per month. This migrant shelter provided food, clothing, medicine, and temporary shelter to returning migrants. After the economic slow-down in the United States, many people returned to Mexico. Typically, these people arrive in Acuña without money and often are sick. They are all hungry. The shelter provides food, medicine, clothing and a temporary place to rest. The shelter works closely with the Mexican government to help these men, women and children return to their villages.



Centro Rehabilitacion

This is one of two drug recovery centers in Acuña. We provided \$1,000 per month to support this drug recovery shelter/program after a half-dozen law enforcement officers from the United States visited the shelter with us and evaluated its work. This shelter has helped 'men' as young as 14 years old get off the streets, get off the drugs and get back to their families. When recovered, they often do volunteer work in the community in thanks.

Special Needs Program

Paper Houses searches for existing programs managed by private individuals, charities and churches that provide realistic help to the community. During 2009 we provided \$1,000 per month to support this program that assists families with special needs. The people receiving assistance have children with medical needs, special needs children, or are elderly and have an emergency situation. Operating much like Paper Houses, this program reaches out to help families with a variety of problems.



Carmen - 8 years old - Cancer - will probably lose eye.



Nancy Marquez Marquez
Cancer-will probably lose leg at hip.

Medical Assistance

During 2009 we continued to seek out people, especially children, with medical problems. School teachers continued to identify children in need of medical help and we also found many of the children we helped on our door-to-door visits in the colonias.

We provided for medical treatment that would otherwise be unavailable to families in the colonia. This is one of our largest investments. These expenses ranged from providing transportation to out of city hospitals, cancer treatment, eye exams, and glasses for school children, medicine, and a variety of other medical related needs.

[Giving Hope Worldwide](#) reimbursed Paper Houses for the cost of two large medical commitments: cancer treatment for a 5-year old girl and a prosthetic limb for a mother facing amputation.

The doctors at the Ejeza private hospital continued to extend a discount to Paper Houses and continued to help with some of the costs related to physical therapy. Many of these doctors provide free volunteer work in the field and at the public hospital.

People receiving our assistance would otherwise not receive needed medical care. We help family members into jobs that provide the Seguro medical insurance and work with the understanding that it is the family's obligation to solve their problems. In some cases, we may spend thousands and thousands of dollars because without our help a child may die.



Juanita is a very brave cancer survivor. Giving Hope Worldwide is underwriting her medical expenses as she fights a cancerous tumor on her liver.

In all cases, our goal is to help the families move into a situation where they do not need charity.

Many of these families organize fundraisers for their children. Many have helped at fundraisers for other children. We've seen people we've helped in the past show up as volunteers because they heard about a need for volunteers on the radio or from friends. Often they do not know that Paper Houses Across the Border is even involved. They are simply paying back what they owe to the community. Volunteering to help other children with medical needs is their way of saying thanks.



Assistance to Families

We walked door-to door to better understand family and community needs. Assistance to families included food, clothing, building materials, water, bottled gas, funeral expenses, blankets, and help with utility bills.

In the winter, we walked door to door giving away blankets, pajamas, and warm clothes. **One father said, "My children were awake all night crying because of the cold."**

At another card-board house, a woman pointed to the remains of a small campfire that she built inside of her house. "It was smoky and I know it was dangerous. But the children were so cold."

Although the temperatures dip below freezing, they suddenly rise into the high 60s. Many families hope that the freezing weather will only last a few days. The reality is that during the winter, the temperatures suddenly rise and fall. Snow and freezing rain is not a big surprise during the winter.

We walk door to door, every month and deliver small sacks of food to the families. During 2009, we gave about 1,000 pounds of food each month in our visits to the families. As our relationship grows, the families tell us more about their needs. It is not unusual during our first visit to a family with a child in need of surgery for the family not to mention this need. These people are proud and want to do things for themselves. Often, it takes several visits before some families are comfortable enough in our friendship to tell us about their true situation and needs.

During bad weather or in situations involving a unique dilemma, we provided housing material. For example, a single mother with eight children was living in a poorly constructed cinderblock house and the walls were collapsing. Because of the immediate danger this posed to the children we sent a contractor and paid for materials to repair the home.

We also provided rolls of plastic, cardboard, nails, and tin to repair homes with children during severe weather.

FINANCIAL

We began 2009 with \$47,743.50 in our account. This money remains from the large number of donations we received in 2006¹. Our intent in 2009 was to continue to put that money to good use. For this reason, we intentionally spent more money than we received in 2009.

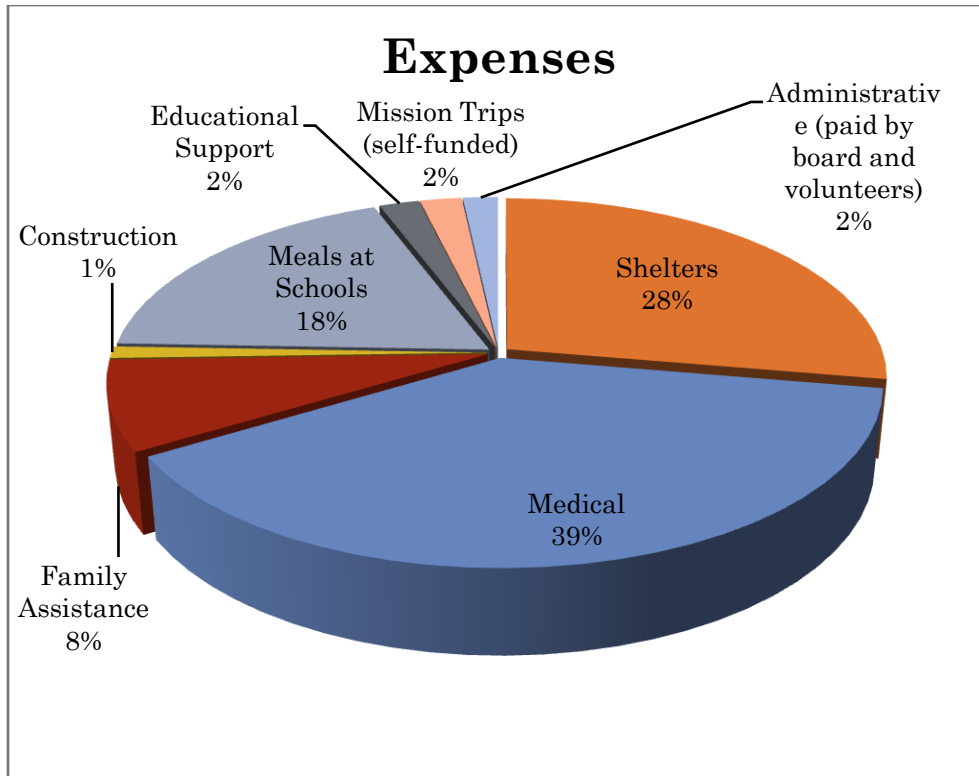
The yearly financials are included in the appendix of this report.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income	
43410 · Corporate Contributions	\$1,514.67
43400 · Direct Public Support - Other	\$106,365.87
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	\$107,880.54
44800 · Indirect Public Support	\$155,738.65
Total Income	\$263,619.19

Expenses	
Shelters	75727.22
Medical	106103.59
Family Assistance	22117.72
Construction	2880.52
Meals at Schools	51029.05
Educational Support	5415.85
Mission Trips (self-funded)	5668.1
Administrative (paid by board and volunteers)	4755.56
Total Expenses	\$273,697.61

¹ Media (i.e. People Magazine, FOX, etc.) resulted in a large number of donors during that year.



Our expenses exceeded our income as we 'spent down' the remaining contributions received during 2006 because of the continual media exposure. During 2010 we will either reduce services or increase our donor base.

We remain committed to remaining an all volunteer organization. Towards the end of 2009, Paper Houses Across the Border and the University of St. Thomas began working closer together and the University's Communication Department sent volunteers to produce a public service announcement (PSA) about Paper Houses that will air in Houston. UST also hopes to provide volunteer support for our publications and material on the Internet.

During the first half of 2010 we will restructure our website and build links to blogs, Twitter and Facebook so that our Internet presence is interactive.

WHY MEXICO?

A frequently asked question is, "Why establish a charity to help Mexico?" People also question U.S. charities helping in Africa, China, and charities that help A.I.D.S. victims. Many people say that 'charity starts at home' and that I should be helping the poor in the United States.

Charity begins at home, but it does not end there. (Most people seem to forget the second part of that often repeated saying). Charity at home is certainly something I do. Our board members are all involved in local charity work that ranges from volunteering at church to helping Autistic children. In addition to our physical volunteer work, we all contribute personally to local charities.

We also volunteer to form and do the work of Paper Houses Across the Border, which does its work in the colonias of Mexico. In the colonias, there are few safety nets available. The people flocked to the border-cities in search of jobs at the foreign owned factories. Although the jobs were available, the migration of hundreds of thousands of people to the border-city resulted in a cost of living that is equal to Houston. The most common paycheck we see is for \$65 a week.

Many U.S. companies (i.e. Cadillac, Ford, and Alcoa) own or depend upon these factories. The end result is that the factories are not held to our environmental laws, worker safety, workers compensation and we benefit from lower prices. Global trading and outsourcing of jobs guarantees that if workers in Mexico push hard for fair wages, the factories will simply move to other countries where people work at slave wages to barely survive.

The thousands of people we've personally met in the colonias are hard working people. They do not ask for charity and are often reluctant to talk about their needs. Unlike many Americans who clamor for welfare and are 'too discouraged to seek employment' these people take any job and are proud of their accomplishments. Although deeply mired in poverty, they sent money and volunteers to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina struck. (This was in addition to the Mexican hospital ship and the Mexican Army's help in New Orleans). When tornadoes struck Eagle Pass, Texas - the people from Piedras Negras, including the mayor, crossed the International Bridge to lend a hand.

Former Mexican President Fox told me in a private conversation at his home, that the mark of a nation emerging from poverty is that they reach out to other nations touched by tragedy. My observation is that the people and the country of Mexico reach out to help.

Why doesn't everybody just stay home and help their own country? I can only speak for Paper Houses. We humbly try to imitate Jesus as he reached out to foreigners and those despised by His own people. He said to go forth to all nations. He did not say, "Stay at home and only help yourself, your family and your country." If we are wrong, that He was wrong.

Lastly, it is easier to help people that are the same color, speak the same language and are members of our own community. It is good to do so and we do so often. However, the challenge of helping the 'least of these' and the people that are often treated as outcasts seems to require us to dig deeper into our souls to try to become the people we were made to be.