

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S TIJUANA HOUSE-BUILD PROJECT  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022  
5:30am to roughly 9:00pm

(See photo of recipient family and map of build location below)

- In a single day – Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 – St. Bart's volunteers will build an entire house on a pre-poured concrete foundation for a family living in the under-developed "colonias" on the Eastern outskirts of Tijuana, well outside the city proper. (See photo and map below.)
- We will team up with Incarnation Lutheran, together building two houses for two different families on near-adjacent lots. (Incarnation does two of these builds per year and has built 15 houses total over several years.)
- The build is organized and overseen (and the recipient families chosen) by Project Mercy Baja, a faith-based organization here in San Diego that is dedicated to improving the basic living standards and quality of life for impoverished families in Tijuana.  
<https://projectmercybaja.org/>
- The project is managed by a professional contractor named Mike Meziere, who has done more than 120 of these Tijuana builds.
- St. Bart's purchases the supplies to build the house (roughly 400sf) plus an outhouse, which Project Mercy delivers to the building site before we arrive. The land is deeded by the municipality of Tijuana to the new homeowners.
- St. Bart's volunteers will rendezvous in the parking lot at Incarnation Lutheran (16889 Espola Road, Poway) at 5:30am on build day and carpool in vans, trucks, and SUVs to the build site in Tijuana, crossing at Otay Mesa and heading east away from the city from there. We stop at McDonald's on this side of the border to circle up the troops, grab a bite to eat, and use the bathroom before crossing into Mexico.
- The build is usually done in the 3:00-4:00pm range, after which we pack up and pile into the vehicles for the return trip through the Tecate border crossing. Most people on most trips stop for (scrumptious!) tacos in Tecate before crossing and arrive back at Incarnation in 9:00-9:30pm range.
- The Cowarts and Grandinettis will organize and lead the St. Bart's effort, working closely with Jake Johnson, a good friend who founded and continues to lead this ministry at Incarnation. JD Cowart has done two of these Tijuana builds with Incarnation, once with his teen-aged goddaughter in 2018, and once with Christine in April 2022.

#### WHO WE NEED and WHAT TO EXPECT for the trip to Tijuana:

- We need 15-20 able-bodied, hard-working people with passports good through the end of the year and an appetite for a long and satisfying day of not-too-demanding physical labor
- At least a few of us should be comfortable slinging a hammer
- Everyone else should be comfortable with a paintbrush and able to provide some muscle
- We also need 3-4 people with high-clearance vehicles willing to acquire the necessary insurance and drive others across the border for the day
- Youth are welcome, but we ask that they be accompanied by their own parent or guardian
- Plan to bring ample water, snacks, and lunch for yourself
- Work gloves and boots or very sturdy shoes are recommended
- The weather there is just like here: It can range from damp and cool to hot and dry in a single day. Layered clothing, a hat, and ample sunscreen recommended.

#### CAN'T TRAVEL TO TIJUANA but still want to help? Here's how:

- We will collect household items (non-perishable food, linens, pillows, clothing, cleaning supplies, at the like) to gift our family when the build is complete – stay tuned for a sign-up opportunity
- While this project is funded from designated St. Bart's outreach funds, you are welcome to make a cash donation toward project if you are moved to do so. Donations can be made online at [www.stbartschurch.org](http://www.stbartschurch.org) or by check in the parish office. Please indicate "Tijuana house build" as the purpose of your online donation or in the Memo line of your check.
- Your prayers are always welcome for our recipient family and for our volunteers who will be traveling into Mexico.

LUCIO VALERIO Family  
Isabel (mom), Antonio (dad), Jana (age 7), Gael (7 months)



A map of the Tijuana area, Mexico, with handwritten red text labels. At the top left, 'OTAY MESA' is written in red. At the top right, 'TECATE' is written in red. In the center, a red pin marks the 'BUILD SITE'. At the bottom left, 'TIJUANA CITY' is written in red with an arrow pointing left. A red line connects the 'OTAY MESA' label to the 'BUILD SITE'. The map shows the US-Mexico border, major roads (125, 201, 205, 2), and various landmarks like 'Parque de la Amistad', 'Plaza Monarca', 'Plaza Paseo 2000', and 'Plaza Sendero Tijuana'. Other labels include 'Garita de Otay', 'Rancho Hernández', 'Villa Fontana', 'Cerro Colorado', 'Torradas del Valle', 'Florido Viejo', 'Super Ley Express Ojo de Agua', 'Bodega Aurrera Quintas del Refugio', 'Los García El Explorador', 'Rancho', 'Jardines de la Amistad', 'UABC', 'CD Industrial', 'Rancho Hernández', 'Jardín Dorado', 'Mariano Matamoros', 'Plaza Las Fuentes', 'TERRAZAS DEL VALLE', 'San Remo', 'Rancho El Carrizo', 'San Pedro', 'UABC Valle de las Palmas', 'La Rin', 'Albercas Tan', 'Dos Olivos', 'El Nevado', 'La Herradura de Oro', 'Paso del Águila', 'Juliana Granja', 'Familia Soto', 'El Chaparral', 'Tecate', and 'La Rin'.



Recipient family from a previous build (Incarnation Lutheran, April 2, 2022)

