



Dec 19, 2019 Weekly Report from Oblate Youth Ministry in Tijuana.



Here at the Tijuana mission, we have an annual Christmas party for the youth and their families. This year we had over 350 people attend, sharing a dinner, whacking piñatas, line dancing, and participating in a posada. A posada is an interactive play where the participants journey as Mary and Joseph did to various locations looking for a place to stay. At each location the journeyers sing asking for a place to stay, and the other

people sing in response that there is no room. In the end all go to the dinner in celebration of the Nativity. The youth also put on a pastorela (play) that creatively weaved the Nativity and the Good Samaritan stories together, with the common thread of being a neighbor to everyone. Each family received a despensas, thanks to the generosity of Serving Hands International, who sponsors the event. The event is a thank you to all the people, youth and adults, who work so hard to put on the SEARCH retreats and other activities here.



This is Anuel and his mother Jazmin. Anuel is 2 years old and has leukemia. The family discovered it when he 7 months old. He receives chemotherapy. He also has a condition called microtia, which is a deformity of the ear that can affect one's ability to hear. It is sometimes possible to correct this with surgery. We have been helping the family for about 6 months with despensas, diapers, and medicines. There are 10 people living in the house and the only breadwinner is the father, Pedro. When we first visited the family, Pedro had gotten injured in a work-related accident, when a refrigerator fell on his hands, rendering him temporarily unable to work. Pedro is now back at work repairing refrigeration units for OXXO convenience stores.



This is Oscar, who is studying to be a dentist thanks to his donors Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson. To be a dentist you should have a good smile. He'll make a good dentist. Oscar plays and teaches guitar and helps with the choir. "Helping people has made me see things differently. I am willing to stay up late and sacrifice to obtain my degree. I have gone through a lot to get to this point in my life. It has not been easy, but thank God, I have my church family." He hopes to change a culture that doesn't pay enough attention to dentistry.