

On behalf of the Board of Directors of ROHI Foundation we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your support toward the work in Reynosa, Mexico in 2020. With the pandemic and the economic fallout because of it, Hurricane Hanna, and the continued and worsening violence, truly God positioned Rohi to be a source of light and hope in a very dark time. Your generous financial support and prayers helped make it possible. In spite of all the loss, all the heart-breaking circumstances, we see God moving in hearts and minds and opening doors that were never open before.

We began 2020 with high hopes. In January, we did major maintenance on both of our wells. The Nopelera well required a pump replacement, refurbishment of the steel tower, repair and clean the tank, and remove any sand and material in the well hole. Though the bulk of the funds came from your donations, the community did contribute about \$15 per family towards the costs. We believe it is important that the community participate so they understand the value or the resource and the ongoing costs to maintain it. Fostering civic responsibility will ensure that over the long term there are resources to maintain the wells.

In February, we began construction on a third classroom for the high school. The high school had three grades, but only two classrooms. They were using a dilapidated storage shed for the third classroom, which was termite infested and not as secure during shoot outs as the other two concrete block classrooms. This third classroom was equipped with air conditioning and was a vast improvement over the previous structure. As this third classroom was being built, the principal of the primary school secured funding from the government to build two new primary classrooms. The old primary buildings were also in dire need of replacement. But just as the high school classroom was completed and ready to be used and planning for the new primary buildings underway, Covid 19 hit and all classes were canceled.

When Covid 19 arrived in March, pretty much everything in Reynosa shut down, much like it did in the United States. In the early months, the government and other ministries (like that of Bruce and Paula Hepburn and Roy and Rebecca Busby) handed out care packages (dispensas) to the very poor, now even worse off than before. As the pandemic wore on, factories and other businesses were permitted to open, but the enduring economic fallout continued and many of those we serve faced enduring under and unemployment.

The economic repercussions also impacted Rohi, as our ministry partner, Cherish Our Children International, had to pause its support of our efforts with the schools. Their support constitutes about a quarter of Rohi's annual resources.

In April, our missionary, David Garcia, became very ill and was diagnosed with diabetic ketoacidosis. Though his situation was very serious, he did recover. He now takes insulin daily and is doing well.

For economic reasons or others we are not aware of, cartel violence on the canal increased substantially in the Spring. Almost all of the families in the La Union, Flores de Mayo, and Alacranes colonias had to flee. Many moved into government subsidized apartments a few miles from the canal. We now call these apartments La Union 2, because so many families from La Union moved there.

Just when it seemed like it really couldn't get any worse, it did. Hurricane Hanna hit Reynosa in July and brought with it 16 inches of rain. Many, many parts of the city flooded and thousands and thousands of houses were impacted. At the same time, Covid numbers skyrocketed. Especially in the communities we

serve, many contracted the virus. Sadly, Pastor Antonio, who pastored New Hope Church on the canal and has been an invaluable ministry partner and close friend for many years, caught the virus and ultimately died.

With the virus rampant and the hurricane devastation, the need for assistance became extreme. With your generous donations, we partnered with La Cruz Church and Melody Orphanage to bring 7,000 prepared meals (as many had lost their kitchens in the flooding) and 3,000 dispensas (care packages) to those in need on the canal and in other parts of Reynosa.

As the summer came to an end, it became clear that schools were going to remain virtual. Virtual school in Reynosa, especially for the communities we serve, is limited by the lack of internet access and the inability of parents to effectively aide their children. Seeing these needs, Rohi pivoted and began providing school assistance to the children and families at the La Union 2 apartments. We refurbished a vacant apartment in the building and began offering classes four days a week to about 25 students. We equipped these students and many more, including all our high school students and those of two additional free high schools, with school supplies. In all, over 300 packages of school supplies were distributed in September.

While Rohi seeks to meet the physical needs of those we serve, we know that a relationship with Jesus Christ is everyone's truest and most enduring need. The Garcia family set out to reestablish the New Hope Church at the La Union 2 apartments. The Pastor position of the New Hope Church was transferred to David (a legal and practical process functioning as a church plant of Gracia Abundante) and they began meeting outdoors on Sunday afternoons, with David both leading worship and giving the sermon. They regularly have 30-40 in attendance, sometimes upwards of 50. They have established a youth, marriage, and prayer ministry. They are also providing monthly dispensas to each family that attends, as many are food insecure. We covet your prayers for assistance for the Garcias, as they really need help in these endeavors. They have rented a house very close to the apartment complex, to minimize commute time, while still staying in the canal house a couple nights a week.

With winter coming and the need for warm coats and blankets, in early fall we began our annual collection. We also collected toiletries and Christmas presents for each of our tutoring students, as well as smaller gifts for the other children who attend New Hope and live in the complex. We delivered an entire trailer full of supplies (coats, blankets, toiletries, and toys) during the Thanksgiving trip. The Vessa family spearheaded science lessons about magnetism for all the students in the tutoring program, as well as children in a ministry La Cruz supports. It was a blessed week of service. In addition, we celebrated with the High School graduates for 2020 class and presented them with their laptop computers.

As we look to the future of Rohi, we know the pandemic is far from over. It is confirmed that school will remain virtual at least until the fall. When school meets again in person, students will likely return to the school in Nopelera, while the schools in La Union have a more uncertain future. The violence in that community persists and it is likely we will need to temporarily relocate the high school. The rebuilding of the La Union primary has been put on hold. Please pray for a miraculous end to the violence.

Organizationally, we continue to write a monthly newsletter, utilize Facebook, and our website ([www.therohifoundation.org](http://www.therohifoundation.org)) to keep supporters abreast of all God is doing in and through Rohi. The Board of Directors of ROHI would ask for your prayers as we plan for 2021. Our prayer for you, our

partners in this work, is that the Lord Jesus Christ will strengthen you and bless you and your family for the investment you are making in His Church. May He grant you a 2021 that is full of purpose and life as we serve and worship the God we love.

God Bless,

ROHI Board of Directors

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