



# HOPE FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

*Empower a child. Empower society.*

Fall 2016



## *Santa María Welcomes New Director*

The winds of changing seasons have not only brought a new school year to Santa María del Mexicano, but also a new director! Hope For Children is pleased to open another chapter of collaboration with the home and school for disadvantaged and orphaned children in central Mexico, which will now be led by Father Dan Estes.

Fr. Dan describes himself as a “farm kid” from a small rural community in Wyoming. He acquired a strong work ethic through his chores and responsibilities, learning how to get what needed to be done, done. And though his studies have been continuous—he holds a bachelor’s in Math Education, an MS in Math, he studied Philosophy in Toronto and then attended Holy Apostles College & Seminary in Connecticut—Fr. Dan still holds dear much of what he learned on the farm.

The decision to appoint Fr. Dan to his new role was supported by his ample experience. His first assignment as an ordained priest for the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) was at St. Ann’s Mission in Belcourt, North Dakota where he served the area’s Native American population. He was there four years, during part of which he was principal for the elementary school. This was followed by four-and-half years at missions in

Belize and Guatemala, and then a move back to the states in 2008, where he became vice president of a small liberal arts college turned retreat center in Corpus Christi, Texas, which he directed for the past six years. He took over Santa María’s leadership in May while tying up his duties at Corpus Christi, and then arrived to Colón full-time on August 9.

Santa María is a complex organization that depends almost entirely on donations. It needs a balanced combination of humble gumption, heartened guidance, and careful evaluation to continue to carry out its mission, and this is





precisely what Fr. Dan brings to the table. While new to his role, he has been involved with the home and school from a distance for around five years, which has given him time to become familiar with its strengths and challenges.

When asked to identify the institution's strong points, there was no hesitation in Fr. Dan's answer: "it's the people and their commitment to Santa María." He elaborated, saying, "There's a good foundation of people, jobs, and infrastructure. There is a lot to work with." To run the organization, sisters and priests from the SOLT congregation team up with local staff, many of whom have contributed for decades, and some who grew up there and are now choosing to give back through their labor.

Looking forward, Santa María's new director plans to maintain the vision of "creating a safe environment where kids can grow and mature without worry and fear, where they can become better people and learn to make a positive impact on their communities." Yet, times have changed, and Fr. Dan is aware of the new challenges children often bring with them. While poverty, abandonment, and difficulties of single parenting remain major factors in the lives of Santa María's children and youth, there has also been an increase in students who suffer from drug abuse and behavioral issues. Fr. Dan plans to evaluate Santa María from two view points: who we serve and how we serve. In regard to who we serve, it is important to be clear about those we can help and those we cannot due to their particular circumstances and needs. In regard to how we serve, we need to be clear in the manner in which we serve the needs and clarify the responsibilities of each member of the Santa María staff to better fulfill our mission.

Fr. Dan would like to thank you all immensely for your support over the years. He can ensure you that money donated to Hope For Children and Santa María is always well used, and he invites you to come visit, meet the kids, and learn more about how you can help make a difference.

GRACIAS POR  
AYUDARNOS



## SCHOOL BUS PURCHASED

Earlier this year we called upon HFC supporters to contribute to fundraising for a new school bus for Santa María. Daily trips between the girls' homes and online high school in the town of Colón and the Santa María and San José campuses in the countryside have brought the old rickety bus that is currently used to a breaking point. Expensive maintenance cost together with increasingly dangerous mechanical failures made this need a top priority.

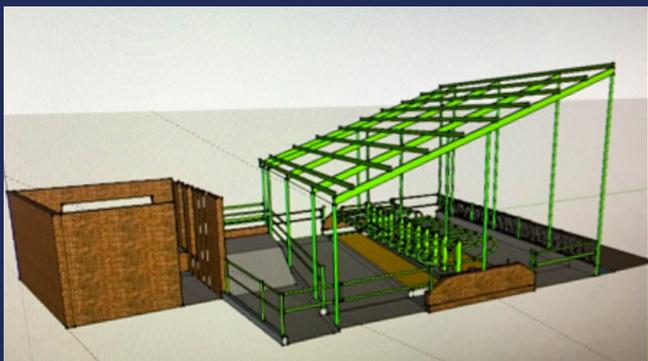
After joint fundraising efforts by HFC and Santa María, we are pleased to announce that the bus has been purchased and will be delivered to Santa María this October. Thank you so much to all who contributed! The kids will now be riding safely and securely.

## BREAKING GROUND ON LIVESTOCK FACILITIES

We're breaking ground on the new livestock facilities! After reaching fundraising goals, Hope For Children and Santa Maria joined forces with a non-profit sustainable agricultural and livestock group out of Querétaro (SAQ, A.C.), bringing local perspective and expertise to plans for making the home and school's ag. program more sanitary, efficient, and practical for students' hands-on learning.

After careful evaluation, plans were finalized and construction is on schedule to be finished this November. The facilities will be built in modules at SAQ, A.C.'s center in the capital of Querétaro, which will then be delivered to Santa María's main campus to be completed.

Keep in touch to see the progress. So many HFC supporters contributed to making this project a reality and we are very grateful. Thank you!



*Our mission is to empower disadvantaged youth and children in Mexico by collaborating on sustainable educational and social programs.*

*We have a new address!*

Please update our records  
in your address book:

HOPE FOR CHILDREN  
FOUNDATION  
1777 South Harrison St.  
Penthouse-Suite 1500  
Denver, CO 80210



## TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN HFC!

Kaylee Salazar began her service on the board of Hope For Children this July. After spending time with the children at Santa Maria in June of this year, she returned with aspirations to help fundraise for the organization. Kaylee is currently in her last of year of law school at the University of Denver, and has a background in campaign finance working for Governor Hickenlooper's 2014 campaign and Congressman John Salazar's 2010 Campaign. She enjoys running, hiking, golfing, and spending time with her family in both the Denver area and the San Luis Valley.



Angie, a Certified Public Account (CPA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP), is a shareholder in N & A Professional Group, PC and the Compliance Officer for Noven Financial Group, Inc. She is currently involved in non-profits in her Denver community as well as abroad in Africa, the Dominican Republic and now in Mexico. Feeding children and empowering women are two main areas Angie likes to focus on and the HFC mission aligns directly with these goals. In her free time, Angie and her family like to run/walk 5Ks and take goofy pictures. Angie joined the board in July of this year and looks forward to visiting Santa Maria to see the amazing work done by HFC and helping contribute in the future.

THANK YOU,  
LEROY!

We would like to give a huge thank you to LeRoy Salazar, one of the founding members of Hope For Children Foundation. Long before HFC was even formed, LeRoy was generously dedicating his time, money, and efforts to improving quality of life for the children who pass through Santa María del Mexicano and helping them to create more promising futures. Among the most devoted supporters of HFC and Santa María, LeRoy has decided to step down from HFC's board of directors. However, as Santa Maria is so dear to LeRoy's heart, he will remain involved in fundraising and volunteer trips. Thank you, LeRoy!



All donations are tax deductible.

### Would you like to help HFC empower disadvantaged youth and children?

You can send a check made out to  
HOPE FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION to:  
1777 South Harrison St.  
Penthouse-Suite 1500  
Denver, CO 80210

Or donate online through PayPal at:  
[www.hopeforchildren.net](http://www.hopeforchildren.net)

Feel free to contact us at:  
[info@hopeforchildren.net](mailto:info@hopeforchildren.net)

### HOPE FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION Current Board Members

**President:** Dave Stewart  
**Vice President:** Ann Rice  
**Secretary:** Deborah O'Dwyer  
**Treasurer:** Mark Hargreaves  
**Chief Accounting Officer:** Angie Phetteplace

Lupina Calzada      John McClure  
Anthony Cisneros    Myra Monfort  
Joe Mahoney          Kaylee Salazar  
Jim Mannely          Terri Seltzer

KEEP IN TOUCH



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*One day, all youth in Mexico will have the opportunity to thrive.*