



**Corazón is committed to offering participants in Baja California, Mexico,**

- better communities through work projects;
- brighter futures through educational opportunities;
- increased self-esteem through success;
- self-sufficiency through training and work projects;
- a social support system through community events;

and offers volunteers from the United States the experience of hands-on involvement with participants.

**Our Philosophy:**

*Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach him to fish and he will eat for a lifetime.*

The *familia Corazón* program is not a handout; rather, it is a proven method of assistance that allows the participants to help themselves. In the process, they help their neighbors and their community to grow and prosper.

The first step is a family's desire to improve their way of life. By working on neighborhood projects, *familia* participants can earn hours that they can exchange for many of their basic needs, such as food, clothing, tools, and building materials. More importantly, they become eligible for scholarships for their children and job training for themselves. In the process, they get to know their neighbors as they work side by side to better the community they seek to raise their children in. The result is a stronger family living in a better community with hope for a brighter future.

**Our History:**

2003 marked *Corazón's* 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the early years, *Corazón* was an all-volunteer organization that helped meet immediate needs with food, clothing and shelter. Volunteers repaired some of the homes (actually shacks of pallets and cardboard). This repairing quickly turned to building complete houses. In 1995 the *familia Corazón* program was born, and *Corazón's* focus became strengthening individuals, families and community. Today, *Corazón* remains 99% volunteer driven and inspires thousands of lives on both sides of the border.

**Our results:**

- **813** students have graduated from **112** classes in gardening, construction, electrical, hair cutting, sewing, welding, bike repair, and computers since 1995.
- **1,204** students have received scholarships from kindergarten through doctoral studies to adult continuing education since 1995.
- **677** construction projects have been completed by over **15,000** volunteers from the U.S. since 1995.
- **821** local projects and over **48,600** hours were worked by *familia* participants in 2005.
- **235,048** hours have been worked by more than **1,000** Mexican families since 2001.
- **120** volunteers worked over **4,200** hours in the office and warehouse in Laguna Hills in 2005
- More than **119** special events have been held including Camp *Corazón*, soccer tournament, Christmas parties tournaments, Mother's Day and Day of the Child celebrations.
- Community centers with a preschool, warehouse and community garden have been established in each of our five communities.
- **96%** of our participants stated that *Corazón* has fulfilled its promise.
- **94%** of our participants stated that their quality of life has improved since they began working with *Corazón*.
- **84%** of our participants feel that they can currently go to a neighbor to ask for help, while **24%** stated that they felt that way before *Corazón*.

Thanks to our Corporate Sponsor



Corazón, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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