

## GOD MANIFESTED IN ME...

by Marina Forero, Director, Children's Enrichment Ministry

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...through the affectionate hug of Maximiliano, an-8-year-old boy who always says that he is not accepted by his classmates at his primary school, but he feels that he is loved here.

... when I hear Mayiliany, an-11-year-old girl, crying. She deeply misses her grandmother who raised her. Her Christmases are "dark" because her grandmother died at Christmas time. Now Mayiliany writes letters to relieve her pain and remember her grandmother not as someone who left, but as the one who gave her the best and most beautiful moments of her childhood.

... to help Luis Manuel, 10 years old, who worries because he gets regular grades in his school and because this makes his parents very angry. His eyes water because he was able to improve in some subjects. Luis Manuel wants to keep trying because this will give him the privilege to work together with his father every afternoon in the car sales business, not only to save money, but also to learn mechanics with him.



... through Enrique, also 10 years old, who worries constantly about his friends accepting him. Some kids resent him for following them around, so he looks for ways to engage with everyone. When he approached me about his worries, we had a chat on the swings. Now he uses the same place to chat with each of his friends.

... as I watch Aidan, because even if it is a cold or rainy day, he is one of the most faithful assistants in the class. This 8-year-old boy comes in the mornings and this year was his first time trying bagel bread. And although Santa Claus did not come to his house this Christmas, he feels very happy with the gift he received on Three Kings Day.



## **GOD MANIFESTED IN THOSE I SERVED...**

... as I work to change their sadness, tears, and struggles into peace and deep joy. In the Education Enrichment Ministry, we give food to those who have little, we give hope in moments of anguish and darkness. We strengthen the children to persevere. We provide continuous support in their learning assuring them they can succeed. We offer without expecting something in return.

## **MY CHALLENGES**

Ensure that more boys and girls can access this program.

Finding and teaching passionate people to serve those who are vulnerable with respect.

That the lives of boys and girls be fully valued and protected.

## **MY OPPORTUNITIES**

To be a program that supports women who are heads of households, caring for and educating their children.

To be a free service, that does not exclude anyone.

A work team that builds with love and commitment.

Being a Civil Association that generates reliability.

Being an ecumenical faith community.



## **ACHIEVED GOALS**

Being a safe space in which we are all welcome.

Being reliable for the community for the service work that we reflect.

Serving with love and dignity.

Recognizing God in our midst.

Educational objectives working in a network: the program, the school, the parents and the students.

Moving forward after the pandemic, which affected so many.

Building relationships.

## **NUMBER OF CHILDREN AT VENUES**

At the Community Center: 106 girls and boys

At DouglaPrieta Trabaja: 77

At Lily of the Valley Church: 57

## **NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED AT HEALTH CLINICS**

General Medicine: 184 between children and adults

Dentist: 55 more children than adults.