

# Casa de Amor

Sharing Christ's Love with the Families of Bolivia

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### US Board Members

Debi Chapman  
Ricky Haun  
Jan Laquey  
Carl Thompson  
David Vestal  
Dawnita Williams

### Bolivia Staff Members

Rosario Adiazola  
Silvia Antezana  
Ruth Chura  
Shaun Handlin  
Sarin Herrera  
Barbara McVean  
Maria Medina  
Adelaida Medrano  
Rosa Sarzuri  
Guadalupe Sejas  
Rosalia Tapia  
Jennifer Thompson

*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy. Psalm 82:3-4b*



*We love celebrating each birthday of our precious children!*

## Our Ministry

By Jennifer Thompson

December 3, 2005, marked our first anniversary as a children's home! On that day in 2004 we joyously received Juan Gabriel, a small, sickly, startled 13 month old. We can only marvel to look over the past year and see how much not only Juan has changed, but also our home and staff as we have grown and learned together.

But no matter what changes we have seen, our vision remains the same. Casa de Amor exists "to reach out to children in need in the impoverished South American country of Bolivia" by providing quality, loving full time care to children coming from situations of risk. The issues represented by their families include alcoholism, abuse in all forms, drug use, abandonment by father or mother or both, strained family relations, teenage pregnancy, irresponsibility, and extreme poverty. As I have mentioned before, "true" orphans are rare here. We work with "social orphans", victims of these many vices. Satan is truly out to destroy the family structure worldwide, not just in Bolivia.

Our mission statement continues with "Since our greatest desire is to "turn the hearts of the

fathers toward their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6)," we will pursue family reinsertion, adoption or long term foster care for each child."

Honestly, carrying out the reunification process is more challenging than we thought, but still vitally important as the flow of abandoned and abused children only increases. Realizing that three of our kids recently returned to family members and at least 10 of our current 13 should potentially go back, we desire to do all we can to ensure that these kids, cared for as our own, return to a stable, healthy situation. However, we are aware that lasting change will only come by the Lord's power. Pray with us for "family ministers" who can join our staff and work and pray intensively alongside the families our children represent.

Another project for this year is beginning a foster family program. We are also in the process of presenting paperwork to the judge so that some of our kids can go to adoptive families. We excitedly look forward to what the next year holds as we follow God's lead here in Bolivia! ♥

## Meet Adelaida Medrano, Our Childcare Supervisor



*“We work with children that need love, a hug, and a kiss which I can give them just as to my children.”*



*Adelaida bathing a new arrival, newborn Valentina*

Many of you mothers reading this well remember sleepless nights tending to your baby. What about twins? Triplets? What if it went on for months and months without end? And you spent your days caring for 8 or 10 active toddlers in addition to all the babies? Now you are getting a clearer picture of a day (and night) in the life of one of our incredibly hard working, dedicated childcare staff members. Four ladies take turns working 24 hour shifts with the support of two rotating volunteers (at least 10 hour days) and two rotating part time staff members.

This team carries out an intense job with much grace and love from their hearts and Adelaida heads them up as childcare supervisor. I appreciate her servant’s heart so much and her bravery to confront any issue head on before it becomes a problem, whether it be with staff, kids, health, or in any other area.

Adelaida’s job is the same as these ladies only with more responsibility. The full weight of how the children are cared for falls on her young shoulders (27 years old) as she reports to Jennifer (director) and Rosa (administrator) on a regular basis.

Adelaida, a nurse’s aid, has been with us since our very first days in 2004.

### **Describe how you met the Lord and how He has impacted your life**

I met the Lord in a desperate moment because my daughter Nicole was very sick. I arrived at Hospitals of Hope and received Christ in my heart and I felt him fill it with faith and hope. One week later my daughter had improved very much. The morning after dedicating her to the Lord she woke up very happy and full of life.

### **Describe your family**

My family is made up of four people: my dear husband Zenon and the two beautiful children that God has given me. Nicole is my older daughter. She is 4 1/2 years old and is very joyful. Gabriel is my younger son. He is 2 1/2 years old and is my mischievous child. But

I adore them both and their father and I feel very proud to have two such beautiful children.

### **Share some of your previous experiences in work and ministry**

Before arriving to Casa de Amor I volunteered my services as nurse to Hospitals of Hope. I currently attend an Assemblies of God church along with my family.

### **Why do you like working at Casa de Amor?**

First because CDA is made up of Christian people and this is one of the first things that brought me here. Also because we work with children that need love, a hug, and a kiss which I can give them just as to my children. And also to have Jennifer as director with such a large and transparent heart for these children that suffer, and for us.

### **Describe your position as a caregiver:**

As supervisor I care for the physical and emotional health of each child that arrives to our home.

For the child newly arrived, they must have an appropriate environment, their own clothes, their crib, their food, medical attention, and especially many people that would love them and ensure that the child feels happy and secure. I am working with little people and we have to satisfy all of their needs.

If I fail in my duties, I am conscious of the punishment that God will give me. ♥

### **Prayer Points**

*Thanks for covering these special projects in prayer!*

- Wisdom for CDA staff—kids, contact with their families, finances, future projects, etc. . . .
- Obtaining one year visas for international staff members
- Volunteer Barbara’s new street family outreach
- New volunteers joining us soon

## The Importance of Trust



*The trust of a child—what a precious gift! With the young children we work with, we have found it easily won and yet easily lost.*

*There is no feeling quite like that of a small child fast asleep in your arms, a baby calming to your touch, or having a child run to your arms for comfort after a little accident. These simple pleasures of life have been forfeited by most of the parents of our children—often so hurt themselves that they cannot properly return a child's faithful, innocent love.*

*A newborn baby or young child is easily damaged for life if they are never given the opportunity to trust fully in someone. The chance that they will have stable, lasting relationships or a close relationship with their Heavenly Father is greatly reduced. Casa de Amor Children's Home is designed to give each child that chance to properly bond with trustworthy caregivers and friends. We see it as laying the foundation for their close relationship with our Lord.*

*If there is anything I have learned the past year, it is that I personally appreciate the ingredient of TRUST more than any other in the friendships I cherish. Is it too much to say that in each relationship, the level of intimacy and satisfaction is directly proportionate to the amount of trust given and received?*

*Our God is a marvelous picture of faithfulness and trustworthiness. We can trust in His abilities and character, proven throughout the ages to countless followers. **He is worthy to be trusted and He will not change!** ♥*

*Those who know your name will trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You. Psalm 9:10*

### Dictionary Definition

**Trust: "firm reliance on the integrity, ability or character of a person or thing"**

## Meet Board Member Ricky Haun

The Thompson and Haun families have been friends for over 14 years, meeting through sharing the common bond of churches and homeschooling children. We have greatly appreciated their faithful prayers, encouragement and wise advice throughout this project.

Ricky Haun writes from Frisco, Texas:

### What is your profession?

I am an underground construction estimator.

### What church are you a part of?

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Prosper, Texas. [Ricky Haun serves as an elder.]

### Tell us about your children

I have three children, Casey 29, Holly 27, and Morgan 25.

Casey is married to Cheryl and live about 30 minutes away in Lewisville, Texas. They are very active in their church (Sojourn Church). Casey has a landscape business. Cheryl works part-time at Sojourn Church.

Holly is married to Jeff Smith and lives within a few blocks of our house, and that's a very good thing because they have our two grandchildren, Brady and Beau. They go to church with us at LCF. Jeff is a builder for a local company and Holly stays at home with the boys.

Morgan is a flight attendant and lives about 30 minutes away in Dallas. She also goes to LCF.

I am very proud of my children, as they are all seeking God in their lives.

### What are your favorite hobbies?

I like to hunt and mess with cars.

### What are ways you and your family minister?

We like to encourage families. We find many opportunities to help others that have a desire to walk in similar paths.



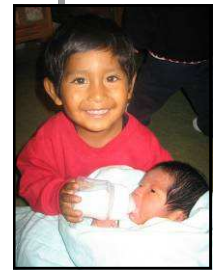
The Haun Family

**Contact us!**



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*Casa de Amor ("House of Love" in Spanish) is a ministry of GOAL (Global Orphan Assistance League) to reach out to children in need in the impoverished South American country of Bolivia. Since our greatest desire is to "turn the hearts of the fathers toward their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6)," we will pursue family reinsertion, adoption or long term foster care for each child.*



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