



2019 Annual Report for The Santa Elena Mission Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico

January 20, 2020



New Refrigerator



Centro Comunitario
Santa Elena



Rayito leading Bible Study



Doctor checking child



Manolo and children



Rayito's Hair Salon

Santa Elena Steering Committee based at the Community United Methodist Church, Ruidoso, NM



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The Santa Elena Steering Committee provides this 2019 report of the activities, capital improvements, future plans and financial considerations of the Santa Elena Mission.

The Santa Elena Steering Committee -

The Steering Committee members, from four churches in the New Mexico Conference, meets on a monthly basis to support the Santa Elena Mission. The committee provides overall guidance, oversight, fund raising, planning, financial control and supervision of the Mission Directors. The committee also organizes and executes mission trips to Santa Elena several times a year. The committee is based at Community UMC in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Our Mission –

Our mission continues to provide a Christian Mission to the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico's Copper Canyon Region, to improve their lives through education, their health through better diet, medical care and sanitation. We endeavor to enable them to become more self-sufficient and prosperous while retaining their cultural identity.

Mission Operation –

In 2019 we provided room and board for about 15 children from Monday morning until Friday afternoon. Manolo and Rayito Guerrero cared for the children when they were not in school. The Guerrero's supervised the children, taught them life skills and provided Christian instruction and supplemental instruction in their school subjects. All children received 3 meals each day, had recreation time and stayed in comfortable dormitory rooms. The mission has restroom and shower facilities for use by the children. For 2019 activities at the mission included:

- Number of boarding students 10.6 average, 17 maximum
- 4530 meals served
- Periodic medical checkups by doctor.

Scholarships to RAHOBI –

We serve children off-site by providing full scholarships to Complejo Educacional Bautista or RAHOBI (Rancho Hogar Bilingue Indigena) school. This is a boarding school in nearby Bocoyna that provides 3 years of ‘secundaria’ and 3 years of “preparatoria” education. In 2019, our donors provided 3 girls and 5 boys with scholarships to attend RAHOBI school. These children are receiving over 6400 hours of classroom instruction per year that they would have never received but for the donor’s contributions. In 2018, the tuition to the school increased by 66% so the mission committee asked for the parents to contribute 1/3 of the total expense. Some of the student dropped out due to the increased cost so in 2019 the committee decided to pay the total expense. The four students attending Secundaria were: Israel Nunez, Misael Moreno, Jose Alfredo Patricio, Alfredo Gutiérrez. The four attending Prepretoria were: Adilene Torres, Norma Isabel Cruz, Imelda González and Valentín Guatapaná.

New Programs for 2019 -

Bible Study - In 2019 a monthly Bible Study was initiated to serve the residents of the Santa Elena community. Each month residents are invited to have a meal at the mission and participate in a Bible Study. About 25 adults have been attending.

Training a Tarahumara Missionary - Santa Elena Mission is sponsoring the training of a Tarahumara person to become a missionary in the area. Our annual contribution of \$1250 to nearby JUCUM/YWAM provides for the resident training of a lay missionary there.

Mission Expenditure and Giving for 2019

Our Lord blessed us with exceptionally generous supporters 2019 so that we could purchase a newer vehicle and expand programs. Support for the mission was from individual parishioners or congregations. Mission supporters have been from inside and outside of the New Mexico Conference.

2019 Expenditures			
	Budgeted Items	\$51,409.34	
	Vehicle	\$8000.00	
		Total	\$59,409.34
2019 Giving			
	Contributions from Congregations and Individuals	\$51,831.87	
	Mission Team Fees	\$6000,00	
	Donation for Vehicle	\$ 8000.00	
		Total	\$65,831.87

The New Mexico Annual Conference -

The Santa Elena Steering Committee was present at the New Mexico Annual Conference in Albuquerque. A Santa Elena booth presented information about the mission. The Guerrero's were there to talk with the delegates and discuss Santa Elena activities.

Activities of the mission's Mexican nonprofit "Manos Cristianas en Acción" -

Manos Cristianas en Acción (Christian Hands in Action) is our Mexican nonprofit entity that owns the mission. We continue the long process of working with our accountants, lawyers and the Mexican authorities to be in complete compliance with Mexican tax laws. This has been a very long process over several years however our accountant and legal advisors indicate this is not unusual.

Mexican law requires that the Manos Cristianas en Acción Board of Directors members be Mexican citizens. Our Board of Directors are: Jenny Ivette Reza, President; Inés Resendiz, Secretary; Ernesto De Santiago, member; and Olga De Santiago, member. Jenny and Inés are from Cd. Juarez while Ernesto and Olga live in Creel.

Our Mission Directors -

Manolo and Rayito Guerrero again provided loving effective management of our mission. We continue to provide health insurance to the Guerrero's. The fifth year of contribution to the Guerrero's pension plan was completed.

Capital Improvements in 2019

We have a beautiful new refrigerator with an excellent voltage regulator to prevent damage due to low voltage.

A 2010 Ford Sport Trac has been purchased to replace the 2000 Ford Expedition that has been sold. The newer vehicle is awaiting importation in Ciudad Juarez.

Mission Trips in 2019 -

Three mission trips occurred in 2019.

April – 9 missionaries for 6-day trip. Conducted a Vacation Bible School, worked to develop relations with other Christian agencies in the area and put on a Fiesta for community.

August – 6 missionaries for a 6-day trip. Continued to work with JUCUM to build a partnership to train a local Tarahumara missionary.

December – 3 missionaries for 4-day trip. Distributed Christmas gifts to 61 children, delivered 42 food pantries and participated with 100 community members in a Christmas Fiesta complete with presentation of the Christmas Story.

Looking Ahead to 2020 -

Our program of boarding students is functioning well and is operating at capacity. We intend to continue supporting 8 scholarships at RAHOBI and will fund additional students if qualified students are identified.

We are developing an outreach program where committee members will present a program describing the Santa Elena Mission to churches or groups that are interested in learning more about Santa Elena. Please email us at santaelena@ruidosocumc.org should you be interested in a presentation.

Mission Trips Scheduled for 2020.

We are planning four trips in 2020 and have many activities planned for these upcoming trips. If interested please email us for more information.

April 13th to April 17th, 2020 – Project for nearby community and Vacation Bible School

July 20th to July 24th, 2020 – Pastor McEwen will lead family mission trip for 3 to 4 families, about 12 persons total. Will do Vacation Bible School and a minor maintenance project.

August 3rd to 7th, 2020 – General maintenance and Vacation Bible School

December 9th to 12th, 2019 – A Christmas trip to distribute gifts and celebrate Christ's birthday.

Thank You

Thank you for all your support in 2019. You have blessed the mission and your continued support is greatly appreciated so that we can continue this much-needed mission. Please join us on a 2020 mission trip and Google "Santa Elena Mission" or visit us at <https://ruidosocumc.org/mission-outreach-ministry/santa-elena-mexico-mission/>. To sign up for our newsletter, send your email address to Editor: santaelena@ruidosocumc.org.