



MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY TO US!

FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear COC friend and partner,

WOW! Circle of Concern is 30 years old. My son Eric was 15 then and now he is 45. When I was Executive Pastor of a local church I felt like I wanted to do more with missions and helping people, so my Betty and I started COC in October of 1989. Originally we felt the need to help the little people who fall through the cracks of the regular systems. One of the first things we did was to buy a hospital bed for a foster child who needed home care. Through our network of friends we would hear of people who we could help with just a little caring.

Then in 1998 Betty and I took our first trip to Sayulita, Mexico and realized we wanted to establish a Christian community in that area. Betty would do marriage counseling with an interpreter, and we recruited doctors, dentists and nurses to come and freely help people. We even set up a small pharmacy with all the donated drugs people could carry with them on the airplane. (Back then this was not a big deal like it is today)

The rest is history as Circle of Concern was able to work with local partners to plant churches, give away thousands of eyeglasses, Bibles and so much more. Our next trip to Sayulita will be Nov 12-16, 2020. I love helping Carol DeGraff organize and put these together. I like being Carol's assistant boss and I may go just to watch. Some of our crew may say that is all I ever did.

It's been such a joy working with our wonderful crew for so many years. If you want your name added to the wait list for Sayulita, email me today.

Thank you for your support over the years,

George Wakeling • george@circleoc.com

TIJUANA

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 1, 2020



1 Day Outreach Zona Norte, Tijuana
Space is limited. Sign up today at
circleoc.com/tijuana

SAN LUIS DE LA PAZ, GUANAJUATO

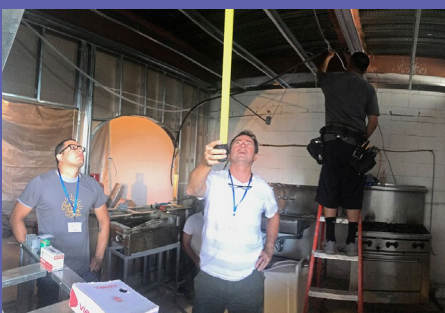
JULY 18 - 24, 2020



Build a Playground in the Circle of Silence. Great trip for families with elementary age kids and up.

Sign up today at
circleoc.com/sanluislapaz

OUR DAY IN ZONA NORTE



At 8am on Saturday, September 14, twenty of us met in front of Coffee Bean at the San Ysidro border crossing. For nine of the 20, it was their first time to come. Our partners, Keith and Maya Durkin, were waiting for us, and loaded us into vehicles and drove us over the border to their ministry site in the notorious section of TJ, Zona Norte.

When we arrived, AJ Durkin and his girlfriend Eveling were already hard at work! There was a small group of people drinking coffee and listening to AJ share a message. They had two canopies in front of the building ready for us, one to run the vision clinic, and the second to host people for lunch. Our construction crew got right to work on plumbing a sink in the kitchen, hooking up a propane tank on the roof for the stove, and running needed electrical lines. Some of the team went with Maya to a local shelter about a block away to do crafts with the children. Team member Eli shared the Gospel with the kids as they made bracelets with colored beads. Most of the children in the shelter are from Central America, and with their moms/families are seeking asylum into the U.S.

Back at the ministry center, we prepared lunch for the community and served almost 200 hot dogs. Reyna and Jeff gave eyeglasses to those who needed them, and prayer for all. Everyone who came in has a sad story and many needs. We even heard from three people from Cameroon, about their horrific escape from their country's civil war, and their journey all the way to TJ to seek asylum as well. Horrifying stories!

Keith and Maya are currently running a school for street kids, many who have never spent a day in school and need extensive tutoring to "catch them up." It's one of the most important ways to break the cycle of drug use and prostitution in this area. Changing one life at a time to make a difference. It's not an easy task.

This is the type of ministry Circle loves to partner with - helping the hurting and the broken, and giving hope in the name of Jesus. I hope you can join us for our next time to TJ, February 1, 2020.

Happy Fall,

Carol DeGraff • carol@circleoc.com



Christmas is around the corner and we want to bless our partners in Zona Norte with funds to purchase needed kitchen equipment to get it fully functioning. This kitchen is vital to the ministry and will provide hot meals for those who have little or nothing. You can send a check and put on the memo: TJ Kitchen

Or donate online at www.circleoc.com/tjproject

WAYS TO DONATE

DONATE ONLINE

Donations can be made securely online at circleoc.com/donate

THRIFT STORE

New and used goods can be donated to the Circle of Concern Thrift Store. Call 1-800-499-5121.

USED CARS

Used cars can be donated to Circle of Concern. Call 1-855-500-RIDE.