

Fall 2016



CASA MEA'S  
ADMINISTRATOR  
WITH ALL THE  
CHILDREN

OUR CASA MEA/MI CASITA FAMILIES CONTINUE TO GROW AND WITH IT OUR COSTS! IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO HELP US DEFRAY THESE COSTS, WE WOULD GRATEFULLY APPRECIATE YOUR DONATION.

## Summer Fun



SUMMER FUN IN  
GUATEMALA

Since Mi Casita opened on May 4, 2016, five children under the age of 3 have arrived. One little boy, who was severely burned, has since left. We now have 4 little girls. Our youngest, Linda, is now 8 weeks old and gaining weight steadily on her preemie formula. Our next is Ashanty who is 10 weeks old and is also thriving and can now hold her head up! (They are both guzzling down the formula every 2 to 3 hours day and night.) Yadelin is a year old and always smiling! She runs up to visitors when they enter the gate and gives them a heartfelt hug around

the legs. Tatiana is 2 years old. She has some health issues which we are currently investigating. Despite all the medical costs, the cost of formula and diapers, it is a joy to see the house filling up with children who need a home!



2016 SUMMER  
BARBECUE

## Summer Fun (continued)

The children at Casa Mea are also thriving and I dare say eating every 2 to 3 hours too! Vlad at 15 will go to a German technical school this fall where, in addition to high school course work, he will learn a skill. Ana who is 13 and Cristina who is 12 (beautiful young ladies) now have an interest in boys! All of the children are happy and have enjoyed their summer break. They have also enjoyed a short weekend excursion to a convent orphanage and all their summer visitors.

ENJOYING  
WATERMELON  
ON A HOT  
SUMMER DAY



S'MORES

## VOLUNTEERS

Casa Mea was fortunate to have four US volunteers throughout the summer. Claire and Maddy were from North Dakota, Chryse from California, and Jordan from Ohio. These young people helped the children with their English and had lots of energy to play with them! Jordan made a short promotional film about Casa Mea which you can view on YouTube. It is entitled Casa Mea Promo.



YUM YUM!



**Video: click link**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDSWerqwm0E>



### This is what Claire had to say about her Casa Mea Experience:



**VOLUNTEER CLAIRE  
AT CASA MEA**

This past January I told my parents I wanted to travel to Prejmer, Romania and experience what Casa Mea truly does. I wasn't prepared for the impact the kids made in the way I view the world today. When I returned, I was asked the question, "Do you feel like you made an impact in the kids' lives?" I responded, "I hope I did, but I know I wasn't as impactful as they were on me."

When I arrived at Casa Mea I immediately noticed how much the atmosphere resembled a home. It was relaxing, comforting, and still structured. Felicia (the administrator), the staff, and the kids were all very welcoming. The daily schedule was fairly busy between school, after-school activities, and homework. I was able

to interact and play with the kids in the afternoon when they weren't busy. They were great at interacting with me and my friend Maddy. All of the children, except

Georgianna who is only 3, were able to speak or understand English enough to communicate successfully. They were very respectful and I could tell that they had been taught manners. The first interaction I noticed was that of the women who work at Casa Mea and the children. They had a loving, but firm relationship. I noticed that each woman demonstrated a different type of love through hugs, amazing food, discipline, or just listening.

The kids' interaction had the largest impact on me. Each one of the kids have their own stories and situations. They have all been brought together through Casa Mea. Despite the tough backgrounds the kids have come from, they understand each other and give each other unconditional love. Watching Vlad lay on the trampoline with Georgianna, or Robert grab Ana's hand as they are walking to school showed me the true character of each kid. They all reflect a tough personality, but they truly understand how to love. They are the constant in each other's lives and understand what the other has gone through.

Each one of the kids have experienced more than I will ever understand. They are mature in ways that most kids in the U.S. will never be. Yes, they lack some skills that U.S. Students demonstrate, but they have a deeper understanding of what it means to be present in someone's life. Casa Mea has given them a constant loving and caring environment. I am so blessed to have been given this experience to understand what is truly important in life.

## CASA MEA DONORS

Donors Mel & Mike visited Casa Mea this summer and were there when the children and staff celebrated Robi's birthday. In addition, they went to the Adventure Park in Brasov with all the children which was hosted by Andrei and his firm Kinetic Plus which espouses movement for health. His website is [kineticbrasov.ro](http://kineticbrasov.ro). Following all the children's movement (including the zip line), the children were hungry! So Mel & Mike treated everyone to pizza. We all appreciate Mel and Mike's continuing donations to Casa Mea.

**DONORS MEL & MIKE WITH  
ALL THE CHILDREN**



## MI CASITA DONORS



MARGARET FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERSAN CHURCH WHO ORGANIZED THE DONATIONS

The 2015 Vacation Bible School children from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Navarre, MN made 12 blankets, one for each child who will eventually come to Mi Casita. Although Mi Casita is in Guatemala, our home is located in the mountains where evenings and nights get pretty chilly. Therefore, the blankets are really needed! The Vacation Bible School children worked diligently on these blankets during Vacation Bible School as did the women from the church who precut all the material. Margaret was instrumental in getting this project off the ground and obtained funding from Thrivent Choice for the supplies. Some of the children also donated toys and, as you can see, those were a big hit!



YADELIN AND TATIANA PLAYING WITH DONATED TOYS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND VISITORS! YOU ENRICH THE LIVES OF ALL THE CHILDREN AND US!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE AT CASA MEA HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT!**

To send your financial gift to Casa Mea...

- By Check: Payable to **Casa Mea** at 6705 Shadow Crest Drive, Plano, TX 75093
- By Credit Card: Donate online by clicking [HERE](#) or visit [www.casamea.org](http://www.casamea.org) and click on "Make a Donation"
- Other Donations: Contact Jan at 612-227-3239 or email [jan@casamea.org](mailto:jan@casamea.org) to arrange for a monthly automatic bank withdrawal, donation of appreciated stock, or other type of financial donation.

All contributions to Casa Mea are tax-deductible. Thank you!