



The Casa Caller "

"Fear not," He said, "For I am here
As always by your side,
Reach out your heart and mind and hands
And I shall be your guide."

CASA DE AMIGOS
906 North Dallas
Midland, Texas
Sept. 24, 1965

In the last issue of "THE CALLER", we introduced you to Robert Hall, our summer director for the Casa. Robert has gone back to school now, but as those of you know who work at Casa, he did a wonderful and dedicated job for us. Following is a report by Robert. It shows the thoughtful consideration and Christian love he gave to the program of the Casa, and more especially, to the people who come there. We are all most grateful to him.

A REPORT ON CASA DE AMIGOS by Robert E. Hall, Summer Director, 1965

Let me begin by saying that this summer has been educational for me; and I am grateful to the Board of Directors of Casa for providing me with the opportunity for service. I have become convinced that the work of the Casa is a work of God. My constant prayers will be that the Casa Board and the many workers be continually aware that this is sacred work, a work of the Spirit. When we minister to these people, we find our Lord there before us in the midst of a suffering and needy people. He is there because He always identifies with the poor in spirit; we find that we are compelled to be ministers because he has identified even with us.
(Matt. 25:31)

It is because the work of the Casa is sacred work that it must be done well. We are involved in a ministry that is too important to be done in a slipshod, hit-and-miss manner. Our primary concern should be that we provide an effective ministry to the people of Casa neighborhood. It is essential that we do not let enthusiasm and good intentions alone be our only preparation for service. We must know something about our task and have a knowledge of, and respect for the people to whom we minister. If our task were only to provide an outlet for pity, anything would suffice. But, we are involved in a ministry of compassion, a "suffering together" with those in need. This requires involvement with them as a people and as individuals. Because these people are God's children, they deserve respect as persons of infinite worth: an "anything goes" ministry is a sin against them, and their Father.

The following suggestions have been jotted down at various times during the summer, as I talked with workers and observed the work of the Casa as a whole. Generally, I have found the greatest needs to be: (1) A selective choosing and recruitment of workers for the Casa who will then receive a training session; (2) An involvement by the people of the Casa neighborhood in the planning of activities and policy; (3) The procurement of a trained, Latin American worker to guide and supervise the work of the Casa. I have listed these in the order of urgency, as I see the situation.

More specifically, I suggest the following activities and measures:

- 1.- The creation of an Advisory Board of Latin Americans and Negroes of the neighborhood which would meet regularly with the Board of Directors (monthly). This would provide a direct and continuous conversation with the people who will benefit from the work of the Casa.

2.- With regard to volunteer workers:

- (a) Recruit only those workers who are able to be regular in attendance at their classes. Constant contact alone will establish a trustful relationship.
- (b) Utilize competent Latin American and Negro workers as instructors.
- (c) Establish a training session for the volunteer workers so that they will be introduced to the total program and purposes of the Casa, as well as receive an understanding of and appreciation for Negro and Latin American people.

3.- Create a scouting and cubbing program for the boys. Scouting appeals to boys and is an excellent program for building character and citizenship. The scoutmaster should be a Latin American. Den mothers could be either Latin, Negro or Anglo.

4.- Seek to hire at least a part-time coordinator of activities, until a full-time worker can be afforded and secured.

5.- Work closely with Guadalupe and Washington Centers. A coordination of activities and common publicity would be helpful.

6.- The creation of a program of recreation on Saturdays and/or after school, so that the Casa would be open for the use of the children of the neighborhood. Require membership cards for admittance; have small yearly dues. Punishment for misbehavior: suspension of membership in the Casa. Workers might be Odessa College students interested in Social work. A small salary (\$5.00 per Saturday?) would be needed. The men now working with the boys clubs could provide afternoon baseball, softball, etc. It would be a day of supervised play and recreation for members of the Casa.

7.- A program of visitation of the neighborhood people should be created, especially of the immediate neighborhood. A Latin and Anglo could visit together, to avoid the language barrier.

8.- The keeping of a list of Casa members, their families, their needs, etc., would make an effective ministry easier.

* * * * *

There is much food for thought, work and prayer in this report, isn't there?

While we speak of the summer at Casa -- a hearty THANK YOU to all the summer replacements and fill-ins who helped out. You kept the program going, and gave some of the regular workers much appreciated vacation.

ANNOUNCES MADE AT CASA:

Mrs. Wayne Moore and Mrs. Gus Farris of First Christian church will be the co-chairmen for the Monday afternoon ladies sewing class. We are grateful to them; and also to Mrs. Crump and her helpers who had this class last year.

Classes for 3 year olds will meet Monday mornings at 10:00, with Mrs. Walter Davis as chairman.

The 4 year old group will meet at 10:00 Thursday mornings with Mrs. Jobie Flynn as chairman.

Mrs. Fred Yates, Memorial Christian, is in charge of the workers for the Thursday afternoon girls group.

NEEDS AT CASA:

There is a need for children's winter clothes and shoes; also dishes, bedspreads, blankets, etc., to be sold on Saturday mornings at Casa.

Over the summer the Negro teen-age girls club made scenery and costumes and put on a Czechoslovakian folk play. From all reports it was a grand production and fun for all. Mrs. Clyde Hanlin needs helpers with this group. Please call her at OK 4-3192 if you'd like to work with these girls.

There has been a request for a night time sewing class. Teachers are needed for this. If you like to sew and to teach, now is your chance! Call Kathryn Tyra at IU 4-4304.

Mrs. Joan Paxton has charge of the Latin American teen-age girls club, Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00. She is looking for a helper, so if you would like to volunteer, please call her at OK 4-2275.

Help is needed in the proposed starting of a Scout Troop at Casa.

Help is needed in the proposed starting of a Scout Troop at Casa. Any man interested in participating in this worthwhile area, contact Garner Wilde at CU 3-4568, or Bill Fairchild at HU 3-4568.

As you can see, there are always plenty of job-openings at the Casa! And we're always ready, willing and eager to accept your application. And it's your opportunity to demonstrate God's love and your concern in your own home town!

* * * * *