

# Casa Mea News

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Summer 2013



## Romania - Casa Mea



Casa mea is extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Mound Westonka Rotary Club of Mound Minnesota and Rotary Club Bacau from Bacau Romania.

These two Rotary Clubs worked together for over a year to obtain an international grant from the Rotary Foundation. With these funds, the Rotary Clubs purchased a van for Casa Mea. Now all of the children can go on an outing at the same time! Of course the children are dying for a ride in their new van. I hear the first stop on the agenda is the pizza place!

A big huge thank you to these two Rotary Clubs!

# Guatemala - Mi Casita



## Mi Casita Guatemala



**Casa Mea USA opened its second home for orphaned and abandoned children in Guatemala in June. The focus of Mi Casita is on abandoned/orphaned children with cleft lips and/or palates.**

Mi Casita (Spanish for “my home”) is renting a house in a small village named Santa Catarina Bobadilla. Santa Catarina is located 48 kilometers southwest of Guatemala City and 3 kilometers southwest of Antigua. It is surrounded by three volcanos and many coffee plantations. It has its own school and church. The house itself, which can accommodate 6 infants, is a sturdy, well built house in the Spanish colonial style.

Currently, Mi Casita is awaiting all the paper work from the Guatemalan authorities in order to start accepting children.

## The Team

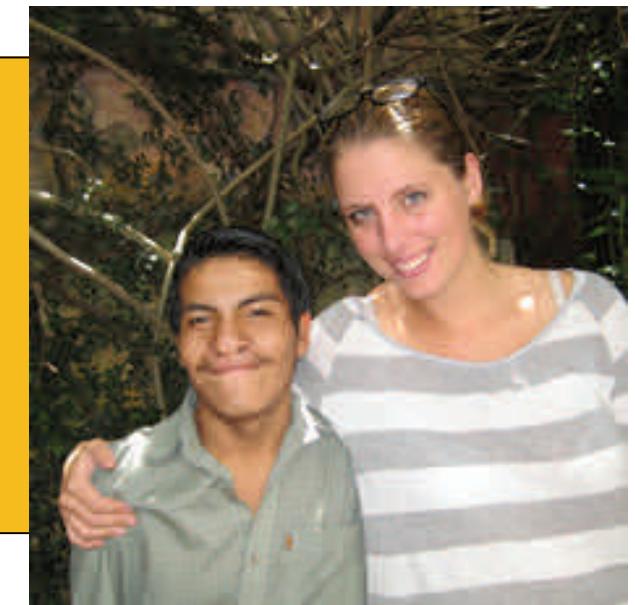
Mi Casita is fortunate that it has a young and dedicated board comprise of Guatemalans and other young people of different nationalities, who are dedicated to running the home. All of these individuals speak both English and Spanish and understand the Guatemalan culture.



# Guatemala

A recently published report by the Joint Council on International Children's Services revealed that **one child is abandoned in Guatemala every four days** – and over three quarters of them are newborn babies. Families in Guatemala abandon their children because they feel they have no other option. Poverty and large family sizes are the main reasons that families abandoned their children. They simply cannot care for them. Other children are abandoned because they are physically disabled and a shame to their families.

*Mario and Tessa (Tess Unlimited)*



Casa Mea is partnering with a Dutch charity (Tess Unlimited) which provides assistance to cleft lip and palate babies. There are at least 3000 children born each year in Guatemala with either cleft lip and/or palates. Casa Mea will provide the loving home for those children who are abandoned whereas Tess Unlimited will provide the reconstructive surgeries that these children need.



*Wilmer*

Wilmer is a six month old abandoned baby with a cleft lip and cleft palate. He is currently residing in the pediatric ward for malnourished children in a hospital in Antigua. In this ward, he is one of 18 children who are there because they are severely malnourished. Wilmer was born to a 16 year old mother who was raped by her father. Wilmer is currently 8lbs 11 oz. He is not eligible for reconstructive surgery until he is up to 10lbs. In the meantime, he waits in the hospital ward. He is trying to sit, smile and coo.

**Mi Casita's home is the ideal place for him now and after his surgery!**

## Volunteer Team

Although Mi Casita only opened on June 16<sup>th</sup>, it has already had its first group of volunteers! These were individuals from Destiny Church in Rochester Minnesota. They were only there for half a day but managed to make an outdoor play area for the children and clean the house thoroughly including beating the mattresses and washing all the curtains. We are forever grateful for their help and willingness to work hard!



## Helping Mi Casita

Right now Mi Casita is getting the house established and furnished. It needs not only baby clothes and baby items but household items such as towels, wash cloths, and kitchen necessities. Because shipping to Guatemala is expensive, if you can give a cash donation for these items, we would greatly appreciate it!

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 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!