

# Rohi Foundation Ministry Spotlight

## Colegio La Cruz, a School Serving Families in the 23rd of March Community



The Rohi Foundation is excited to tell you about its partnership with Colegio La Cruz, a school serving pre-school and elementary aged students in the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March community. This community is less than a mile from the Pharr International Bridge and previously was vacant government land in a flood plain. Several years ago, the government opened the land to squatters and poor families quickly claimed small plots, erecting makeshift structures. Beyond being in a flood plain, the community has no infrastructure – no water lines, no significant source of electricity, no paved or maintained roads, and no schools. The approximately 120 pre-school and elementary aged children living there attend school sporadically or not at all. This is primarily due to transportation issues (there is no publicly provided transportation for the students) and inability to afford the uniforms and fees public schools in Reynosa charge for attendance.



Lean-to building for Pandemic Tutoring

The Rohi Foundation has been serving in this community since its settling, as it sits adjacent to canal communities Rohi has been serving in for more than 20 years. The Esquivels originally learned of the community because of their service with The Rohi Foundation. Rosy Esquivel is a veteran teacher and former assistant principal, with over 20 years of experience. During the pandemic, she felt called to begin tutoring sessions in this community, knowing that the online lessons public schools were providing would be impossible for these students to access. These tutoring sessions

began in the fall of 2020 and were twice a week for two hours in a lean-to building with no floor. About 20

children attended regularly. During these regular interactions, Rosy discovered that because many were not regularly attending school before the pandemic, they were behind academically. Even had the children begun to attend public school again, it is doubtful they would receive the intensive remediation needed. Instead, as is so often the case, they would have been socially promoted, even though they lacked even the most basic academic skills. So, as the pandemic ended, Rosy felt called to use her giftings and experience to establish a school in the neighborhood to help these children and families.



## COLEGIO CRISTIANO LA CRUZ



PRIMER DIA DE  
CLASES



A private Christian school sponsored Colegio La Cruz as a satellite, under its SEP (Mexico's Department of Education) certification for pre-school and primary aged students. A church (located on the only high ground in the community) allowed the school to operate out of their buildings. The school began in August of 2022 with about 25 students. In 2023, they celebrated their first graduation, with one kindergarten graduate and 4 primary school graduates. The next fall, this 2023-2024 school year, their enrollment doubled, to nearly 50 students. They expect to graduate 3 kindergarten and 7 primary aged students. They have an additional 30 children desiring to enroll for the 2024-2025 school year, bringing their prospective total enrollment to about 75. They

hope one day to open their doors to children in grades 7-9.

Currently, they have 4 teachers (Rosy and her daughter, Valeria and 2 others) plus a teacher's aide (a high school student from the community) serving the 50 students in preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. School operates from late August to early July. It is Monday–Friday, 8 AM – 1 PM. They provide every student with both breakfast and lunch daily. They also provide transportation to and from the school for all their teachers.

The monthly cost to serve each student is \$80. Tuition is free, but families must help with food preparation/ dish washing, site and building maintenance, and cleaning. Additionally, students must have good attendance and behavior.

The Rohi Foundation provides some monthly support, but the bulk of the monies come from other donors. Each month, Mauro and Rosy trust in God to provide the monies needed. If you are interested in donating towards this ministry, you can make a tax deductible donation to The Rohi Foundation via Paypal or Zelle ([therohifoundationinc@gmail.com](mailto:therohifoundationinc@gmail.com)), mail a check (1804 Valle Verde Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78641), or donate via the website ([Fund Colegio La Cruz | rohi-foundation \(therohifoundation.org\)](https://www.rohi-foundation.org)).