



# Back to School Mexico-Style

What has 27 white shirts, 54 shuffling legs and too many #2 pencils to sharpen? The El Sauzal Orphanage on a typical school morning.

Before each student starts a new school day, they've got quite a chore in front of them. Eat a good breakfast, put together a clean and proper uniform, check for combed hair...wait; don't forget the homework, back pack and did you brush your teeth? Now multiply this scenario to include one dozen school-age girls and all 15 school-age boys living at El Sauzal Orphanage.

## School's in Already!?

School is ramping up again for the Orphanage in August. All the children need complete uniforms, including specific shoes. And there's a strict list of school supplies for every student that changes with each grade level, similar to the lists we receive here in the states.

## School Supplies X 27 kids = One Challenging Math Problem

Imagine tackling the task of getting the right composition notebooks, folders and other

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Three of our school age girls, Sylvia, Yasmin & Maria

supplies for the 27 school-age children living at El Sauzal. While there's never enough money to buy all the necessary items and uniform pieces for the kids, with God's help the staff at the orphanage stretch every dime and get resourceful. Lilia Espinoza (the orphanage director's wife), sews and repairs many uniforms for the kids as needed. And Erika, the Assistant Director, searches stores and scours the donated items to assemble a working back pack for each student.

## Any Old Donation Won't Do

Not every piece of construction paper and colored marker you donate can be used at school by the kids. If the Orphanage receives 3,000 erasers and not a single white sock, it's time for Erika to do more hunting and gathering. What truly blesses them the most are monetary donations.

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# Back to school Mexico-style (cont)

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You can help by choosing one of the items below, and sending in a donation to help us purchase the pieces of the children's uniforms.

Thank you for your help getting our friends in El Sauzal back to school this year!

- By Julie Rice



Boy's/Girl's Long Sleeve Shirt/Sweater  
\$25



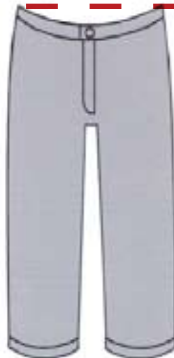
Boy's/Girl's Short Sleeve Shirt  
\$10



Girl's Jumper  
\$20



Boy's/Girl's Pants  
\$35



Sweat Pants or Skirt  
\$15



Do you want to help with a different item?  
\$\_\_\_\_\_



Boy's/Girl's Socks  
\$5



Boy's/Girl's Shoes  
\$40



Higher education for one of our kids

\$300 per month or \$3,600 per year

# Traveling to Mexico soon?

## Prepare for new border crossing rules

There have been a lot of changes in border control this year with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. All of us need to be aware of the regulations involved with entering Mexico. Perhaps the biggest change is the need for a passport- but you have a few options. As of June 2009, a valid US passport is required for any border crossing. Here is some information to get you started on preparing for your next trip to El Sauzal.

### Option 1: Get a Passport

For information on obtaining a passport, you can visit [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov). Simply click on the travel tab and choose "passports" under that drop-down menu. First-time applicants must apply in person at an approved acceptance facility. You will need a DS-11 form (available online), but make sure you don't sign it until you are present at the agency. Also, be sure you bring proof of citizenship with you; acceptable forms of ID are clearly listed on the [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) website. You will need to present your own passport photos, and prepare to pay \$100 if you are 16 or older and \$85 if you are younger than 16.

### Option 2: A Passport Card

A second option is the passport card. The appeal of this option is its cheaper price. One drawback is that this card is not valid for air travel into or out of Mexico. The process for applying is similar to the process noted above. For first-time applicants, the passport card will cost \$45 for adults and \$35 for children under age 16. Adults with fully valid passports

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*Waiting for your visit - Omar and Jesus*

issued within the last fifteen years who are eligible to submit Form DS-82 by mail will pay only \$20 for a passport card.

### Option 3: Enhanced Driver's License

This next option is available currently only in Washington state. Younger students interested in trips to El Sauzal also have the option of the enhanced driver's license. When applying for your driver's license, you will only pay \$15 extra for this option. Again, the drawback of this method is that it is only valid for travel by land or sea. For those of you who already have a valid driver's license, the cost is only \$35 to upgrade. You can visit [www.dol.wa.gov](http://www.dol.wa.gov) for more information.

### Traveling with Minors?

For groups traveling with youth under age 18, please note that you will need a parental letter for each minor. The [gomexico.about.com](http://gomexico.about.com) website has examples of acceptable letters.

We hope this clears up some of the confusion surrounding the new border crossing rules! Hope to see many of you this year at El Sauzal Orphanage.

*-Patty Siegmund*



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## 50 years of love *Celebrating a special time*

**C**incuneta años. Fifty years. Last month boasted a special milestone for El Sauzal: Papa Ramon and Mama Magdalena's fiftieth wedding anniversary. A celebration was held and overflowed with guests who came to celebrate with the two who have changed so many lives.

**R**amon now pastors a church on the Nequa Indian Reservation near to the orphanage, but his impact in the community reaches beyond that church's walls. He has planted many churches in the community, including the church the orphanage children attend. Not only has Papa Ramon been a Shepherd for the community, he has guided and raised generations of children at the orphanage.

**O**f Ramon and Magdalena's fifty years of marriage, forty-two have been spent shepherding the lives of children through El



*Still lovebirds after half a century*

Sauzal Orphanage. In the book of Ephesians, Paul tells us that it is a great mystery that God has made the earthly institute of marriage to image the heavenly love Christ has for His Church. Papa Ramon and Mama Magdalena have been blessed by the Lord to share half a century together, and God has used those years to bring many children to Himself through lives lived in obedience to the Gospel. Christ has sacrificed Himself to make us God's children and continually keeps us as His own; Ramon and Magdalena have lived lives that mirror this truth by working tirelessly to keep the orphanage open and being parents to all of the children who have benefited from their love.

*-Patty Siegmund*



*These three beautiful siblings - Juan, Vanesa and Luis - just came to live at our Orphanage this week*

## **How can you support our children?**

Let us count the ways:

- Regular giving every month
- Automatic deduction gifts
- Use Pay Pal
- A one-time gift
- Donate your vehicle
- Giving through your will or trust
- Life insurance
- Memorial or tribute gifts
- Matching gifts through your employer
- Help with Back-to-School expenses

*-Chuck Keortge*