

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope you are having a wonderful summer! Mine has included some big changes -- I've retired from being CFO for New Song Community Church and become a grandma! Having extra time for family, not to mention needed house projects has brought me considerable joy.

I'm also happy I get to devote more of time and energy to COC, which truly is an amazing ministry. George and Betty laid such a great foundation for it, and many of you have faithfully supported its mission to reach those who need Jesus' love and care. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

I believe as we continue to work together to impact lives in TJ, Baja and beyond, we will see a great harvest in Mexico. Let's pray towards that!

July 22 was our first outreach in TJ working with Pastor's Keith and Maya Durkin of COTA. We had an awesome team of 18 and they truly blessed the community we served. We plan to host these 3-4 times a year --- the next one will be October 21. A big 'shout-out' to Heritage Church of San Clemente who has officially partnered with us for each outreach.

To date we have raised \$5,700 for the van for Tijuana. This van will be vital to COTA for food pick-up and delivery, as well as transporting teams. If you can help us get to our goal of \$10,000, we would greatly appreciate it! You can easily donate online at www.circleoc.com/van4tj

May the rest of your summer be blessed,



Carol DeGraff



Carol with Cora Scottlyn, 1 day old



Serving in Tijuana

FROM THE FOUNDER

On Saturday, July 22nd I was excited to go to TJ with the COC team. I had been looking forward to seeing what Keith & Maya's ministry Children of the Americas was doing. We held our outreach at one of COTA's five feeding sites for children, a building next to an elementary school in a poor area of TJ.

Keith and Maya had everything organized perfectly and we had many people waiting for us when we arrived. Keith shared the gospel first thing, then COC helped folks with free reading glasses and prayed for individual needs. For the kids, we did face painting, a craft, applied temporary tattoos, played games and had Misha Durkin lead the kids in a Bible story. Terry DeGraff and his team took family photos we framed and gave as a gift, and COTA served a plethora of hot dogs. It was a very blessed, productive day.

Thank you Lord for allowing me to work with such a fine team. I am already looking forward to our next day in TJ.



George Wakeling



George Wakeling serving hot dogs in Tijuana with COTA ministry

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT : HEATHER SPRAKER

Heather is such a blessing to so many! Along with her family going on COC trips for years, she and George also serve faithfully on our Board of Directors.

“Over the years my family has had the opportunity to join Circle of Concern for many of their Mexico mission trips and single day outreach events. Most outreaches include a vision clinic, food, children’s ministry, family photos, and a presentation of the gospel.

I love working with the children’s ministry. We play games, have crafts, face painting, balloon animals, and a Bible story. The people of Mexico are always warm and welcoming to us and their children are so sweet. I enjoy interacting with the kids and seeing the delight in their eyes as they create their crafts or the looks on their faces as they listen to a Bible story and soak up the gospel message.

As parents we desire to instill in our children a heart for people and the ability to think outside themselves and serve others. These trips to Mexico have been one way to reinforce that message. Our kids have had the chance to venture to another country, experience its culture and people while serving alongside them as well as working with the team of Christians from Circle, all of which we believe has made a lasting impact on our children’s lives.

Mother Teresa once said, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love”. We each have the ability to do small things with great love, to be a cog in a wheel that will leave a positive ripple effect in communities as we serve the Lord. If you’ve never had the opportunity to go on a trip or outreach event, I would encourage you to give it a try. It’s been a meaningful experience for our family.”



1-DAY OUTREACH IN TIJUANA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Leave in the morning – back by early evening. Per person suggested donation: \$35 (Lunch included) (\$75 family maximum). Passport required.

Sign up at circleoc.com/tijuana

JOIN THE COC TEAM FOR KIDS AROUND THE WORLD'S

ANNUAL BAJA NEW YEAR'S PROJECT

DECEMBER 28 - 31

Build a playground for special needs kids, community outreach, evangelism and more! Save the date now: **December 28-31**. More details to follow. Last year was AWESOME! This one will be too!

Early bird sign-ups at circleoc.com/baja

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

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