

# Building Hope: One Boy, One Family, One Volunteer at a Time!

## Matching Grant Opportunity!

Thank you to the tremendous generosity of several anonymous donors, up to \$100,000 of all donations received from Nov. 1st through Dec. 31st\* will be matched one-for-one! This is a fantastic opportunity to double your gift to the poor and orphaned. Please help us meet our matching goal; we cannot do it without you!

\*All gifts received by mail must be postmarked by Dec. 31st. All online gifts must be charged on or before Dec. 31st. Thank you!

**DONATE TODAY**  
to grow our ministry!

### Mail your donation:

P.O. Box 120028, Chula Vista,  
CA 91912

### Donate Online:

[www.projectmexico.org/donate](http://www.projectmexico.org/donate)

### Donate by phone:

(619) 426-4610

Remember, employer matches and donations of stock and real estate are all eligible to be doubled!

Dear Friends,

*This fall, we hope to fund the building program and orphanage improvements for next year's program.*

*The summer build season is key to our orphanage's financial sustainability and was the founding mission 30 years ago in 1988. We hope to pre-purchase our homebuilding materials this spring to realize substantial savings, and we are developing a leadership program for our summer interns.*



*We have exciting new opportunities with a strategic partnership with OCMC, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, who will offer special programming for the youth next summer during Week 6, "Building a Home for Missions."*

*Your contribution will help us to fund these endeavors so that we can grow the work of our ministry.*

*We raised over \$500,000 in the last four months of 2016, which is roughly 50% of our orphanage program expenses. This year, we hope to top \$600,000 of giving by December. We have \$100,000 committed and hope to reach \$250,000 by our Annual Matching Grant Sponsors. This will double your donation before December 31st. Could you commit today to giving as part of our Annual Matching Grant campaign?*



With the Love of Christ,

  
James P. "JP" Andrews  
Executive Director



**Project Mexico**  
& St. Innocent Orphanage



*Building Hope for Boys Without Families and Families Without Homes*

**2016-2017 Annual Report**



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Message from the Chairwoman

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Christ is in our midst!*

*Often I find myself speaking with friends, many who faithfully support this ministry, about the most remarkable aspects of Project Mexico and St Innocent Orphanage.*

*“Building Hope for Boys without families and families without homes” is a wonderful summing up of our mission. But I often feel we need another phrase that captures the significant impact that volunteerism—through acts of mercy to the poor and orphaned—has on the Orthodox Faithful who come to serve. And the significant impact that Leading these Orthodox Faithful in service has on the Orthodox young people we call our Summer Interns.*

*I search for a unifying word to articulate each of these experiences and land on “transformative.”*

*Transformative: this certainly describes much of what Project Mexico seeks to do for our orphans and the poor families we serve. Transformative also certainly describes the experience of our Interns. Whether these remarkable young people pursue lives dedicated to non-profit work, full time Church ministry, or work in the secular world, we hope and pray their leadership training at PMSIO provides a firm foundation for a life full of generosity, love for the Other, and a skill set of leading others with humility.*

*On behalf of the board of Trustees and the staff of Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage, we give great thanks to you our faithful supporters. May our merciful Lord keep you!*

*In Christ,*



Dr. Julie Papatheofanis, MD  
*Chairman, Board of Trustees*



## Willing Hearts & Hands

### Week 1:

- St. Antony, Tulsa, OK
- Assumption GOC, Scottsdale, AZ
- St. Nicholas, Juneau, AK
- Holy Cross, West Roxbury, MA

### Week 2:

- Resurrection Orthodox Church, Castro Valley, CA
- Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, Boston, MA
- Sts. Constantine & Elena, Indianapolis, IN
- Holy Trinity, Overland Park, KS
- Holy Trinity Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
- St. Basil, Marietta, GA

### Week 3:

- St. Stephen, Longwood, FL
- St. Paul's GOC, Irvine, CA
- St. Paul the Apostle, Las Vegas, NV
- St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA
- St. Nectarios, Charlotte, NC
- St. John the Evangelist, Orinda, CA
- St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines, IL

### Week 4:

- St. Anna, Roseville, CA
- Church of Our Savior, Rye, NY
- Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ
- Holy Trinity, Phoenix, AZ
- Annunciation, Sacramento, CA
- Holy Ascension, Albion, MI
- The Annunciation, Missoula, MT
- Kimisis Theotokou, Brooklyn, NY

### Week 5:

- St. Luke's, Erie, CO
- St. Cyril & Methodius, Chico, CA
- St. Spyridon, Loveland, CO
- SALT, St. Paul, MN
- Grace DD, Overland Park, KS
- St. Mary, Livonia, MI
- St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA
- Team Gwinn, Wilmington, DE

### Week 6:

- Sts. Constantine & Helen, Webster, MA
- St. George + St. Mary, Wichita, KS
- St. George, Prescott, AZ
- St. Basil, Wilmington, NC
- St. John, San Francisco, CA
- St. Katherine, Issaquah, WA

- St. Athanasius, Arlington, MA
- St. Nicholas, Virginia Beach, VA
- St. Catherine, Denver, CO

### Week 7:

- St. Athanasius, Goleta, CA
- St. John the Baptist, Beaverton, OR
- St. Anthony, Edmonton, AB
- Holy Trinity Holy Cross, Birmingham, AL
- St. Sophia, Bellingham, WA

### Week 8:

- St. Paul, Mill Creek, WA
- St. Peter, Fresno, CA
- Annunciation, Lancaster, PA
- St. Aiden Orthodox Mission, Cranbrook, BC
- St. Anna, Salt Lake City, UT
- St. Katherine, Falls Church, VA
- Nativity of the Virgin, Plymouth, MI
- St. George, Flint, MI

### Weekend Day Trip:

- St. Demiana Coptic Orthodox Church, San Diego, CA



Sam Williams,  
*Work Trip Group Leader*

*“Our group of young adults went to Mexico as a collection of friends and strangers. We came back a united group, as people who had served together, prayed together and who had a common experience as a community. Service is so transformative to individuals because they break out of their isolation and become members of a community.”*

## OUR SUMMER INTERNS

Luke Speier  
Isaiah Pavlatos  
Thomas Ingram  
Alexis Buhler  
Anastasia Frigerio  
Anna Cunningham  
Hannah Scherer  
Christopher Horvath  
Justin Frigerio  
Olivia Kasten  
Blake Sisson  
Rachel Sierra  
Emilia Gimmaka  
Wyatt West  
Oliver Fahling  
Judah Breitbach  
Alex Swanson  
Daniel Kindell  
Alexander Frigerio  
Eva Basaraba  
Rebekah Swanson





**Erik Swanson,**  
Worktrip Coordinator

“The Summer 2017 Homebuilding Program was a huge success, thanks be to God. Our first homebuilding project began May 22 with the arrival of 36 volunteers from Oklahoma, Arizona, Massachusetts and Alaska. This was our first time implementing our new homebuilding design and we built two houses. The week went off without a hitch and was a true success and blessing for all. Overall, the response of our volunteers, interns and staff was very positive and we give glory to God that many youth, adults and elders of the church were moved by their experiences this summer.”

## Homebuilding Highlights

- Over the summer homebuilding season we had 16 priests and one deacon participate in the build weeks from five different jurisdictions and ten different states.
  - The Project Mexico Homebuilding worship pavilion was improved by installing seven new icons for the altar.
  - 512 homebuilding trip participants (20,480 volunteer hours).
  - 8 weeks of homebuilding programming.
- 25 homes were built for families in the Tijuana region (the most for a homebuilding summer in our history).
- 21 interns (over 6,528 volunteer hours).
- 24 day trip participants (960 volunteer hours).
- 3 weeks of Orthodox Basic Training (OBT) homebuilding programming with guest speakers Fr. Martin Ritsi of OCMC, Fr. Jordan Brown and Fr. Evan Armatas.
- Launch of “Painting Hope” program where we use Lime Wash to paint Project Mexico homes and other homes in neighborhoods. Volunteers painted over 10 homes during the homebuilding construction.
- Launch of “Panel Jamboree” which invites volunteers to travel to St. Innocent Orphanage to volunteer.



## Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

*Project Mexico represents an outpouring of love for a neighbor that Christ preached in the Gospel. Good Samaritans the world over have volunteered, donated, prayed for us, and served at Project Mexico providing homes for families, and families for boys. Over our 29 years of home building we have provided more than 335 homes for families in Mexico, providing safety, security, shelter, and allowing them to invest in their children's education by eliminating the extreme need for adequate housing.*

*This year we raised the bar by advancing our home design, adding more space, durability, and protection for our families. We have also begun canvassing the neighborhoods, painting hope for more than just the families, beautifying their neighborhood creating a stronger community where we build. We have begun registration for our Fall Building Hope programs, and will begin registration for our 30th Build Season on November 2nd. Additionally, summer Intern applications are open and due November 30th.*



*We have also expanded our ministry to our boys who are embarking on more challenging educational opportunities thanks to the generous support of our School Buddies sponsors. Next, we will challenge our Faithful Friends and Annual Matching Grant Sponsors to lay the foundation of our Annual Matching Grant Appeal which we hope to generate over \$250,000 in sponsorship to match our end-of-the-year donations.*

*Please book your Fall and Winter trips today, sponsor a boy's education, sign up for next summer, and Come and See the Gospel in Action at Project Mexico. While many pray for us and all of those in Mexico affected by the earthquakes we are grateful to God to have been spared in Northern Mexico. However, our southern neighbors have been shaken. Join us as we build Project Mexico to meet these needs as well.*

In Christ,

Subdeacon Demetrios, James P. Andrews  
Executive Director

### OUR STAFF MEMBERS

JP Andrews  
Fr. Nicholas Andruchow  
Nayeli Valencia Arce  
Noelle Robaidek  
John Cosby  
Janet Felix  
Madi Franck  
Fritz Muehlhausen  
Erik & Rebecca Swanson  
Dallas Fotinos  
Estela Garcia Alvarez  
Miguel Salazar Pimentel  
Martha Elena Maciel Oros  
Manuel Dominguez Valenzuela  
Estela Garcia Alvarez  
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Eugenio Villa Martinez  
Eva Maria Altamaria  
Patricia Otañez Silva  
Guillermo Moreno Luque  
Sheyla Quintero Hernandez  
Alejandra Maciel Peraza  
Eduardo Palma Ochoa

### VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Pres. Maria Margaritis  
Pres. Merilynn Andruchow  
Michael, Jenny & Esther Saur  
Grace Cosby  
Emilia Gimmaka  
Ginny Alex  
Faith Gundersen  
Phillip Anossov

### 2018 BUILD WEEKS

June 6 - June 12

June 15 - June 21

June 27 - July 3

July 6 - July 12

July 18 - July 24

July 27 - August 2  
(OCMC)

August 8 - August 14

August 17 - August 23



# Your 2016 Donations at Work

## FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE *allocation:*

Program Expenses:	80%
General Administration:	9%
Fundraising:	11%

## DONATIONS *& revenue*

General Contributions:	\$960,060.83
Hombuilding Work Trips:	\$195,960.00
In Kind Goods:	\$104,611.33
Other Income:	\$11,343.63
Investments Income/Sale Assets:	\$1,709.81
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,273,685.60</b>

## NET ASSETS *beginning & end of 2016*

Beginning:	\$1,545,376
End:	\$1,739,856

**29 SCHOOL BUDDIES**    **53 SANTA'S HELPERS**    **259 MONTHLY SUPPORTERS**

**67 GIVING TUESDAY DONORS**    **WE ARE BUILDING HOPE!**    **25 NEW HOMES BUILT FOR FAMILIES**

**112 INKIND DONATIONS**    **24 PANTRY PARTNERS**    **570 VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS**

## EXPENSES *2016*

Project Mexico:	\$291,676.44
St. Innocent Orphanage:	\$741,100.65
General Admin:	\$130,571.32
Fundraising:	\$154,872.62
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,318,221.03</b>

## VOLUNTEERED *24,800 hours*

# St. Innocent Orphanage Highlights

- Three of the youngest boys have become part of the altar boy team. Their joy and love for serving brings life to Chapel worship.
- Four icons of the apostles have been donated and installed on the Orphanage Iconostasis. We are very grateful for Antonia Frank from Chicago for producing these divine images.
- Pascha this year was highlighted by roasting two pigs and a lamb, and having more than 200 people from the local community attend the celebration.
- A new bronze bell has been donated to the church, which the boys compete daily for who will ring it first for morning prayers.
- Thousands of meals were provided from the fresh vegetables grown here at the orphanage. The menu included but not limited to plentiful zucchinis, sautéed Swiss chard and fresh cucumbers.
- Graduation of the first generation of homeschoolers and their entrance into private high school.
- Successful transition of three new little boys into our program and orphanage family.
- Development of individual boys talents from photography to welding to drawing to sports.
- Transition of our lovely young lady Melina and to independent life and her acquisition of a full-time teaching position.
- Continuation of our homeschool program and integration of another boy.
- An average GPA of 8.0!

**Fr. Nicholas Andruchow,**  
*Priest/Associate Director*



“In 2017, God has given us many blessings as well as many challenges. But as the preacher says “everything is beautiful in its time” (Ecc. 3:11).

We open our eyes to the beautiful smiles and also to the gut-wrenching tears. We have seen children grow into adults and witness the process of maturing, which sometimes comes the hard way. We have preached to love your neighbor and hate the sins in the world. Christ is the ultimate Preacher and Teacher. We receive all He has sent us as beautiful moments to walk further on the path to Heaven.”

**Madi Franck,**  
*Staff Counselor*



“As the years pass and we watch our boys grow, we have been blessed to celebrate with them in their biggest moments: graduations, engagements, and extra-curricular achievements. However, the greatest moments are found with our boys in the day-to-day.”

