

Christmas Projects

This week, we have four friends in town from Tennessee helping us with the Christmas projects. Instead of hearing from me as usual, I thought it would be interesting to read visitors' perspectives on the ministries here and what we are working on for the families of La Represa! Here are the words of Mallory and Elizabeth, two high school seniors who are serving with us this week:

I'm sure you appreciate the work that Kristi and Alejandro Reyes are doing for the La Represa Children's Ministry. However, I wonder if you know how much of an impact they have on the community. My name is Mallory Abbott, and I had the amazing opportunity to travel to La Represa this week. I have a passion for missions and helping the "least of these." These past few days have been incredible in every way. Walking through the streets of this small town, it is evident that everyone here loves Kristi and Alejandro. The people are so warm and kind, and I feel as if I have been welcomed into the



large La Represa family. The past two days, I was part of the process of taking portraits for almost 140 families here. The amount of work that the ministry team put into this is amazing. I had the privilege of taking pictures of each sponsor child individually. They dressed in the best clothes they had for the pictures, and most smiled excitedly when I told them to look at the camera.

I appreciate people like you more than you know. Most people are not willing to spend their money to help a child that they may never meet, but the world needs more. However, what I appreciate even more is people like Alejandro and Kristi. They dedicate their lives to serving God and others, and they have made an enormous impact on the community. They give countless hours working and years getting to know every child. I was shocked to see that Kristi knew each child by name and most times knew exactly what was going on in their lives. It is things like this that make her and the ministry in La Represa truly amazing. I ask that you pray for God

to move in even greater ways here. Also, I encourage you to live like them and follow the calling that God has given you to love others in every way you can.

When the word missionary comes to mind, people think of a person who moves to another country or city to serve the people there. This description is what I had in mind when I decided to spend a week and a half with Kristi and Alejandro. What I didn't know was just how big their impact is on the community of La Represa. My name is Elizabeth Huber, and I have had a passion for missions my whole life. Having the opportunity to come on this trip, live in La Represa, and get to know Kristi and Alejandro has been a blessing because I have learned so much. Kristi and Alejandro do not just lead a child sponsorship program and baseball ministry. They truly know and care about each and every member of the community and do everything in their power to show how much they love the members of the community.



Kristi and Alejandro always have their doors open, showing that everyone is welcome. When we walk around, everyone we pass waves excitedly as a huge smile spreads across their faces when they see them. From providing a way for each child to feel loved and wanted, to establishing genuine relationships with each person, to giving children a better future, this ministry is making a huge impact on La Represa. On this trip so far, we have had the privilege of taking

family photos and distributing food to every household in La Represa, while also getting to spend a lot of time simply building relationships with all the amazing people. I have loved every second that I have been able to spend with Kristi and Alejandro, as well as the whole community. The people of La Represa are some of the kindest, most welcoming people I have

ever met, and I hope I will be able to come back here some time. I would like to encourage everyone reading this, as well as myself, to continue praying for the ministries here and that God will continue working through each and every person here. Being here has truly shown me what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus, as well as what it really means to love as He first loved us.



During the week we have asked Kristi and Alejandro many questions about their daily life and what that looks like. We quickly realized that no day looks the same. In the short time we have been here, we have seen countless hours spent planning and organizing, participated in family/sponsor pictures and food distribution, community food distribution, and shopping trips for the upcoming Christmas gift distribution. I was amazed at the intentionality with which each gift was purchased. Their team spent time and effort for every single child on the list personally! We saw the hard work

and amount of time put in to making sure every gift was meaningful to each child. What is evident in every day that we have had the privilege to work beside them on this trip is that Alejandro and Kristi are completely committed to this ministry, that they are passionate about this ministry, and that their love for the Lord guides them in all they do for this ministry.

While this week is a busy one for us, it is rewarding to spend time with the families to celebrate the purpose behind Christ's humble birth. We are so thankful for personal friends and mission teams that come to serve with us and get a firsthand experience of La Represa! As you read here, the community is very welcoming and appreciative of your generosity and the efforts of this ministry. At every event this week, we have been inviting children and families to a special Christmas service that the New Vision church plant will be hosting Sunday night. Please join us in praying for many families to join us and for their hearts to be opened to the transformational gospel that will be presented. We pray that this Christmas would be the start of many individuals' personal journeys with Christ.