

Dear Friend of COC,

I want to share with you about Jose Carlos and his family in Tijuana who need our help.

JOSE CARLOS' STORY

Hugh Margesson (director and founder of COC's Hope Beyond Borders) heard about Jose Carlos through Eloy and Brenda, a dear couple that helps families with very sick children in Tijuana. They have huge hearts and we're blessed to have been invited into their lives to watch their ministry in action.

Jose's mother, Cynthia is a single mom living down a narrow street in very poor conditions. She also has a sweet 13-year-old daughter, Donna Esmerelda. Sadly, and as happens so often, there is no father helping her or the children. Jose Carlos was born a normal little boy, but at the age of only 8 months had his lower intestine twist and rupture, causing the need for emergency surgery with only a 30% survival rate. But he did survive (thank you Jesus!), but now has a colostomy bag.

Needless to say, it's been a hard life for the whole family! No day-care center or family member will assist Cynthia so she can work, as his colostomy bag has to be changed 2x a day. Jose suffers daily from pain around the area where the bag is. He's had infections and has been under nourished. His mom can't afford colostomy bags so at times she's had to re-use them to make them last. Without any income, the family lives in a very poor little "house" that has one room and a bathroom that most of us would not enjoy using. They depend on others for food, diapers, medicine and other needs.

HOPE AND HEALTH FOR JOSE CARLOS

Thankfully, there is great hope for Jose. His colon has grown enough so that it can be surgically reattached allowing for a normal life! But Cynthia has no way to afford a surgery, and so we want to raise the funds to cover it. Having this surgery in Tijuana will cost under 10,000 US dollars. We are currently finding the right doctor and hospital for Jose to receive treatment. Cynthia is beyond grateful for our help.

Just imagine, after surgery Jose will be able to live a normal life, without having to manage a colostomy bag. This will also allow Cynthia to earn an income for the family which **will provide the whole family HOPE for the future.**

WE CAN HELP EVEN MORE!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

The owner of the house they live in is planning on demolishing the house (yes, it's in that bad of shape), so Cynthia will need to find somewhere else for them to live soon. Next door to them lives Grandma and she wants to help too. She owns the tiny house she lives in. Though very poor, it's live-able and she has an area on the back of the house where we can build a bedroom, bathroom and small kitchenette. It needs a roof, inside walls, plumbing, electricity, plus furnishings. The floor and outer walls are there.

"We don't have to do big things, only small things with love."

- Mother Teresa



We've had bids in to do the work, part of it will be volunteers, part of it hiring locals, plus buying all the lumber, supplies, etc. We are estimating the cost will be around \$10-12,000. Eloy is a contractor and will be donating his time. We also want to furnish it for the family. For about \$25,000 we can completely change the lives of this family to give them a future and a hope. We've already raised \$4000!

CAN YOU HELP? No amount is too small. If you can't financially give, your prayers for this family is a huge blessing as we want to not only meet their physical needs, but also find them Christian support going forward.

One life at a time, this is how we impact the world for Christ. And doing it together is the Jesus way to do it!

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

- Carol DeGraff, Executive Director
carol@circleoc.com

Give online at circleoc.com/josecarlos
or mail a check and write
"hope and health" on your memo.

PS - Let me know if you are interested in volunteering construction help to the project.

MISSION TRIP TO BUCERIAS

November 9-13, 2023

Trip Cost: \$595/person plus airfare
(covers everything but a few meals)
Sign up at circleoc.com/bucerias



Come join us for our 25th year of outreach in the Puerto Vallarta area! We have secured a beautiful property in Bucerias **all to ourselves**. The property has 15 bedrooms, a pool, and is walkable to the beach and town. Now is the time to register and pay your deposit of \$195 per person. We also want us all to get the best airfare possible. Flying in and out of Tijuana proves to be affordable.

We will serve our nearby partners, Agape Creek Church and the Punta de Mita Mission in San Vicente known as Carton-landia because of the type of poor homes people have built to live in. We will do construction, evangelism, eye glass clinic and kids activities. We also hope to serve in the local children's home and of course have great fellowship with our partners and one another. (Oh and did I mention how delicious the food is?)

For registration and trip details go to circleoc.com/bucerias or email me at carol@circleoc.com



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