



**El Ranchito
de los Niños**

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together

FUNNY THINGS KIDS SAY:

When the kids arrived at one of their summer camps, the individual checking in attendees asked who they were. Elliot replied, "We're the Cheetos". She looked very perplexed. She asked again who they were, implying she needed clarification. Elliot then explained, "We are from El Ranchito, we're the 'chitos". Apparently, the kids have created their own nick name for themselves – The Chitos.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

- Our kitchen remodel has revitalized the whole house! It's so exciting to see such a beautiful space where our family can gather together.
- We had 1 child receive his 1st Holy Communion this spring. We are so blessed to be a part of his growing faith.
- We have celebrated many educational milestones this year: pre-school promotion, kindergarten promotion and 8th grade graduation. We are excited to start so many new chapters in the fall from the first day of kindergarten to the first day of high school.
- We once again raised several 4-H animals. We had six goats, three pigs and chickens. It was definitely a summer filled with hard work.
- The summer was jam packed with hiking excursions, STEAM camps, sports camp, guitar lessons, 4-H competitions, and lots of swimming! Summer is by far the kids' favorite time of year.
- One of our teenagers won a speech contest for a paper she wrote about the heroes in her life. She recognized the "Heroes" at El Ranchito that care for her every day. We are so proud of her accomplishment and our staff of heroes for all their hard work.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

BARBARA CARRILLO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The dedication and unwavering commitment of our volunteers to our mission and the children at El Ranchito de los Niños has been key to creating a caring community where our children thrive and grow. The valuable contribution of time, energy, talents, and resources provided to our kids by caring individuals allows them to open their hearts and minds to new experiences, to take risks, and to dream of futures filled with promise.



When our volunteers engage in activities like caring for and raising 4H animals to show at the county fair, they are not just imparting practical skills. They are instilling a deep sense of responsibility and pride in the children. Each day spent tending to the needs of an animal is a lesson in dedication, nurturing, and the joy of seeing the results of their hard work. Through these shared experiences, a powerful bond is forged; a connection between the child, the volunteer, and the animal for which they care.



Celebrating birthdays and other important milestones with the children is a cherished tradition at El Ranchito de los Niños. The presence of volunteers on these special occasions sends a powerful message: “You are seen, you are valued, and you are loved.” It creates lasting memories for our children; memories they will carry with them throughout their lives. The generosity of our volunteers extends to creating a specially crafted birthday cake for each child on their special day, reminding them that they are cherished and celebrated.

Volunteers share their professional skills and talents, as well, in various areas that support the care of the children at El Ranchito de los Niños. They maintain the vehicles that transport our children daily, they repair bikes and keep the yards groomed. They organize outings, plant gardens, and read with our kids. Your presence, your smiles, your stories, and your genuine interactions leave an enduring impression on our children, showing them the power of connection and the beauty of a supportive community.

We are grateful to all our volunteers and invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of the children at El Ranchito de los Niños.



NEW BEGINNINGS

KATHY MECHENBIER,
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

Watch out St. Pius, here she comes! Our oldest girl is headed off to high school. As the first day of high school grew closer, we worked diligently to ensure that she had all that she needed to make a smooth transition. From uniforms to books, spirit shirts to supplies, even a new haircut and mini manicure were all part of our preparation process.

After going to see the school and attending orientation, she learned there will be challenges ahead with homework, projects, and tests. There are also so many activities and opportunities to try new things. She is most looking forward to trying out for sports, being a part of a team, and making friends.

Each day she becomes a little more nervous and excited about this new adventure. She had (and still has) so many questions. She began the new school year nervous about not knowing anyone, finding her classes, and worried she might forget her schedule.

It is our job at El Ranchito to help her and guide her in making good decisions. She will not have to face this new adventure alone; we will be there every step of the way to encourage and motivate. We will help her to see the connections she makes, the friends she finds, and the opportunities available to her, are life changing.



Our mission at El Ranchito is to teach our children that an education is a precious thing! Learn as much as you can to enrich your life. These efforts will pay off and the hard work will be worth it in the long run. A good education will build a solid foundation and open doors to so many possibilities.

Thank you to all our donors for making it possible for us to be able to give our kids the opportunity for a good education and the joy they receive from discovering and learning new things.

REVITALIZATION


We are on our way to a completely revitalized house! It will be a two-year process, but our home is getting a face lift! When we began with the kitchen, it became more apparent that more than one area of the house needed some major repairs and improvements. The kitchen was completed, and we began work on the living room, kids' bedrooms, and bathrooms. With the generosity of Builders Source Appliance Gallery, Mohawk Flooring, and United Stoneworks we have replaced the floors throughout the entire house, upgraded with brand new appliances and plumbing, and put in beautiful stone countertops throughout the living, dining, bathrooms and laundry rooms. A big thanks to Cutting Edge Painting for brightening the house with a fresh coat of paint. We are grateful to everyone for volunteering their time, loaning their expertise, and donating funds to help complete this immense project!



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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

CHARITY CRUISE

It's been a few years coming, but we finally got to come back together for our large events this past year! Not only did we have one Charity Cruise, but TWO! For the first time since the spring of 2019, we gathered for Charity Cruise in the summer of 2022. It was quite the summer party as we headed to the beach in Margaritaville. It was an evening filled with margaritas, beach balls and stylish beach attire. Then, less than a year later, we celebrated "Under the Big Top" this spring. The night was filled with carnival games, sideshows, popcorn, and cotton candy. It was wonderful for us all to come together once again in support of the children of El Ranchito. We were so excited to see everyone! Thank you for opening your heart and shining your light on the kids of El Ranchito de los Niños. Save the date for next year's Charity Cruise – April 13, 2024!

