



CUPS provides an affordable, accessible and meaningful mission opportunity



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Louise Flippin

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Meeting Roberto Jaime

One of our volunteers this summer wrote about meeting a student and a teacher at Tzehuali 2 this summer.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'd like to share with you the courage and tenacity I witnessed the week of June 17th, while working at Tzehuali. Let me introduce you to Roberto Jaime.

When I first saw Roberto, he was running around his classroom under the watchful eye of his teacher. Roberto was spry, full of mischief, and moved through the space with tremendous energy. I estimate he is about 3 years in age. Small, petite, and curious, Roberto initially appears to be just like any other 3-year old.

Later in the day, I was inside the school with another CUPS volunteer. Inside the foyer was Roberto with his health fitness teacher - a big, strong bear of a man - gently lifting Roberto's feet, encouraging him to walk on his hands wheelbarrow style. While I did this playful behavior as a kid with friends, this behavior was actually therapy for this little power house.



Roberto and his teacher, Homero

The health fitness teacher invited us into their amazing physical therapy room. With limited equipment and unlimited, unconditional love, the teachers and therapists were working with - and for - these special children.

The health fitness teacher called us over as he effortlessly placed little Roberto on the adult-sized treadmill. With his little hands barely reaching the handles, Roberto walked the treadmill with a spring in his step. Playfully, he would move his feet to the stationary platform, standing for a few seconds. Roberto's teacher responded by placing his little feet back on the treadmill, encouraging him to continue walking. With the curiosity and energy of a typical boy his age, Roberto was done and off to the next adventure.

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Roberto (continued from front)

When out and about in the room, Roberto climbed, crawled, and explored everything. His teacher once again called him over to the tumbling mat, gently tucked Roberto's head under, and let go. Roberto completed a somersault, earning at least 10 points! Even better, a huge smile was shining on Roberto's face as we clapped and cheered. A couple more somersaults, and Roberto was off and running again.

Full of pride and love, Roberto's health fitness teacher told me that when Roberto first came to Tzehuali, he could not even walk! This was an example of the everyday miracles which occurred in the school where we were working.

Can you imagine the smile on Roberto's face as he tackles and conquers the new obstacle course? Can you imagine the smiles of love and pride of the teachers as they watch and encourage the skills of their students?

The courage of the Old Testament David is alive and well in little Roberto!

Peace of Christ,

Denise Wilborn, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

July 2, 2007



It Ain't a Horse Trailer Anymore...

CUPS serves a geographically large area in Mexico: from Rio Bravo to Valle Hermoso to Matamoros, and the fishing villages an hour south of Matamoros. With such a large amount of land to cover, CUPS and its volunteers need a secure location to store equipment and supplies. Our mobile trailer, having once hauled horses around Central Texas, served many years in Mexico guarding our equipment. Unfortunately, the trailer reached a point where it was no longer road ready. Having this enclosed trailer in which to store equipment and supplies was a blessing, and its absence was notable.



In May, while walking to a board meeting in a nearby building, one of our Board Members, Tom Egolf, said to me that this trailer situation just would not work - and our Board agreed. Our need was heard and friends responded. After much activity, and many phone calls, funds were raised. Jim Orr and John Moore, from Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, located, purchased, and delivered our new equipment trailer to The Valley. Once it was in Mexico, Fidencio Perez, Julio Hernandez, and Victor Perez installed shelving and loaded all the necessary equipment and supplies. All of the hard work and time invested in this project made our summer work group experience much better. The new trailer looks great and is easy to tow! *Gracias* to everyone who helped make this possible.

Louise,
CUPS Director

Random Acts of Kindness...

It is a familiar phrase – “random acts of kindness,” but there is nothing random about reaching out to help, to embrace, to hold up. Jesus taught us to love one another and he gives each of us an opportunity to show him that we listened, learned and responded to his Word. Here are two people who heard His call these past several months.

Sydney Stevens, from the Houston area, came with her church to help begin special education classrooms in the Matamoros area. She noticed the sparseness of sports equipment at the two primary schools. She left, promising to return. When she came back, she brought an assortment of fun sports equipment: hoola hoops, volleyball, and more. The children and staff at the 2 schools were very moved to know that they had not been “forgotten”. Greg Stevens, Sydney's dad, and Carolina Breton were there to enjoy the excitement. Carolina also volunteered this summer with CUPS.

In addition to Sydney's generous donation, a Mexican residential housing developer helped CUPS, and the Tzehuali special education school in Matamoros, by donating a large PVC pipe needed to complete the school's Path of Self Esteem. Fidencio Perez also helped make this happen when he spotted the pipe and contacted the developer, requesting the donation. (PVC pipe at least 24” or wider, is quite expensive.)

You too can do acts of kindness in your own community or on a mission trip. It feels great!

In memory of ...

CUPS was blessed by the work, love and commitment to our mission by Jim Goodrich, Bill Loveless, and Jacqueline Enochs.

In the early years of CUPS, Jacqueline, wife of Phil Enochs, coordinated church volunteer groups and shared her beloved Philip with CUPS and friends in border Mexico, often for long stretches of time.

Bill Loveless quietly promoted CUPS to his church and other churches in the Houston area in addition to serving as our Treasurer. Bill was indeed a "firm foundation" for CUPS.

Jim Goodrich was a friend of CUPS for over 17 years. He shared his love of Mexico and CUPS with many people, often introducing them to our work, and was always ready to help.

Jacqueline, Bill and Jim each had a long and special relationship with CUPS. We thank their friends for their memorial contributions to further our mission work in Mexico.



Lives Enriched, Love Shared, and Blessings Fell Like Rain

These Churches and organizations sent volunteers to help in Mexico during 2007.

Brenham Presbyterian Church, Brenham, TX

Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS

Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, Richardson, TX

Columbia First United Methodist Church, Columbia TN

First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville TN

First Presbyterian Church, Columbia MO

First Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

First Presbyterian Church, La Grange, TX

First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, TX

First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, TX

First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN

Hope Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Presbyterian Church of Gonzalez, Gonzalez, TX

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Sunrise Rotary Club, Clarksville, TN

St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, Houston, TX

Our Projects for 2007 included classrooms for the Special Education in Regular Schools Program at two schools in Valle Hermoso and three schools in Matamoros. In addition, a combined kitchen and dining area was built for a Valle Hermoso kindergarten and the Tzehuali "path of self-esteem" was built. Our 2007 projects benefitted 500 people directly and 6,000 indirectly.



Our Savior Hears

This October, Linda came with a group from Brenham Presbyterian Church and Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. They brought donations and visited Special Education facilities in Matamoros and Valle Hermoso. A member of Brenham Presbyterian Church, Linda wrote this note after meeting the children and teachers at these schools.

When hearts come together from across the world for special needs children there are always tears of love, but it is the unison of the heart beats that our savior hears. The sharing, the caring, and the love will continue for all the children.

I would like to say: God bless you women of my own heart (as I am a longtime caregiver of children, too) that have walked and fought such a long hard road for all of God's children. Know that your voices are heard and that there are many others that share your cause.

Linda Susan Maple
October 2007



An Opportunity to Support CUPS... and Own a Lovely Painting!

Talented artist, Kansas native, and faithful CUPS support Eleanor Crank, has donated a lovely watercolor painting. **From now until December 15th**, CUPS is conducting an online auction to sell this captivating artwork. Eleanor has graciously offered to donate all proceeds from the auction to support CUPS' operations. We hope that you will consider placing a bid for this original, stunning work of art. This exquisite painting would make a great Christmas gift for friends or family. To place a bid, simply visit this web page and fill out the form:

http://www.cupsmission.org/PaintingAuction/PaintingAuction_menu.asp



HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

2007

Dear CUPS Supporter,

I hope you have enjoyed reading this update on our work in 2007. I am adding these few words to also thank you for your support of CUPS in the past, and to ask that you remember CUPS in your 2007 giving! It's not too early to make a commitment to join our 300 Club (a pledge for \$300 in donations) for 2008!

Our capital campaign resulted in the hiring of our administrative assistant, Laura Garza, who has been with us for a year now. Laura has taken a host of responsibilities from Louise, our Mission Director, as well as from Board members. Hers is the voice that you hear when you call the McAllen office. Laura coordinates our workgroups, too.

Our friends Tom Egolf and Sue Pokorny-Egolf have retired from the Board. Tom Boehmer, Doris Mathews, and JoAnn Goodrich have joined the Board. We are hard at work on our new strategic plan. We hope to hire an Executive Director in the next few months, so stay tuned!

All of this is possible because of God's rich blessings and your financial support. CUPS is run very efficiently and we have no money to spare. Your presence on work groups is such a gift. As we mark the birth of our Savior, won't you make a gift that will enable CUPS to continue to serve 'the least of these' in 2008?

May God Bless You!

Ellen Boehmer

Chair of the Board

Yes! I want to help CUPS in their important mission: working together with communities on the Mexican border to meet their needs and share God's love.

Please check all that apply:

Here is my pledge to the CUPS 300 CLUB for 2008:

\$25 per MONTH —OR— \$300 per YEAR
and my check is enclosed.

At this time I am unable to pledge, but enclosed is my donation of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$ _____

Please include my email address so I can receive CUPS online newsletters – COMING SOON!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name of Church or Volunteer Organization: _____

Mail your donation, along with this form, to P.O. Box 6933, Kingwood, TX 77325 OR donate online at www.cupsmission.org.

CUPS is a 501(c) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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