



TASH TIMES

Every person you help...makes ripples in society.

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TASHINC.ORG

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Clinica Del Pueblo
"Anna Seethaler" A.C.
EST. 2000

OUR CORE MISSION

We seek to make strategic investments in locally-based, holistic nonprofit organizations in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. The focus is primarily in the areas of healthcare, nutrition, food security, social services and primary education aimed at economically vulnerable families and communities.

We work "through respect, compassion, patience, and have a heart for the work."

TASH, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports La Clinica del Pueblo and other partner organizations in Oaxaca, Mexico. Our funding is primarily made up of individual donations from ten to 1,000 dollars.

GREETINGS

Dear Friends In my last article for the newsletter, I wrote about the young boy who was deaf and beaten by his drunken father who did not realize that he was deaf. We were able to find a better living situation for him. In this article, I would like to share with you three more times that I and my friends were able to help people who lived in challenging situations.

The first one was a mother and her three children. The mother walked an hour one way to paint decals on soccer balls. She earned twenty-five cents an hour. Two of her children were boys. They both had cerebral palsy. The third child was an older sister who could not go to school because she had to watch her brothers. The brothers were not able to receive therapy because they lived too far from town. After hearing about the problem, I got some benefactors' money to build a small home closer to the city so the boys could get therapy and their sister could go to school. When I visited them in their new home, they were full of joy and gratitude. It was one of those times when I choked up with tears.



The second effort involved a group of women who lived high in the mountains. Their children had to wear uniforms to go to school. Buying the uniforms was very expensive, which took a large portion of their income, especially if they had multiple children. When their situation was brought to our attention, we looked into sewing machines that did not depend on electricity. Some of you may remember these sewing machines. They were operated with your feet. We bought four of them and took them up to the mountains. The women organized a sewing circle and had a teacher come to show the women how to make uniforms. The women bought material to make them. They were able to make them for their children at a fraction of the cost they would have had to pay to buy the uniforms. Once the word got out more women came wanting to use the machines. Eventually the sewing circle became a coop and were able to raise some money.

The third project involved a small village high in the mountains also. The people basically ate corn tortillas. The men took about fifteen of them for lunch. Making tortillas was a full day's work for the women. They would grind an ear of corn in a bowl, which would take a long time before it was fine enough to bake. They would repeat ear after ear. We were able to find a grinder that the women could use. It simplified their lives greatly. Each woman would bring her ears of corn and grind them. The time it took was just a few minutes. It freed the women to do other things.

I have often heard people say; *"The world's problems are so great, what can one person do?"* I think the secret to having a successful life involves having a dream, having courage and having a strong prayer life. President Grant said: *"One man with courage makes a majority!"*

God bless you!
Fr. Scott



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- Bridget Chfuo



It was our third day visiting Oaxaca. We had been to the orphanage, the school, the "street kids" facility and finally, the wonderful clinic, **THE ANNA SEETHALER HOSPITAL.** We witnessed many patients waiting to be seen. We met the dedicated staff and had a tour of the entire place. We heard in detail how the hospital evolved from a calling, a vision, and prayers of Fr. Scott to the amazing establishment it is today. The head doctor told us that we would be going to a patient's home. We would witness her faith and hope in the hospital that has kept her alive and full of dignity. We were concerned about invading her privacy but were assured that we would be welcomed.

It was a longer drive that we had anticipated. Finally, we arrived. I was shocked! There were many steep, short, uneven, outdoor steps that needed to be climbed to get to our lady's home. I questioned my ability to get up these rugged steps. I had no idea how a sick woman or most elderly people could do this on a daily basis. We carefully climbed the steps. The doctor knew where the home was. We got to the door that didn't resemble a home of any kind. We entered and were welcomed by our lady's mother, sister, toddler niece, pre-teen and teen sons, and 3 dogs. The patient we were visiting sat in a kitchen chair at a table in "the room." The room was where they all lived with a small table, 6 chairs, and kitchen equipment. There was no stove, only "make do" cooking supplies on a concrete floor. There were several large water bottles on the floor. It was unknown if they were full of clean water or if they merely stored contaminated water. The doctor and social worker were the interpreters. The 43-year-old lady with multiple organ failure appeared very frail. She seemed very tired yet smiled at her visitors. She seemed proud that we were visiting her. Her mother did some of the talking for her, saying that the hospital saved her daughter's



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life on several occasions. She had been sent to another hospital but had to wait and wait and wait and was treated like a number. The entire family beamed when they spoke of the overall care they received at TASH.

We spoke to her very handsome sons. The love they shared with their mom was clearly visible. I asked how she got to hospital visits. They stated they carried their mom up and down the rough terrain and steps. My mind was amazed and overwhelmed at how they lived and navigated; yet they remained so strong and full of immense gratitude and obvious love. The doctors, social workers, and staff at the hospital clearly were significant people in their lives that showered dignity and extreme care. I left their home in pure awe at the quiet peace they lived with so much thankfulness. I walked down the hazardous steps with much more courage after what I just experienced.

The next day was a fabulous, colorful celebration of the 25th anniversary of the hospital, starting with a mass and a very festive “calinda” (*parade of 2.2 K*). There was immense poverty, yet even more joy and gratitude for the little things in life. As we reached our end destination for the parade, preparing for a festive lunch, our lady and her family appeared with enormous smiles, the sons’ dancing. They were there to celebrate and give thanks for TASH. *God is indeed good...all the time.*

~ Bridget Chfu

Celebrating 25 years of La Clinica del Pueblo

Anna Seethaler is more than a celebration of a hospital in the impoverished neighborhood of San Martin Mexicapan. Yes, that alone is worth celebrating and is a huge testament to the vision and leadership of Fr. Scott, the faith and commitment of TASH’s benefactors, and the drive and dedication of the leadership and staff at La Clinica. On these pages you have read countless stories of a hospital, an orphanage, a music school, scholarships, water towers, and many other initiatives. This is no coincidence. The success of La Clinica has led to strong relationships between TASH and other like-minded organizations in Oaxaca that serve overlapping populations. With La Clinica at the center, this network collaborates to break the cycle of poverty by ministering to the health, safety and educational needs of this community.

I was asked by Fr. Scott to join the TASH Board in 2024 and have had the opportunity to travel to Oaxaca three times to witness first hand the work happening on the ground. It is hard to put into words this experience. Travelling through the capital city of Oaxaca de Juarez, you see people living in modest dwellings constructed of what many would consider to be scrap. You will also encounter a vibrant tourist scene with textile and mezcal tours and Michelin star restaurants. You may think, “we also have this in the U.S.” We do and we also have extensive public and private safety nets. So, why the contrast? There are many layers, political and social, which could fill a dissertation. Trying to solve each would be like trying to boil the ocean. So, we focus on what is in front of us and try to make a difference in those lives.

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~ Duane Fahrion

Celebrating 25 years, continued

At **La Clinica** I have witnessed a culture of care focusing on the person, not simply their symptoms. The goal is not only to heal but to educate and form healthier habits, to give dignity to the patient and their family. Taking this approach improves the odds of delivering the right care at the right time, which is critical when resources are limited.

At **Ciudad de los Ninos and Canica de Oaxaca**, I witnessed a culture of care that focuses on providing safe environments for children to grow, learn, play and be children. Many of the children at Ciudad de los Ninos had no safe place to sleep, and the modern dorm provides their first experience sleeping on a mattress. While parents sell their wares at the street markets, some children have no safe place to stay. Canica offers a safe alternative to playing in the streets by offering shelter, food and opportunities for education out of harm's way.

At **Escuela de Iniciacion Musical Santa Cecilia (School of Music)**, I witnessed a culture of education that teaches not only music but responsibility. Students learn the skills to maintain and repair their instruments. The school also fosters a sense of community which is obvious when you observe students and their families interacting while sharing a meal or watching the students in concert. When I stepped off the dirt roads of Vicente Guerrero and through the school gate, I was not expecting to be greeted by an orchestra. The concert that followed was a highlight of the visit.

Spending time with former landfill workers, I witnessed a pioneering spirit of entrepreneurship. These hardy individuals formerly sorted trash, separating items with scrap value to sell on the market. Coming from that background, and receiving grants or micro-loans, I see people pouring their hearts and souls into micro-enterprises with a spirit of ingenuity. In conditions where resources are extremely limited, running their businesses as efficiently as possible, enables them to support their families.

In each of these settings, I found myself surrounded by resourceful people. **Through it all, I found a common thread: GRATITUDE.** Whether it was the testimonial of a La Clinica patient who regained their sight and could work again, a scholarship recipient who will be the first in their family to attend university, or a staff member providing a child with a safe alternative to the streets, you can see in their eyes a gratitude that is more than just words. It comes from their hearts.

~ Duane Fahrion



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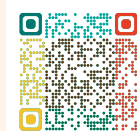
Visit tashinc.org to learn how your donations support those in need in Oaxaca, Mexico. Contact us at admin@tashinc.org with your questions.

TASH, INC 17th ANNUAL

OLÉ 5K BENEFIT RACE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
HARMAR PAVILION IN NORTH PARK @ 10AM

Partner with TASH, Inc for the Olé5K!
Your support funds La Clínica del Pueblo and trusted partners working in Oaxaca, Mexico.



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