

1/30/2019

[insert recipient address]

Dear [insert recipient name],

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 2018. God used Rohi and its partners to show the certain and enduring love of God. This past year saw continued violence throughout the city, particularly in the colonias in which we serve. The area by the La Union campus and New Hope Church has been particularly active. Classes and church are often canceled due to cartel activity. As a result, we have been reticent to bring groups to Reynosa and though we have brought very small teams, bringing large family groups, like we did in the past, has not been possible. Yet, we continue to see God working amazingly through our supporters in the United States and in Mexico to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the communities we serve. The role of our onsite missionaries, the Garcias, continues to be critical in 2019, as well as your financial support, as we utilize local resources to maintain the infrastructure rather than mission trip participants and their trip fees.

Rohi's support of the Little Blue Schools, which provide a K-6 education to the children in the colonias, and the Preparatoria (or high school) continues to be a top priority. We are grateful for our continued financial partnership with COCI (*Cherish Our Children International*) as we seek to provide stability in a very chaotic environment. This year, we expanded our support of the Preparatoria program to include the two other associated free high schools in Reynosa. Though our support of these two new schools is more limited than that of the La Union campus, we hope our efforts can expand educational opportunities for these students as well. On our two main primary campuses, La Union and Nopelera, we are grateful that the government continues to provide teachers. At La Union, the government currently provides two primary level teachers through SEP (the primary provider of public education in Mexico), a pre-school/kindergarten teacher through CONAFE, and three high school teachers through SEP. At Nopelera, all teachers are provided by CONAFE (they don't have a high school campus). We continue to seek to support these teachers with materials, equipment, and maintenance/improvement of infrastructure. As such, a primary goal for this year on the La Union campus is the installation of a perimeter enclosure – with a block wall in front – to protect this campus from stray bullets and fleeing cartel from fire fights that often occur at the bridge which is adjacent to the school. We also hope to add three additional classrooms to the campus, primarily for use by the high school, but with additional capacity for other uses as well.

In our efforts to ensure all students can read, write and do basic math, we continued our daily after school tutoring classes. We served over 25 students on 75 afternoons. This was actually a considerable drop from previous years in both attendance and number of classes. Most of this is a result of the escalated cartel activity around New Hope Church, where we have been holding the classes. As a result, we have decided that we will relocate our tutoring classes in 2019 over to the Nopelera area, which is more secure. In our initial meetings and classes, we have seen substantial interest and are hopeful this change in location renews our ability to meet this substantial need.

The high school, or Preparatory, saw its third graduating class of 14 students in 2018. We awarded each graduate a Dell laptop computer to assist them in continuing their studies post-graduation. Our funding partner, DressWell GiveWell, donated the funds for this purpose. In our interviews with students, we found that perhaps a computer is not the best post-graduation tool to ensure post-secondary success for every student. As such, gifts for the 2019 cohort may be more tailored to their post-graduation plans and needs. Accordingly, we began engaging this graduating cohort during lunch information sessions to help them explore options post-graduation. Our goal is for the students to have plans in place at graduation so that they can succeed in whatever line of work or study they choose.

Another focus of our ministry is meeting the medical, dental and vision needs of those living in the colonia. Unfortunately, the high levels of cartel violence have prevented us from having clinics on the canal. We were able to have a clinic at Regents School of Reynosa at Thanksgiving and over 100 people, many from the canal area, received medical/dental/vision services. We are hopeful that we can offer at least two clinics in 2019, preferably on the canal, but likely at Regents, depending on the security situation at the time.

Another development is the addition of a new colonia. This new colonia, named 23rd of March, lies in a flood plain across a small irrigation canal from Nopelera. Squatters began occupying this government land about two years ago, but the population has steadily increased to the point that now hundreds of people reside there. The needs of this colonia are substantial. Their housing is primitive at best and access to water is extremely limited. We are seeking to engage this community and trying to begin to meet their many needs. Residents are welcome to fill water tanks at our Nopelera well. We collected blankets and jackets for a distribution event held at the Garcia's house, to both meet their need for warmth, but also to establish stronger relationships. Our hope is that in the coming years we can focus more of our energies on improving their living conditions.

The key to this effort, and all our efforts, is our missionaries, the Garcia family. David began offering Bible study in 23rd of March recently. He is engaging regularly with its leadership. This community has been particularly receptive to our new after school tutoring efforts at Nopelera. The Garcias are very excited to share God's love and provision with these new friends, while at the same time, continuing to serve and oversee our efforts in our more established communities.

The Garcia's day to day oversight of our work is critical. Their maintenance of the infrastructure, especially the wells and water lines, but also the school buildings and other physical assets, is vital. Additionally, they are the primary point of contact on a day to day basis in the community. The relationships they establish and maintain are essential to the success of our work.

Yet, their heart and our vision for them will always be to address the spiritual needs of the community. The Garcias are committed to sharing God's word and making disciples. They live in the community and daily are God's messengers. David preaches weekly at Pastor Antonio's New Hope Church during the Wednesday night service and leads worship at the Sunday evening service. In effect, David pastors this community on a daily basis. He is there to be a counselor and encourager. Luzma and their daughters arrange celebratory events at the church, whether for holidays, quinceañeras, baby showers, etc. But they are also there in times of tragedy, offering comfort and prayer. We covet your prayers for their safety and peace of mind as they try to be God's hands and feet in the midst of all the violence. We are grateful for the provision of additional monies so that we could rent them a house in a more secure part of town to offer respite. The constant threat and reality of violence on the canal was taking a significant toll on David's health. Having a place to relax and recuperate away from these stressors has made a big difference. They still make their primary residence on the canal, with their daughter Fernanda and son David occupying the "city house" while they are not there.

Organizationally, we continue to write a monthly newsletter, utilize Facebook, and our website (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 2019.

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 2019 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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