



Dear Donor,

We hope this finds that you and your family are well and safe!

The Children of The Salvation Army Acapulco, the Lieutenants, Acapulco Angels and The Salvation Army Acapulco Advisory Board members thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support this past year!

Our total donations for 2020 of \$15,212. has been sufficient to sustain normal maintenance of the Home and care for the children. We write this letter to make you aware of our financial situation with the hope that you will be willing to contribute in some way to help us through this difficult time.

Since March, the Home has been confronted with the substantial costs and demands of the COVID-19 Pandemic, care for the children and in August, the costs of on-line schooling at the Home arrived.

This year a Charity Auction and Bazaar (Thrift Store) were added to our Annual Gala to provide funds for improvements to the home and to upgrade the childrens' learning through additional education possibilities. They were successful as you will see in the following **2020 Review**. However, since March the extra funds have been needed for the special needs necessary to keep the children safe and healthy during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A **Bright Light** for one of our most important initiatives just **turned on!** The Family of our Founder's daughter, Lucille Weiss, and our staunch supporters, Ed & Vicki Carlson announced that in honor of Lucille, who recently passed away, they will begin **The Lucille Weiss Children's Library and Arts Center Fund**. The Fund is intended to help fill the gap of "learning tools" for the children! See the details of how to contribute to this Fund on the Contribution information sheet that follows.

The childrens' school is now located at the Home using Televised Online learning and Zoom live classes. They view them from TV's (some borrowed) that are located in 3 modified spaces for 3 morning and 3 afternoon classes. There are also Zoom lessons viewed through the computers throughout the day. The Lieutenants are now the teachers, assuring homework is complete, answering questions from children 6-18, etc. as well as running the day to day activities at the Home. The Lieutenants are immensely capable, but they need more help from us. The on-line schooling will most likely continue through the end of this school year and beyond.

Recently we were told that our January Annual Gala and the New February Charity Auction Fundraisers are not predicted to be possible in 2021. We are hopeful that the Bazaar (Thrift Store) that was closed by the Government on March 28, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, can re-open in a new location as soon it is safe to do so.. ..

Please help us in any way you can so we can continue to provide the Home, the Lieutenants and the children the support they need and deserve.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Hysell'.

Douglas Hysell
Executive Director



Ways to Contribute

By Website:

<https://www.AcaAngels.org>

<https://Salvationarmyacapulco.org>

By Check: If you prefer to send us a check for general use or specific projects/items make your check payable to **Acapulco Angels** or **Salvation Army Acapulco** and mail it to the address below;

Salvation Army Acapulco
2885 Sanford Ave SW
Suite 180147
Grandville, MI 49418

You can Contribute to any of the following programs by clicking on the Blue area:

The Padrino Program - You can become a Padrino Child Sponsor by giving a **Monthly** or **Yearly** Donation to The Salvation Army Acapulco. These donations provide food, medicine and other needs for the children at the home.

Library Restoration? - Lucille Weiss Children's Library and Art Center Fund to restore the original library and add an Art Center

Amazon Smile - **is it necessary to have the entire Smile info available to the donors? The 1st 2 parts would be sufficient if possible???**

Amazon donates .05% of all your purchases to Acapulco Angels...when you purchase from Smile.Amazon.com and choose Acapulco Angels as your charity..

Repairs of the Home - Current and future projects listed there.

Amazon Charity Wishlist - Buy items on Amazon and they ship directly to the home. **Home**

These Websites are also full of interesting times and events in and about the Home. The children's events and activities and participation in helping others is a joy to see!

The children and the Lieutenants at the Home feel blessed and thankful for your generosity.



2020 Review

The Salvation Army Acapulco & Acapulco Angels

The Salvation Army Acapulco Children's Home was opened in 1960 and has been well supported and has served many children throughout these many years.

We send you this 2020 review to bring you up to date with the many and various ways that the Salvation Army Acapulco Children's Home has been blessed with *your* support this year.

And, to those of you not able to join us in Acapulco, we hope you will become more aware of our projects and join with our many dedicated volunteers and contributors in the care and involvement of these projects which have enabled us to continue to help the children of the Home.

Please take a few minutes and follow us on a recap of our journey to the current results of our joint support of the Home through 2020 ...so far.

To Begin

We have a new Executive Director for the Fundraising support of the Home. Doug Hysell has stepped up to the position with many qualifications. Including several years of working with the children at the Home, he also has many advanced technical skills, one of which he immediately employed by developing a Website! SalvationArmyAcapulco.org

The members of The Salvation Army Acapulco Advisory Board also formed a **Fund-raising arm called Acapulco Angels** AcaAngels.org. This organization also provides a much needed way for all donations to be tax exempt, both in the US through a 501c-3 and the appropriate alternative in Mexico.

USA - Acapulco Angels 501(c)3 IRS # 83-4211069

Mexico - Acapulco Angels A.C. RFC # AAN200107TB6

The Fundraisers and Project

We were so honored that over 100 of you attended our **Annual Gala** in February at *Tony's Bistro!* Drinks and hors d'oeuvres started off the event with the children displaying amazing art work they had created at the Home. The dinner provided by *Erik Galindo Banquetes* was excellent. All of the children sang and danced with precision and energy in beautiful costumes. These children are very special!

We gratefully honored 7 special supporters for their donation of decades of hours, time, talent and special service to the Salvation Army Acapulco Children's Home. They are: *Mickey Hoglund, Don and Nancy Barth, Horacio Leon, Tony Rulan, Dino Adamidas and Erick Galindo*. Together they represent over 100 years of service.. We applaud their long term dedication to caring and support for the Salvation Army Acapulco Children's Home and all of the children throughout the years.

Our MC extraordinaire, Dino, led us happily through the Gala evening with enthusiastic late night dancing! Since this has been our main fundraiser of the year, we were thrilled that it was a success that helped fill our "coffers" for the year!

Thinking of additional ways to create funds to support the Home, in February Acapulco Angels embarked on a brand new fundraiser for us... **A Charity Auction** held at Bocana Beach Restaurant.

While folks enjoyed Lunch (a la carte) the Auction began and even strangers joined in to BID on the donations of restaurants/hotel stays/fine framed prints, delicious baskets of goodies, bicycles etc, etc. ... but the ***Most Popular items of all*** were a large collection of artwork which the children had been busily creating at the Home for this very event! *The art work sold out almost immediately!* Several of the Children and the Lieutenants were there to accept the adulations and donations for their fine work! **We deemed the Auction a success**, with hopes to make it even better next year.

The most ambitious new fundraising project we undertook this year was the creation of one the Salvation Army's most noteworthy, and well known, projects. **A Salvation Army THRIFT STORE!** (In Mexico a Thrift Store is called a BAZAAR.) The Board took a deep breath on this one and forged ahead,

We found a great location, right off the Zocalo square, which provided us excellent traffic, and a well known Panaderia (bakery) across the street! Acapulco Angels began getting permits, etc, and we immediately sent out word to friends that the Acapulco Angels - Salvation Army Acapulco BAZAAR was preparing to open in January, and began asking for donations of all sorts of goods, mostly clothes.

It was amazing. Goods came pouring in, the Home itself was a storehouse of items, donated over time by individuals and a variety of stores, for example: Home Depot.

The idea was electric. Through donations we bought individual shelving units, clothes racks, made signs and opened our doors on January 15, 2020. One of the families from Canada who had visited Acapulco for years, was so excited that they came back almost every day bringing their friends in to buy and offering hints on how to make it even better! Several of our supporters became Official Bazaar Volunteers **It was an immediate success!** It was great fun, a lot of work by many volunteers, and, since as usual, all profits went to the Salvation Army Acapulco Children's Home, everybody was happy!

Then at the end of March we hit the wall...the COVID-19 Pandemic wall.

It happened so quickly, it was scary. Beaches were closed, restaurants were closed, regular goods became scarce, we all had masks and stayed home. Just like that. You may have had some similar experiences in your home area.

In September we made the difficult decision to not re-open the Bazaar until later and were going to move the items back to the Children's Home.

But you know that God moves in Mysterious ways...and when you see it happen it can give you chills.

Doug *immediately* called a friend, George Rabiela a retired Chicago Fire Captain, at the suggestion of some fellow supporters from Canada. George is a familiar face and has regularly supported many of the Children's homes here in Acapulco and brings his friendly Dalmatian Dog named Brady to visit the homes so that the children can play with him and learn a bit about how valuable dogs are to the Firemen on their jobs.

Doug explained the "BAZAAR" problem and asked if he might have a place in his large property that would provide room for the BAZAAR to move, if only temporarily.

George has a Christian heart and is willing to serve wherever he is needed. "Sure! I'd like the company!" And MORE... he offered use of the first floor of a large house right inside the entrance to his property and said, "The Bazaar can move in right away and operate here for free!"

I had chills!

I must say once again, *"Thank you God, you sure do move in MYSTERIOUS ways! And thank you for listening!"*

For now the Bazaar items are safely stored and George has been selling and buying some of the items as we await the next step. We are working on some long term solutions to place the Bazaar store on some property in the Pie De la Cuesta area of Acapulco that the Salvation Army owns and we are hopeful that by early 2021 the Bazaar will be back in business! We'll see. Rah!

We are also hearing from local Government leaders that large group gatherings will not be allowed in Acapulco until sometime later in 2021. This means that our **January Annual Fundraising Gala and February Charity Auction most likely cannot be held in person.**

We are scrambling to see how viable a ZOOM Virtual Gala would be. What do you think? Will you as a supporter be willing to donate toward the event if you can view it on Zoom?

We can make it very interesting with pictures, videos, history, and performances by the children. We will soon have a survey on our websites and also our social media pages. If you can visit them and vote we would greatly appreciate your ideas and support. (Links below) **Where are the links?**

THE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.

The Lieutenants are now caring for the children 24/7.

The Salvation Army children are currently enrolled in Online Learning Programs which are conducted by the State Government through TV and the Zoom classes on the internet. They view them from TV's (some borrowed) that are located in 3 modified spaces for 3 morning and 3

afternoon classes. There are also Zoom lessons viewed through the computers throughout the day. The Lieutenants are now the teachers, assuring homework is complete, answering questions from children 6-18, etc. and running the Home. The Lieutenants are immensely capable, but they need more help from us. The on-line schooling will possibly continue through the school year.

Now listen to this sad but wonderful story!

Our founder Al Lawrence's daughter, Lucille Weiss and Jody Gardner, created a library for the Children in 2008. It was a big success. Here are a couple of notes from students who grew up at the home:

Rosa, now 22, who wrote, "...it was my favorite place at the Home..it instills reading...helps you in development both at school and intellectually."

Zachery, who attends University and will become a microbiologist in 2 years when the University reopens: "A good idea (for the library) is a project of English Classes, and children could take their classes in the Library and practice with all of the Spanish/English Library books.

Now what God?

Sadly, Lucille Weiss recently passed away. We have been in contact with her family. They were well aware that the Library was their Mother's gift to the Home. We were recently told that Lucille's Family together with staunch supporters Ed and Vicky Carlson, are willing to begin and invest in a Fund to support the important remodeling and stocking of the Library. The results of this Fund will provide the necessary elements important for a place for the children to work, study and have some outside classes.

**It will be dedicated to and named
"The Lucille Weiss Children's Library and Art Center".**

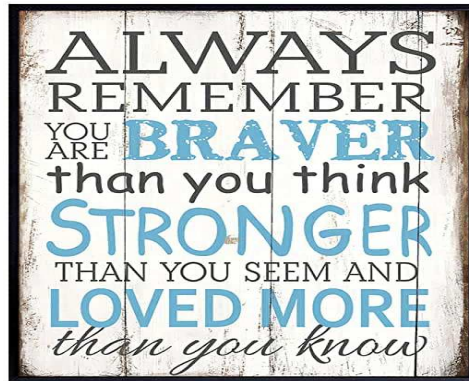
In the Library we hope to be adding some new furniture, computer stations, a printer, very necessary new books and tapes, an English teacher, etc. to encourage the children to expand their horizons. We do not want the children's well-being to be hampered by the COVID-19 Pandemic any more than necessary.

If you are coming down to Acapulco, perhaps you could find some Spanish/English books/tapes that would fit in your suitcase? And any donations for the Bazaar would be helpful too!

2021 is coming., but we are still in fall of 2020. You have probably noticed that there are some situations that need attention now. We ask that you consider helping us with your contributions to any of those needs you identified in the Review.

This turn of events is of course *very sad and* disappointing after the excellent success we have had with our Gala and new ventures.

However, we know that the children still have to eat and learn, grow strong and hopefully arrive at adulthood eager to explore the world and its possibilities... and **know that**... As Winnie the Pooh said when he reminded his friend Christopher Robin...



Thank you for taking your valuable time to hear our story.

We are dedicated to improving the lives of our Salvation Army children and appreciate any help you can offer us at this unexpected time of need. If you have any questions about any area of the gifting or other thoughts, please give a call or an email. We are eager to listen to and implement ideas that will further improve the children's lives at The Salvation Army Home Acapulco

We are hopeful that travel to Acapulco will allow for us to see each of you this upcoming season. Until then please know that we are thinking of you and wish you and your loved ones the best during these difficult times. We appreciate each of you and the help you provide for the children.

Deane Tank
Chairman

Douglas Hysell
President/Executive Director

Jolene "Jody" Gardner
Secretary/Treasurer

