



MCA Spring 2024 Newsletter

Celebrating the Children!

¡Feliz Día del Niño - Happy Children's Day April 30!

While most of the world holds celebrations for Mother's and Father's Day, Mexican culture shows their inclusiveness by also celebrating Children's Day on April 30. It is a festivity that is unique, full of laughter and play. This is when adults are reminded of the importance of childhood. On Children's Day, the main focus is on the children & making them feel special. MCA and Pasitos de Luz are able to make this day one to remember because of you, our donors.



Gracias Mike & Anna Sortino for bringing gifts from USA to ensure every child received a gift.

Thanks to volunteers, moms, co-workers, clown Greñas Locas and families who brought items.

The children and their successes are our reason to be and our inspiration!

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No child left without a smile at the end of the day! 🥳🥳

Learning While Having Fun

June 2024



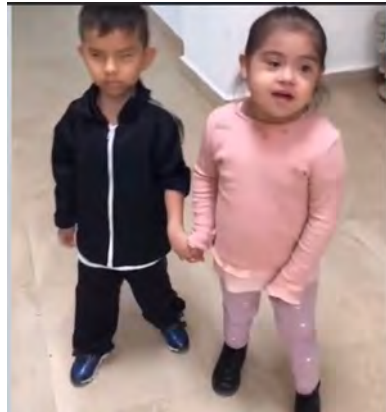
In just two years of attending at Casa Connor, Mateo, who is blind, has gone from shy and afraid to getting ready to start kindergarten in the regular school system this September. Mateo still attends at Casa Connor twice a week, where he is progressing quickly in Braille and piano! Congratulations Mateo and thank you very much Maestro Edgar for helping the children to discover and develop their musical talents! 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵



🎈 🎈 Liam is enjoying the bubbles! Bubbles can be a powerful tool to stimulate children. These little magic spaces capture attention, improve visual-motor coordination, and provide fun that aids in learning and social interaction. 🎈 🎈 🎈

IN 2023, THERE WERE 4200 SPECIAL EDUCATION SESSIONS DELIVERED!

Learning empathy and sharing love. Anita has Down's Syndrome. She helps Matthew, who is blind, get to his special education Braille class.



IN 2023, THERE WERE 8500 THERAPY SESSIONS HELD!



Kids Like Xiomara make quick progress In our Hydrotherapy Pool

The children receive a healthy breakfast and lunch plus a fruit snack every day. The families are also helped by introducing much-needed minerals, vitamins and healthy-eating in the home.

IN 2023, THERE WERE 3600 NUTRITIOUS MEALS SERVED!



4-year old Aaron enjoys a healthy meal. Good nutrition is essential for his growth and development.

Over a period of 7 years, 82 children were channeled to regular school systems, 59 moved into regular pre schools, 57 learned to walk and 76 can sit up without help. All major accomplishments!

About Our Applicants

In the last 18 months from January 2023 to now, there have been 133 applications requesting entry to the programs. A total of 43 have been accepted. The waitlist currently has 90 children. As quickly as we increase the numbers of children, we get numerous more applications. Of those 90 applications, 48 are children who have been diagnosed as having one of the variants of Attention Disorder/Autism Spectrum. Currently there are 19 children attending full time who are identified as being on the autism spectrum plus an additional 21 autism children participating in the part time hydrotherapy services.

In the last 7 years the percent of applicants diagnosed with one of the variants of Attention Disorder/Autism Spectrum was 33%. Those numbers have now increased to 50% of all applicants.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

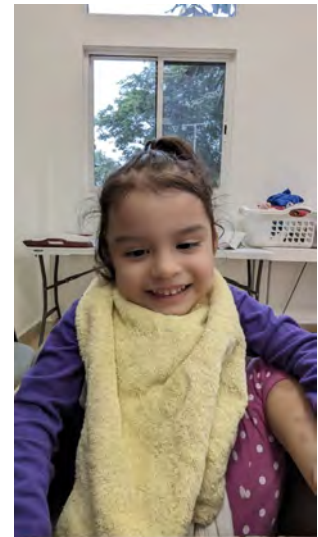
As you can see the numbers of children with Attention Disorder/Autism is significant. The staff work one-on-one with children on the autism spectrum helping them to develop the academic, social, and life skills necessary for independence. They also give them freedom to express themselves through art, music and dance, enabling them to discover and embrace the world around them.

We are thrilled to share the remarkable progress of Lucía Valentina Gutiérrez, a nearly 3-year-old girl who joined MCA at Casa Connor in October 2023. When Lucía arrived, she was severely undernourished and underweight, with no professional care, no language skills, and solely relying on a bottle for nutrition. She also experienced frequent crises and extreme hyperactivity.

Today, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our team, Lucía eats a variety of foods and drinks different fruit waters. Her parents have successfully weaned her off the bottle. Initially placed in the full-time nanny area which focusses solely on care, Lucía now participates actively in the classroom and has started saying a few words.

One of Lucía's significant milestones is achieving bladder control, and the frequency of her crises have notably decreased. Her hyperactivity has been managed effectively through a tailored diet.

She is now in the classroom where her attention span has improved significantly. She can solve puzzles, recite vowels, and is beginning to learn the alphabet and numbers from 1 to 10. Lucía's journey highlights the transformative impact that MCA donors and her attendance at Casa Connor has on children with special needs. Her story underscores the importance of early intervention and continuous professional support in helping children like Lucía thrive.



Lucía loves to spend time in the hydrotherapy pool

Legacy Giving

Our focus for 2024/2025 is on future sustainability. As a board, we recognize the need to ensure that Casa Connor and the MCA / Pasitos de Luz children that attend now, as well as those who will attend in the future, will flourish for years to come and beyond our life times.

How do you want to change the world?

If you identify with our strong mission focussed on helping children with disabilities and our strong financial management, we invite you to talk to us about sustainability and setting up longer term funding or setting up an endowment. The significant and profound impact you can make cannot be underestimated. For more information, please go to <https://mcangels.org/ways-to-give/legacy-giving/> or contact info@mcangels.org



Fall Events in Canada

Matching Donation Campaign

Our main fundraiser is the annual **Matching Donation Campaign**. We rely on this main event to provide a significant contribution to our annual funding requirements. We will be running this campaign from **November 10th to December 2nd** and encourage you to donate so you have your donation matched. If you are interested in providing some of the seed funding for this, please contact us at info@mcangels.org

Fall Online Auction 2024 - *Making a Difference 4* **Save the Date**

We are now beginning to gather auction items and need your help please by collecting and donating items for this online event. The timing once again will be absolutely perfect for Christmas gifts - it will run **from November 10th to 19th**. And best of all, your purchases bring in funds for our children and youth with special needs. We will be running **Making a Difference 4** online auction using the same Hibid bidding system as our three previous online auctions. Please let Tanis know right away what donations you can get and we are asking to **please arrange to get them to her no later than November 1st**. For further information on the auction or to provide auction items please contact Tanis at thereuters@shaw.ca.

