

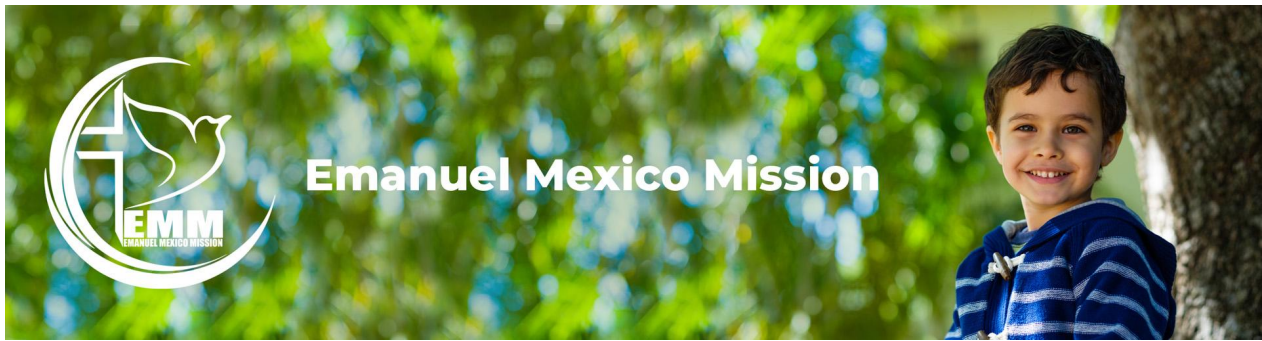
## **Casa de Niños House Parents**

The House Parents are accountable to the Mission Supporters and the EMM Board of Directors (US and Mexico Boards), Field Directors (US & Mexico) and the Government of Mexico (Family Services).

House Parents are head of the Casa de Niños family and are responsible for creating a christ-centered, loving and safe environment for the children to grow & thrive into adulthood. Be willing and able to serve, clean, cook, tutor, teach, counsel, pray with and pray for, chauffeur, offer first aid care, be a janitor and be a mother and father to all the children in your care.

The following characteristics are developed over time, by the House Parents:

1. The members of the household are committed to one another. The family, therefore, is a unit with members dedicated to living their lives in support of one another with unquestioned loyalty. The house parents monitor the need for mental, physical & spiritual help for each individual child and implements action and assistance needed (counseling, educational, medical, etc.).
2. Love the neediest, abandoned, and neglected children. Put others above self.
3. A healthy family spends time together. A wholesome, healthy family believes that time together cannot have quality without sufficient quantity (church, devotions, bible study, singing, play).
4. Model this scripture: “Love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37
5. A healthy family enjoys open, frequent communication. No question is inappropriate, no opinion is disrespected, and no subject is considered off limits. Important, life-determining subjects are naturally intermingled with the mundane.
6. Model this scripture: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24
7. The healthy family turns inward during times of crisis. Members of wholesome, healthy



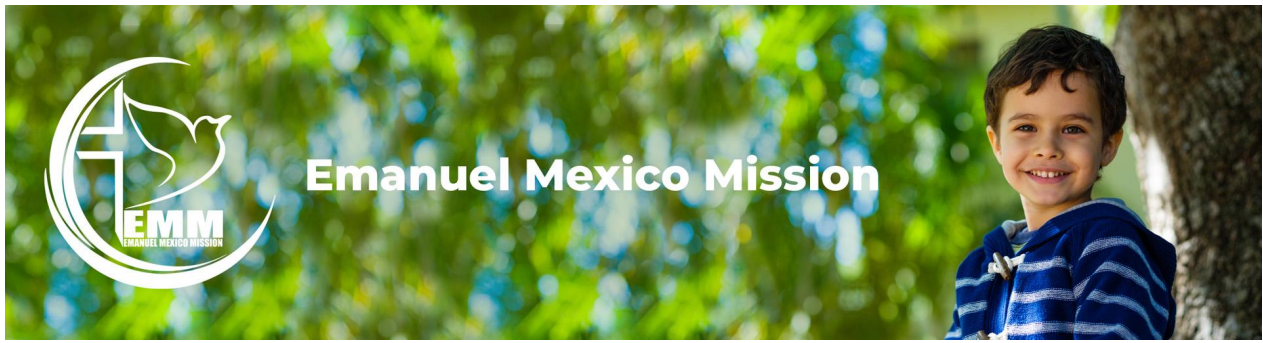
families work through difficulties together. A crisis brings them closer because they look within the family for strength rather than looking to something outside.

8. Developing individual responsibility in each child through requirements to attend to chores around the house, school studies, and exercising special talents.

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9. Members of a healthy family express affirmation and encouragement often. "Good job!" "I admire you for that!" "You mean a lot to me!" Notice that affirmation and encouragement are different. You affirm who people are, while you encourage what people do. Both are necessary to help others discover who they are and what they do well, which builds a strong sense of personal security. You are not born with a well-defined sense of self; you discover yourself through the influence of those important to you.
10. The members of a healthy family share a spiritual commitment. The family members are bound in unity by their shared relationship with God, and they learn to nurture it as a result of mutual encouragement. Attend the Church of Christ/Christian church as a family not out of obligation. Be willing to teach and share when needed both in the home and church. The family participates in the church so each child grows in the love of Jesus Christ. The House Parents establishes family and individual time with the Ontañon Church of Christ Pastor.
11. Each person in a healthy household trusts the others and values the trust he has earned. This trust is built upon mutual respect and a dedication to truth.
12. The members of a healthy family enjoy freedom and grace.

The House Parents draws support from and communicates frequently with the Church Pastor, Mexico Field Director and US Field Director. Any challenges, issues and celebrations are shared, discussed and resolved through this support. Any time away by the House Parents needs to be planned and coordinated with this group so that Substitute House Parents can be scheduled to be available.



## **Substitute House Parents**

Substitute House Parents are scheduled by either the Mexico Field Agent or US Field Agent at a time when the House Parents plan to take a temporary leave from Casa de Niños family. The Mexico Field Agent, US Field Agent and the House Parents communicate a plan for the temporary leave including any special needs and activities required during the House Parents absence.

The Substitute House Parents perform the same duties as the House Parents but on a shorter duration of time.

The Mexico Field Agent, US Field Agent and Church Pastor provides support during the duration of the temporary leave.