



Rayito and Manolo Guerrero with the Santa Elena children



# 2018 Annual Report for The Santa Elena Mission Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico

February 6, 2019



Centro Comunitario  
Santa Elena



Our RAHOBI Girls and Boys with Ravito Guerrero

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



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The Santa Elena Steering Committee provides this 2018 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 and to enable them to become more self-sufficient and prosperous while retaining their cultural identity.

## **Mission Operation –**

In 2018 we served children on-site a daily lunch and provided after school education. In September of 2018 the mission operation was expanded to include the boarding of up to 18 students from Monday through Friday. For 2018 activities at the mission included:

- Average attendance was 16.4 children with a maximum of 50 children
- 2361 lunches served
- 74 class hours of instruction
- 90 Christmas "hoodies" were provided to the children

- Christmas presents to 45 children

### 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 2018, our donors provided 5 girls and 2 boys with scholarships to attend RAHOBI school. These children are receiving over 5400 hours of classroom instruction per year that they would have never received but for the donors 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.

### 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. Presentations were made to the Albuquerque, Clovis and El Paso District meetings.

### Mission Expenditure and Giving for 2018

We were blessed by the giving in 2018. Support for the mission was from 75 individual parishioners or congregations. Mission supporters have been from inside and outside of the New Mexico Conference.

Our expenses exceeded giving by \$7,600 which was due to implementing building changes to make ready for the boarding of children and the increased operating costs to support boarding the children.

<b>2018 Expenditures</b>			
	Budgeted Items	41,544.46	
	Capital Improvements	5,881.98	
		Total	47,426.44
<b>2018 Giving</b>			
	Contributions from Congregations and Individuals	35,572.33	
	Mission Team Fees	5,250.00	
		Total	39,822.33*

\* An additional \$4000 was received between December 15 and December 31 but was not transferred to the mission account until January. This reduces the short fall to \$3,600.

### **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. In 2018, changes to the incorporation documents continued to be under review by the Mexican authorities to maintain the ability to accept tax free donations as required by Mexican law. Banking and accounting changes are also in progress to comply 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 fourth year of contribution to the Guerrero's pension plan was completed.

### **Facility Improvements in 2018 –**

Our April Mission Team executed several projects.

Bathroom Additions – Framing and plumbing were done for two new bathrooms on the second floor of the dormitory.

Water Treatment Facilities. – The water filtration equipment was moved inside of the building to prevent freezing.

Our August Mission Team was also successful.

Bathroom Additions – All drywall, plumbing and electrical work was completed.

Video Security System – A video surveillance system was installed to increase security while children are living at the mission.

## **Mission Trips in 2018 -**

Three mission trips occurred in 2018.

April – 16 missionaries for 6 day trip. Accomplished facility improvements listed above, conducted a Vacation Bible School and put on Fiesta for community.

August – 7 missionaries for a 7 day trip. Accomplished facility improvements listed above.

December – 4 missionaries for 4 day trip. Distributed Christmas gifts, 50 food pantries and participated with 100 community members in a Christmas Fiesta complete with play of Christmas Story.

## **Looking Ahead to 2019-**

**Students will be living at Santa Elena.** The student population in the Santa Elena community is decreasing as families move to the large cities for work. Because of this, the government is closing schools in the outlying areas. Santa Elena is adapting and is working to bring students from outlying areas to live at Santa Elena during the week to attend school.

In August, we enrolled 18 students to live in the dormitory at Santa Elena. We consistently have about 10 students living in the dormitory as the demands of the student's families requires the students to drop out of school for short periods of time . Overall, this program has been successful and we are working to understand and improve the attendance patterns.

Mission Trips Scheduled for 2019. We are planning three trips again in 2019 and have many activities planned for these upcoming trips.

April 22nd to April 27th, 2019 – General maintenance and Vacation Bible School

August 5th to 10th, 2019 – General maintenance and Vacation Bible School

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

Thank you for all of your support in 2018. Our mission has been blessed beyond our dreams! Your continued support is greatly appreciated so that we can continue this much-needed mission. Please join us on a 2019 mission trip and visit us at <https://ruidosocumc.org/mission-outreach-ministry/santa-elena-mexico-mission/>